



P. Baltzopoulou<sup>1</sup>, A.D. Melas<sup>1</sup>, D. Deloglou<sup>1</sup>, N.D. Vlachos<sup>1</sup>, E. Papaioannou<sup>1,2</sup>,  
J.F. de la Mora<sup>3</sup>, A.G. Konstandopoulos<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Aerosol & Particle Technology Laboratory, CPERI/CERTH, P.O. Box 60361, 57001, Thessaloniki, Greece

<sup>2</sup>Department of Chemical Engineering, Aristotle University, P.O. Box 1517, 54006, Thessaloniki, Greece

<sup>3</sup>Mechanical Engineering Dept., Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520-8286, U.S.A.

## INTRODUCTION

### The problem

Current particle number related vehicle emission legislation is **limited down to 23 nm**. The rationale behind the 23 nm cut-off size is based on the avoidance of significant uncertainties created during sampling and measuring sub-23 nm solid particles (i.e. **potential formation of particles in the sub-23 nm region, the so-called artefacts**).

Difficulties in introducing a robust measurement protocol in this particle size range led regulation authorities to ignore their contribution to ambient pollution. However, the sub-23 nm particles draw high attention since current gasoline engines emit almost equal fraction of sub- and above- 23 nm particles, while diesel engines with after-treatment devices may also emit such ultrafine particles under certain conditions (i.e. regeneration of particulate filters) (Giechaskiel and Martini, 2014).

### The proposed approach

To overcome such uncertainties we investigate a novel approach - of minimum requirements - for sub-23 nm measurements that necessitates a **single hot dilution stage** and a **high-temperature particle number (and size) counter** as a potential alternative to the **Particle Measurement Programme (PMP)** working group protocol.

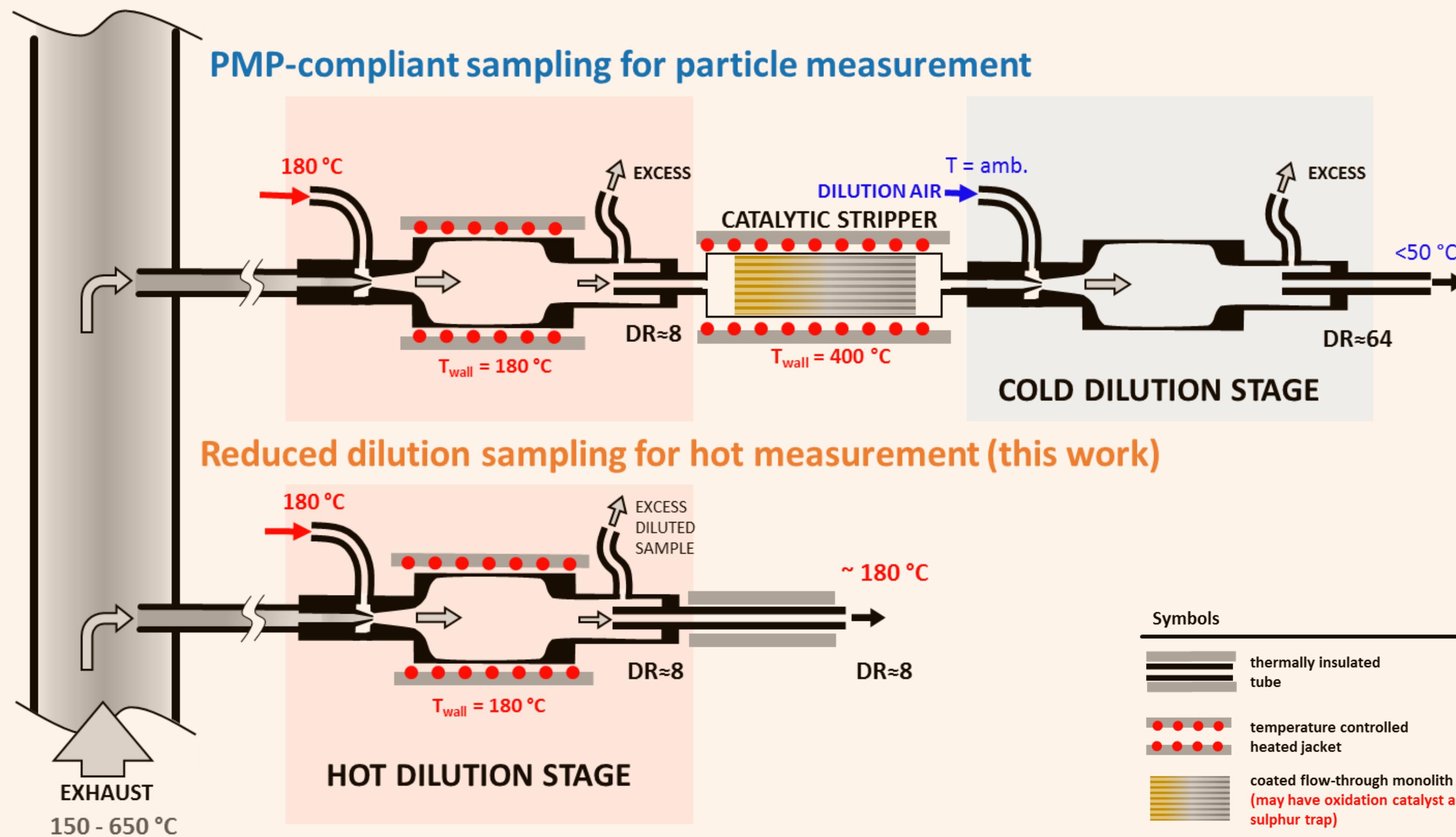


Figure 1. Engine exhaust sampling approaches: (a) PMP compliant Volatile Particle Remover (VPR) system and (b) proposed single stage hot dilution.

### The Advanced Half-Mini DMA (HM-DMA)

In the current work single stage hot dilution sampling is accompanied with size specific measurements by the **Advanced Half-Mini Differential Mobility Analyzer (Advanced HM-DMA)**; a supercritical DMA, with a 2cm working section, able to classify aerosol particles in the mobility size range 4–30 nm, with **high resolution** and **fast spectrum acquisition** (de la Mora, 2017). Due to recent upgrades on the insulating and semiconducting materials, it accommodates **hot sample flow up to 200 °C** (Amo et al., 2017). Its resolving power was recently tested under high temperature, using ions of known mobility (Amo et al., 2018).

## RESULTS

### Preliminary tests of Advanced HM-DMA with sub-23nm standard solid particles

Advanced HM-DMA hot operation, was initially tested against SMPS with:

- a. **solid sub-23nm NaCl particles**, generated by an Electrospray Aerosol Generator (TSI, 3482).
- b. **solid sub-23nm soot particles** generated (& catalytically pre-treated) by a Combustion Aerosol Standard (CAST, Matter Engineering) burner.

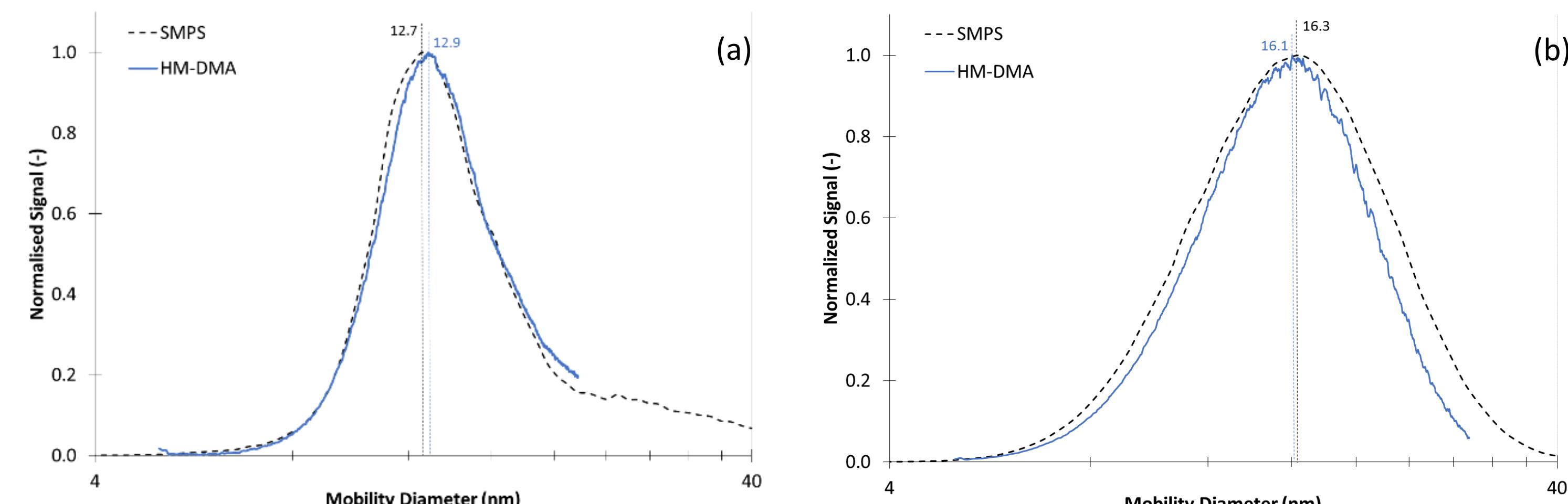


Figure 2. Normalized particle size distribution of (a) NaCl particles, and (b) CAST-generated soot particles, measured with Advanced H-M DMA at the hot temperature mode and compared with an SMPS (NanoDMA 3085, CPC 3776).

### Preliminary tests: Advanced HM-DMA hot & cold operation

Hot against cold operation of Advanced HM-DMA was assessed with solid sub-23nm soot aggregates generated (catalytically pre-treated) by CAST.

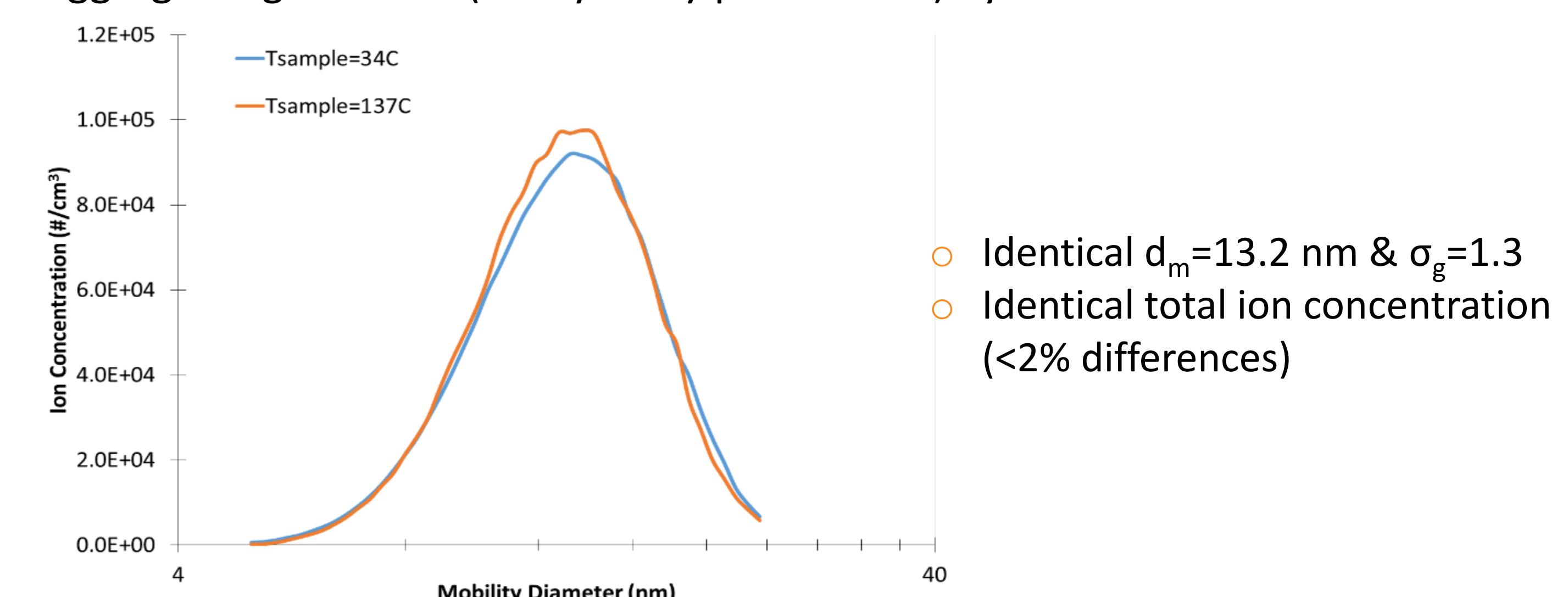


Figure 3. Advanced H-M DMA particle size distribution of CAST solid soot particles. Aerosol sample is measured either warm (137°C) or at close to ambient temperature (34°C).

### Advanced HM-DMA tests with 1-stage hot dilution and PMP compliant sampling

Engine operating condition:

- 23% load (1600W)
- High Sulfur Diesel (S=1000ppm)
- Use of lubrication oil (30ml/l)

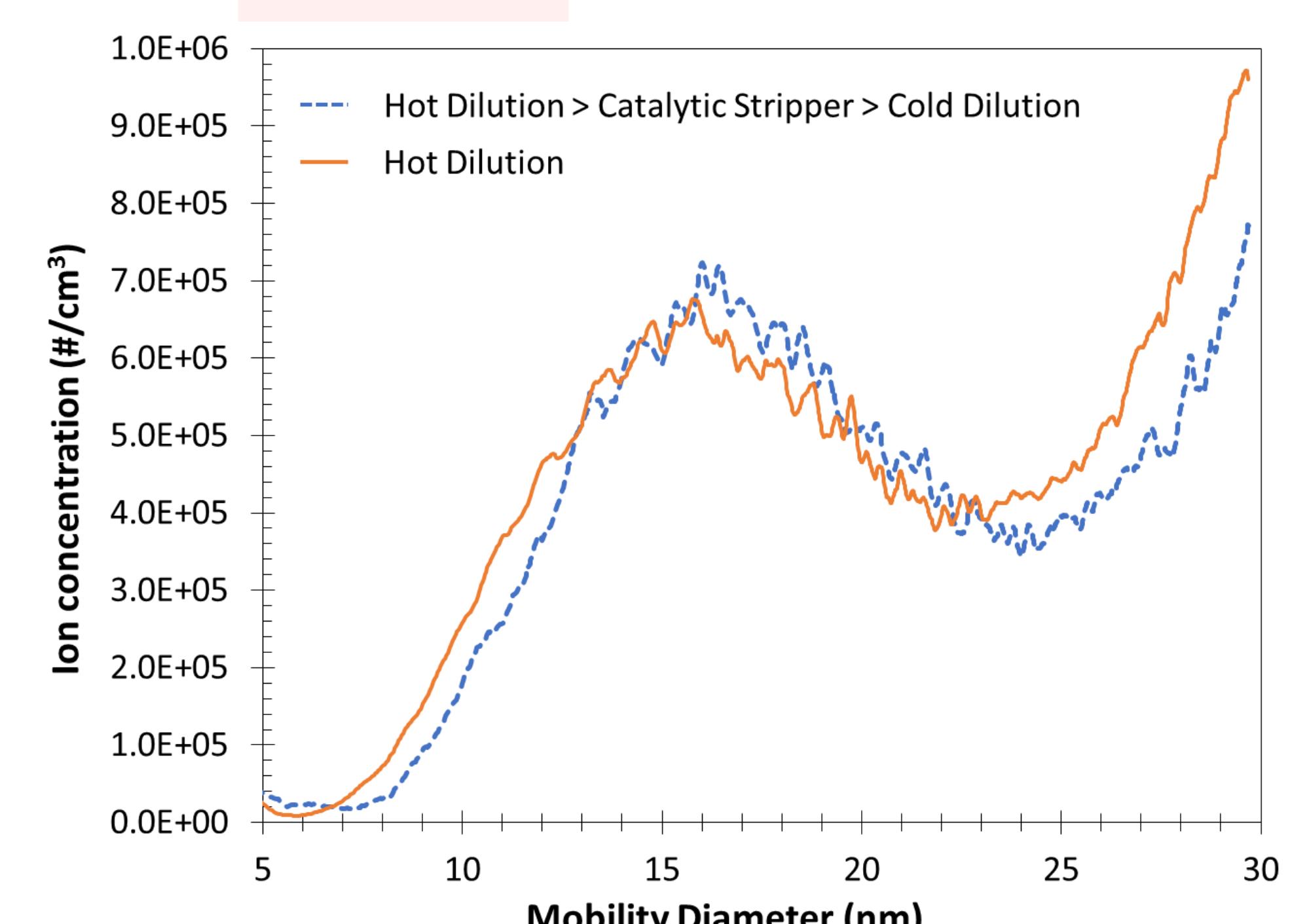
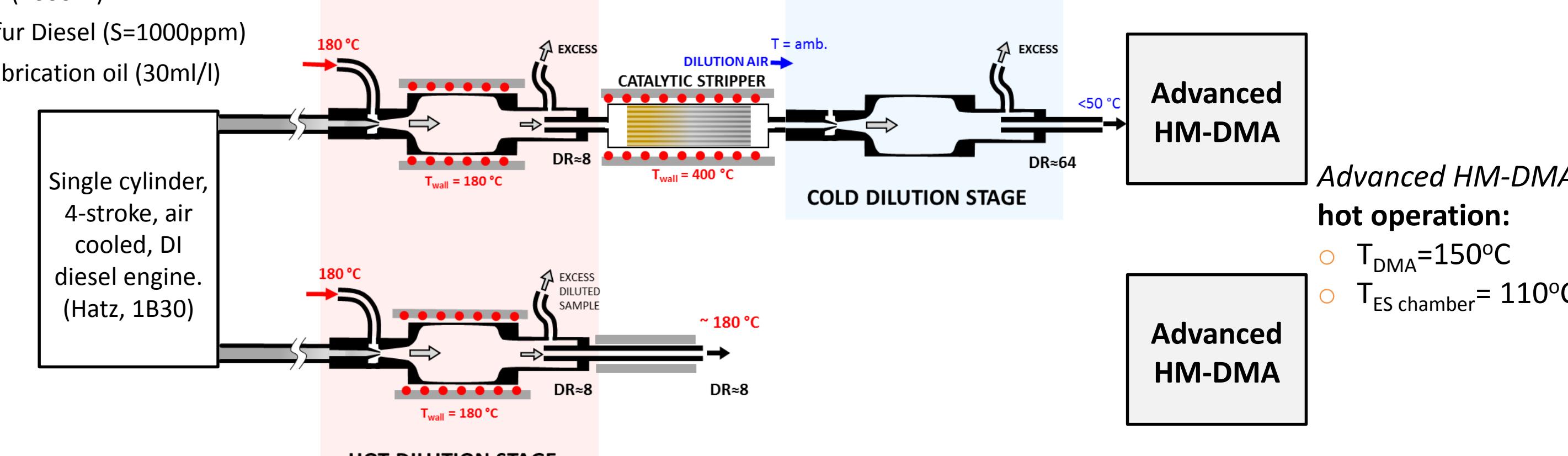


Figure 4. Sub-23nm engine particles size distribution measured with the Advanced HM-DMA in hot operation using (a) a PMP-compliant setup and (b) a single step hot dilution.

## CONCLUSIONS / FUTURE WORK

- The excellent agreement between PMP compliant and single hot dilution size specific measurements (Fig. 4) confirms the reliability of the Advanced HM-DMA hot operation mode and indicates the possibility of using a simple setup for solid particles measurement.
- Advanced HM-DMA size classification of solid particles in the sub-23nm region was successfully evaluated against SMPS (Fig. 2).
- Advanced HM-DMA hot and cold aerosol flow measurements of solid sub-23nm particles are in good agreement (Fig. 3) showing that its resolution is not influenced in the hot operation mode and may measure without introducing errors.
- Advanced HM-DMA charging efficiency - under different engine exhaust operating conditions (injection, fuel, etc) - is planned to be studied in order to convert ion to number concentration.

## REFERENCES

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