CCS, CCT & Aether: Innovative approaches to reducing CO_2 emissions in cement production

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With the contribution of the LIFE financial instrument of the European Community

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Aether™

LAFARGE & CO_2 - Some Figures

- In 2010, LAFARGE produced ~145 Mt cement and emitted ~95 Mt CO_2
- About 65% of the CO_2 related to decarbonation of limestone and 35% from fuel combustion
- Between 1990-2010, Lafarge decreased its net CO_2 emissions by 21.7% i.e. a reduction of 20 Mt CO_2/yr
- Main conventional levers used to reduce CO_2:
  - Reduce specific heat consumption of the cement kiln
  - Increase cementitious additions into the cement (slag, FA, pozzolans, limestone…)
  - Substitution of fuels (animal meal, tires, shredded wastes…)

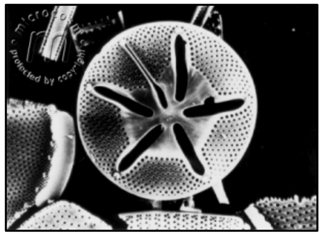
Some potential non-conventional solutions

- Although the conventional industrial levers still need to be developed, we think they will soon come to a limit and that we will not be able divide our CO_2 emissions by factor 4 (by year 2050)

  ⇒ Other non conventional means need to be developed:

  - Carbon Capture & Sequestration (CCS)

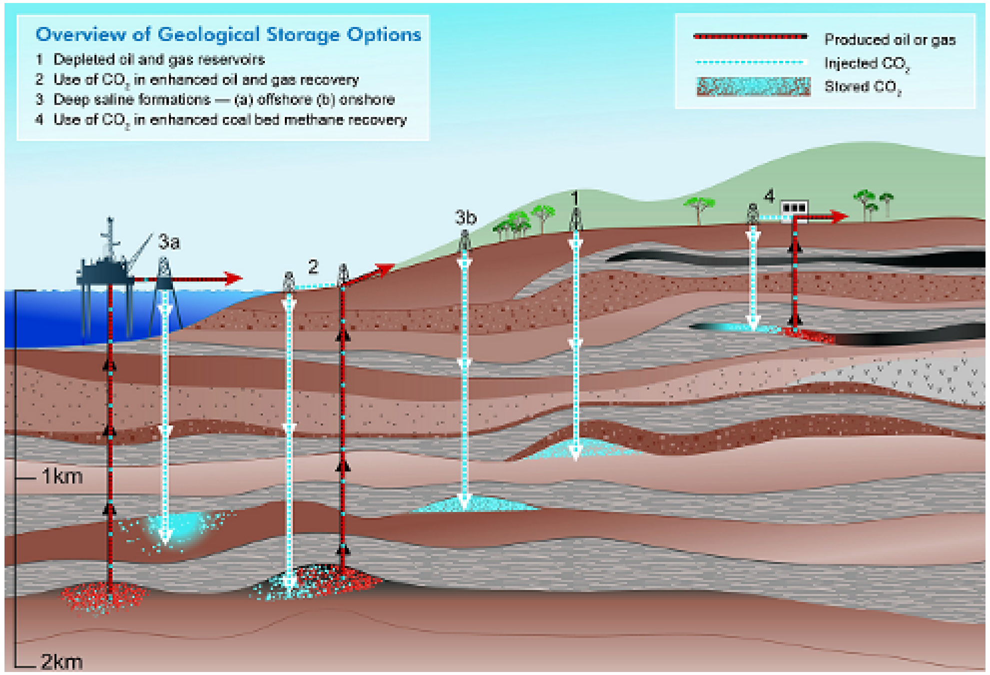
  - Carbon Capture & Transformation (CCT): Micro-Algae



  - Low CO_2 clinker development: AETHER (BCSAF)

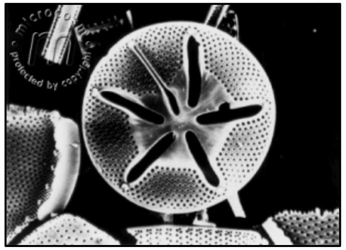
CCS – CO2 Storage in Deep Geological Formations

- CCS is seen as a complementary solution although expensive and not possible everywhere (distance to sequestration site); LAFARGE present in several partnerships going from capture to sequestration (EDF, GDF-Suez, Total, Air Liquide, Veolia Env., Rhodia, ARKEMA, IPF, BRGM…)



CCT (Carbon capture and transformation)
Algae ponds – Photo-bio-reactors (PBR)

Algae growing based on Photosynthetic reaction



Micro-algae

+

Sunlight

$+ CO_2 + H_2O \longrightarrow$ **Biomass** $+ O_2$

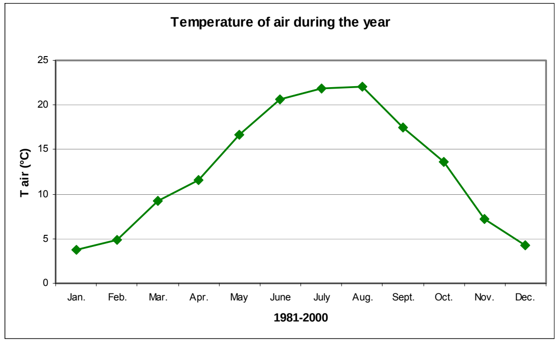
Bio-fuels
biodiesel / bioethanol / methanisation
High value products (omega-3…)

Objective:

- Is it possible to grow Micro-algae using the off gases from Cement Industry?
- In presence of dust, minor elements, other gases, which gas pre-treatment will be necessary?
- Develop a first estimate of mass, energy and CO_2 balances

Algae Pilot trial - Organisation & Installation

The Lafarge Cement Plant



Location of the greenhouse and PBR at the foot of the main exhaust stack

(facing South)

Vertical tubular PBR

Aether™

CO_2 balances: CO_2 balance for emissions of 360kt/year (180kt/year CO_2 treated - daylight)

1. Existing technology:

- Total surface needed: 20km²
- Cost and CO_2 balance; **~5 000 €/t CO_2** processed (without CAPEX)

→ **5.25 t CO_2 produced for 1 t avoided**

CO2 balance & business model not acceptable

2. Non existing technology (prototypes):

- Total surface needed: ~4 km²
- Cost and CO_2 balance: **485 €/t CO_2 avoided** (without CAPEX)

→ **~0.5 t CO_2 produced for 1 t avoided**

Total CO_2 reduction: 50% CO2

but Business model not valid

Based on new calculations carried out on September 22nd 2011

⇒ **Significant technology breakthrough needed for industrial use**

Lafarge's objectives for Aether:
A low CO_2 clinker for all types of cement

- Objective:
  - Develop a **new class of clinkers for making cements with similar mechanical performances to conventional OPCs**, and which can be produced in **existing PC plants**, while giving significantly **lower CO_2 emissions (20%-30%) in production**
  - **Not targeting 'Niche products**', but mainstream products
- Not looking for specific applications, but looking to replace the ordinary clinker
  - Ready mix, Precast…

Aether™: Research & Development

Website AETHER™: http://www.aether-cement.eu/

2003 **BC$AF**

Life+
Industrialisation
&
Development
~ 6 M€ for 3 years
~50% subvention from European Union

9/2009

Fundamental
&
applied
research

2013

Project Partners:
Lafarge (Coordinator)
BRE (UK)
MBM (Poland)

Instytut Ceramiki i Materiałów Budowlanych
Institute of Ceramics and Building Materials

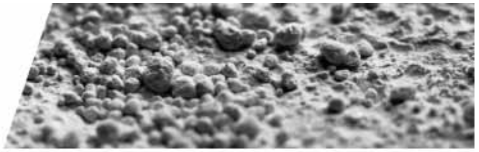
Industrial Pilot trials:
Validation of technical feasibility
Active communication

LCR research program

Aether™: global presentation

- **Aether™** is a new, patented* class of low-CO_2 cements based on BCSAF clinkers containing:
  - Belite: C_2S 40 – 75%
  - Calcium sulfoaluminate (ye'elimite): C4A3$ 15 - 35 %
  - Ferrite: $C_2(A,F)$ 5 – 25%
  - Minor phases: 0,1 – 10%

****Gartner, E., and Li, G., 2006. World Patent Application WO2006/018569 A2***



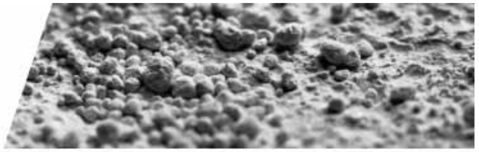
Aether™: global presentation
CO_2 emissions and manufacturing

- **Aether™** is based on a mineralogical phase composition with lower CO_2 emissions per clinker unit

Cement compound	Raw material used	g. CO2 / g. of pure phase
C_3S (alite)	Limestone + silica	0.578
C_2S (belite)	Limestone + silica	0.511
$C_2(A,F)$ (ferrite)	Limestone + Alumina + iron oxide	0.362
$C_4A_3\$$ (ye'elimite)	Limestone + alumina + anhydrite	0.216

Aether™ (bracket grouping the rows C_2S (belite), $C_2(A,F)$ (ferrite) and $C_4A_3\$$ (ye'elimite))

E. Gartner – Industrially interesting approaches to low-CO_2 cements, CCR (34) - 2004



Aether™ cement: CO_2 emissions and manufacturing

'Portland' raw mix

~35% LOI
~14% SiO_2
~3% Al_2O_3
~3% Fe_2O_3
~43% CaO
~0.3% SO_3

'Portland' clinker

C_3S ~65%
C_3A ~6%
C_2S ~15%
C_4AF ~12%

Aether™ clinker

$C_4A_3\$$ ~25%
C_2S ~55%
$C_{2(}A,F)$

Aether™ raw mix

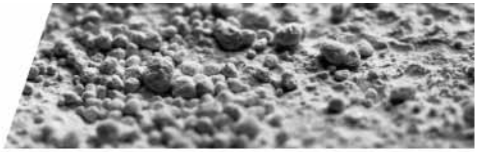
LOI ~29%
SiO_2 ~12%
Al_2O_3 ~11%
Fe_2O_3 ~5%
CaO ~37%
SO_3 ~3%

- **Aether™** main characteristics vs. Portland:
  - Higher Alumina and SO_3 content and lower LOI of the raw mix = lower $CaCO_3$ = lower CO_2 emissions
  - No C_3S, but $C_4A_3\$$ & higher C_2S content

Aether™ Industrial Trial 2011 (Life+)
Cement plant in France (Burgundy)

- Objectives
  - Produce AETHER clinker at industrial plant to prove industrial feasibility
  - Validation of CO_2 balance vs Portland
  - Process experience
  - Produce Aether™ clinker for cement and concrete testing

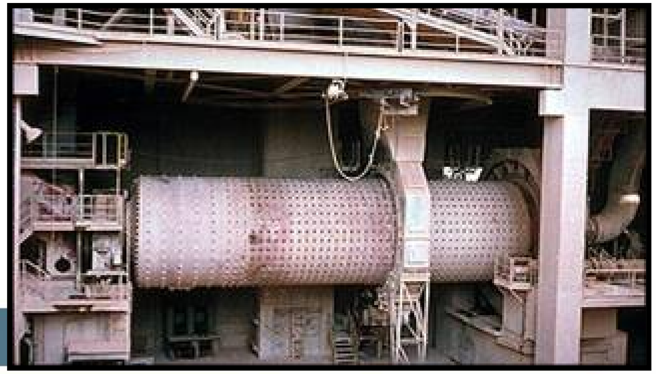
- Main figures
  - Lepol grate process: semi-dry
  - 7 days of clinker production + 7 days for preparation
  - ~8000t of raw mix
  - ~5500t of clinker produced



Aether™: Feasibility of industrialization successful
CO_2 emissions and manufacturing

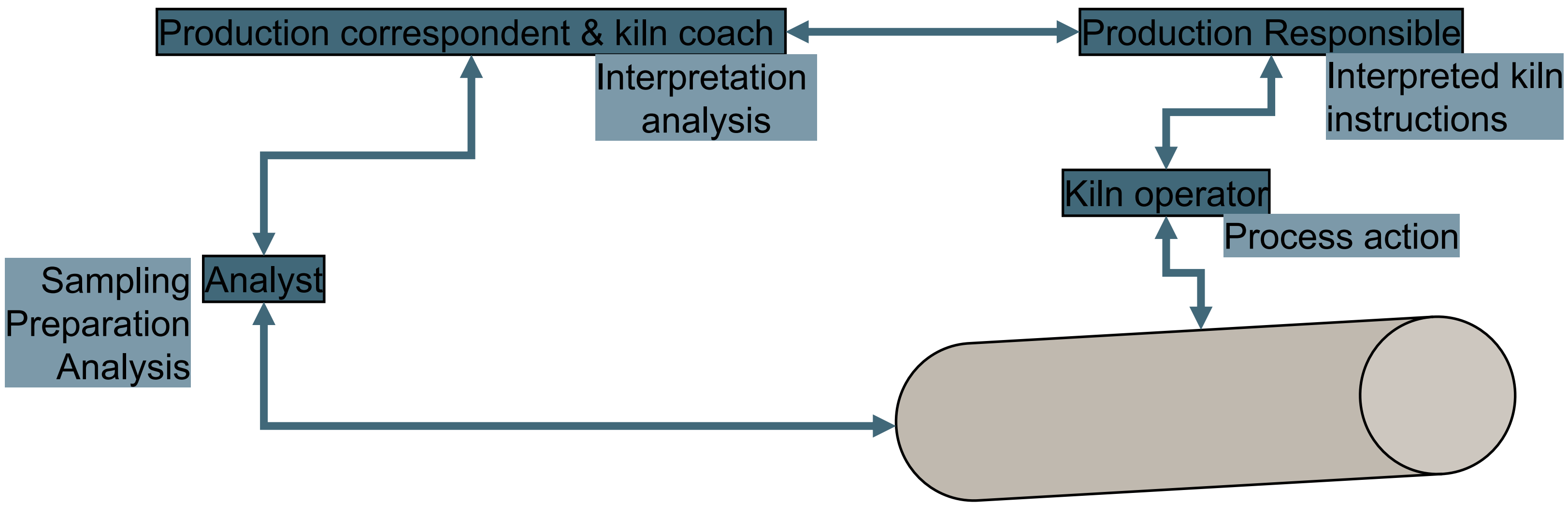
- **Conclusion: Aether™ clinkers can be produced**
  - in kilns designed for Portland cement clinker production
  - using similar process parameters and fuels
  - with conventional raw materials
  - at lower temperatures (≈1225 -1300°C) than for Portland cement clinker (1400 – 1500°C)
  - with significantly lower energy (~15%) than Portland cement clinker
  - Aether cement grinding energy is lower than for OPC

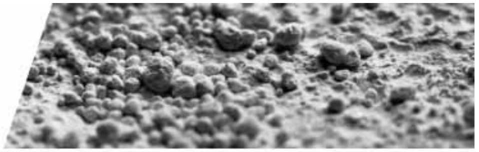
The manufacturing of Aether™ generates 20 to 30% less CO_2 per tonne of cement than pure Portland cement (CEM (I) type)



Aether™ Industrial Trial 2011
Cement plant in France (Burgundy)

- Specific Organization
  - Various competences involved: Plant + Research Center + Technical Center (Eur.+ NA) + Plant experts + Corporate (Communication-Marketing)
  - More people involved in shift rotation 24/24, 7/7 as for routine production
  - Loop: sampling-analysis-interpretation-process-action





Aether™ Industrial Trial 2011
Cement plant in France (Burgundy)

➢ Keys points for clinkering & quality control

- Raw mix
  - Measured chemistry versus target
  - Fineness
  - Homogeneity
- Pelletizing
  - Size (min, max, homogeneity)
  - Water content
- Clinkering
  - Process parameters
    - Temperature in clinkering zone
    - Gas emission: NOx, SO2
  - Clinker parameters
    - XRD + XRF control
    - Litter weight

Aether™

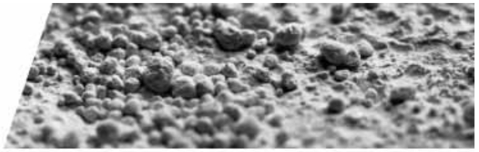
Aether™ Industrial Trial 2011
Cement plant in France (Burgundy)

- Keys points for clinkering control
  - **Raw mix**
    - Chemistry at target for Quarry & Pre-homogenization pile constitution
      - No technical modification vs Portland production
      - Increased frequency of analytical control
  - **Raw materials**

=> same as for Portland clinker

=> only proportions change compared to Portland

- Limestone
- Marl
- Bauxite
- Iron oxide
- Gypsum

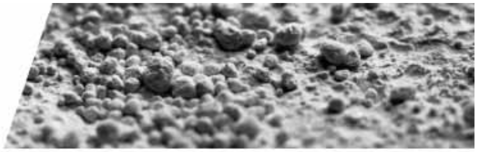


Aether™ Industrial Trial 2011
Cement plant in France (Burgundy)

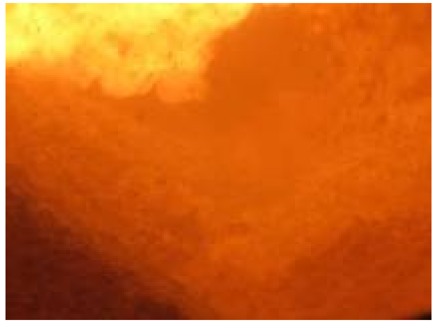
- Keys points for clinkering control
  - **Pelletizing**

    => specific to the Lepol grate process

    - Pellet size (min, max, homogeneity)
      - Control by specific tool developed by the plant based on image analysis
    - Water content
      - Adjusted to obtain target size
      - 10% less than for Portland due to the raw materials proportion: more marl, less limestone

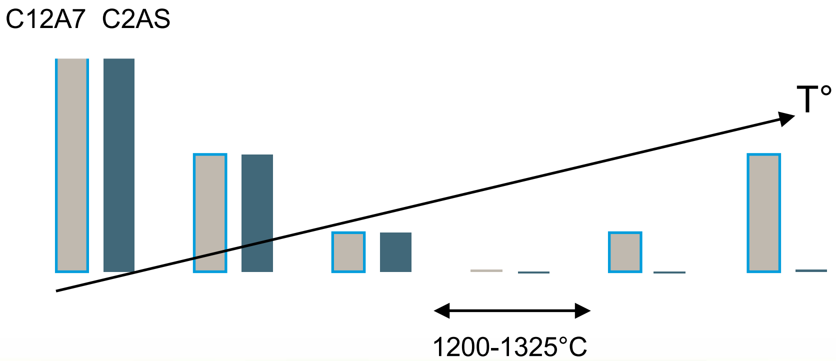


Aether™ Industrial Trial 2011
Cement plant in France (Burgundy)



- Keys points for clinkering control
  - Clinkering - Process parameters
    - **Temperature in clinkering zone**
      - Must be kept within a very narrow range
      - T° low = clinker under burnt, uncompleted combination (free lime, $C_{12}A_7$)
      - T° high = clinker over burnt (loss of ”easy” grindability), C4A3$ decomposition, SO_2 emission, ring formation or **melting**

        ⇒ kiln stop

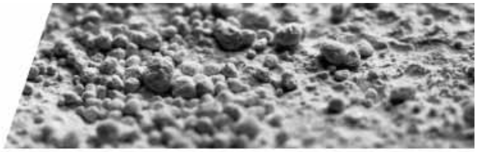


Aether™ Industrial Trial 2011
Cement plant in France (Burgundy)

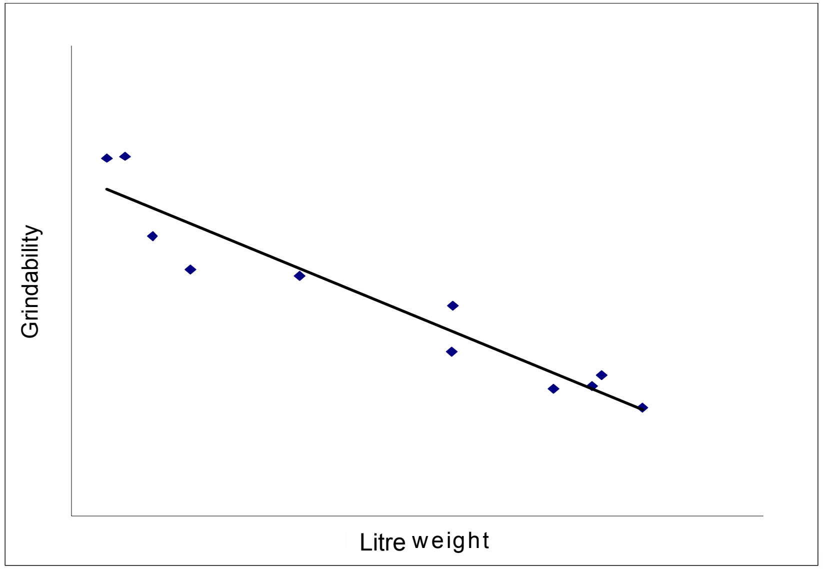
- Keys points for clinkering control
  - Clinkering – Monitoring of Process parameters
    - **Gas emission: NOx, SO_2**
      - Due to lower temperature, **NOx is reduced** vs Portland
      - SO_2 emission is linked to clinkering temperature:
        - If raw mix well designed + clinkering temperature correct, $\Rightarrow$ same SO_2 emissions as for Portland
      - Raw mix and/or T° not strictly monitored = problems $SO_2 \Uparrow$

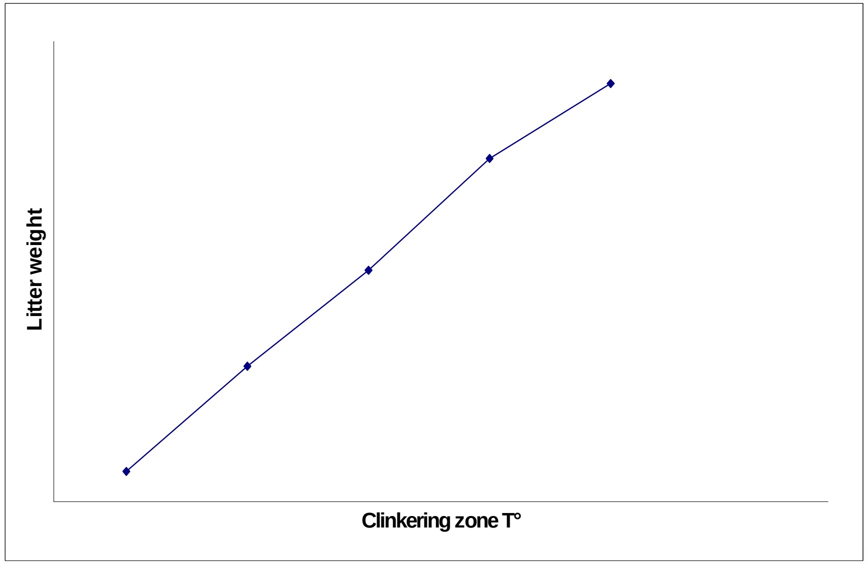
Aether™ production is **similar to Portland** production, but a **higher level of control is needed** for each process step: raw mix design, raw meal preparation, clinkering

Aether™ Industrial Trial 2011
Cement plant in France (Burgundy)



- Keys points for clinkering control
  - Clinkering - Clinker specific parameters
  - **Liter weight**
    - Manual control vs. gamma-densitometer: good correlation
    - Directly linked to temperature in the clinkering zone
    - To be maintained low in order to keep grinding energy low





Aether™ Industrial Trial 2011
Cement plant in France (Burgundy)

- Lafarge developed a special Rietveld control file for Aether™ clinker production control.
  - Identify and quantify the different mineralogical phases including their polymorphs ex: α' and β-C_2S of Aether™
- Most important quality control tool: **X-ray diffraction + Rietveld**

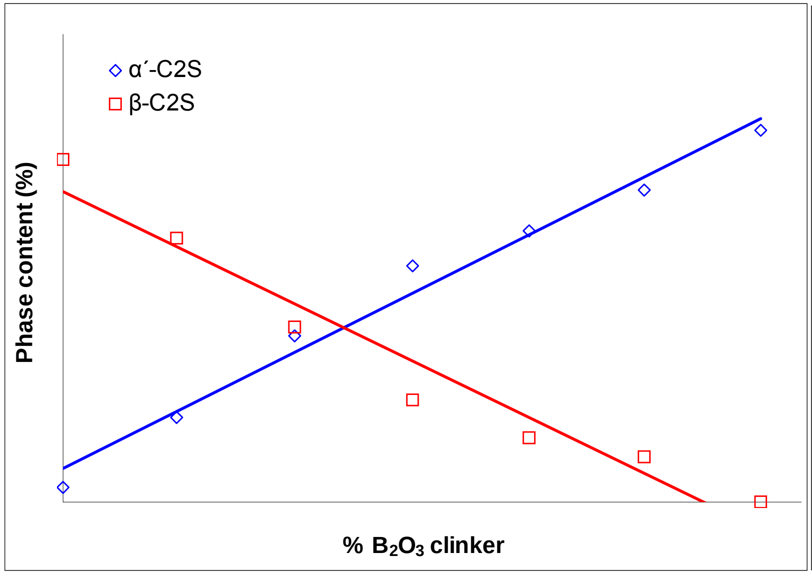
Many thanks to the excellent & professional support of PANalytical during the pilot trial

Special thanks to Dr. Füllmann

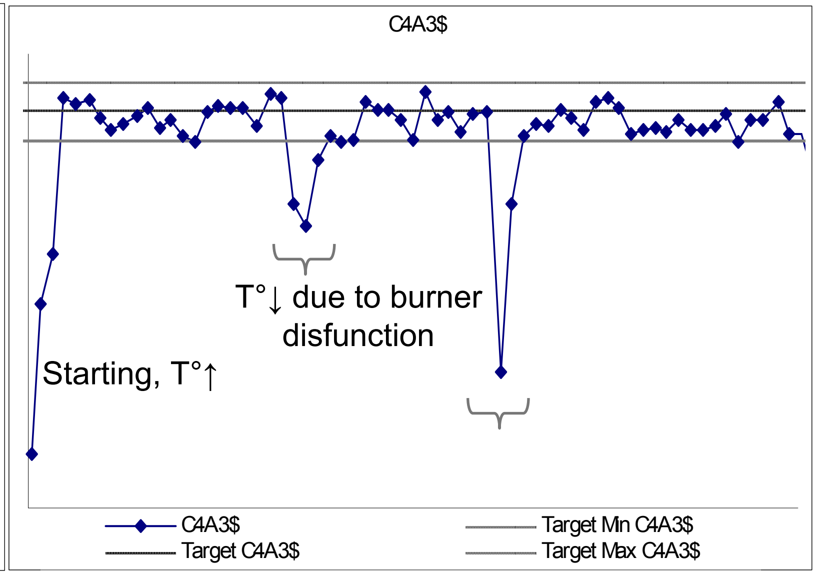
- Following equipment was used: PANalytical Cubix + Axios

Aether™ Industrial Trial 2011
Cement plant in France (Burgundy)

- Keys points for clinkering control
  - Clinkering - Clinker parameters
    - XRD following the mineralogy



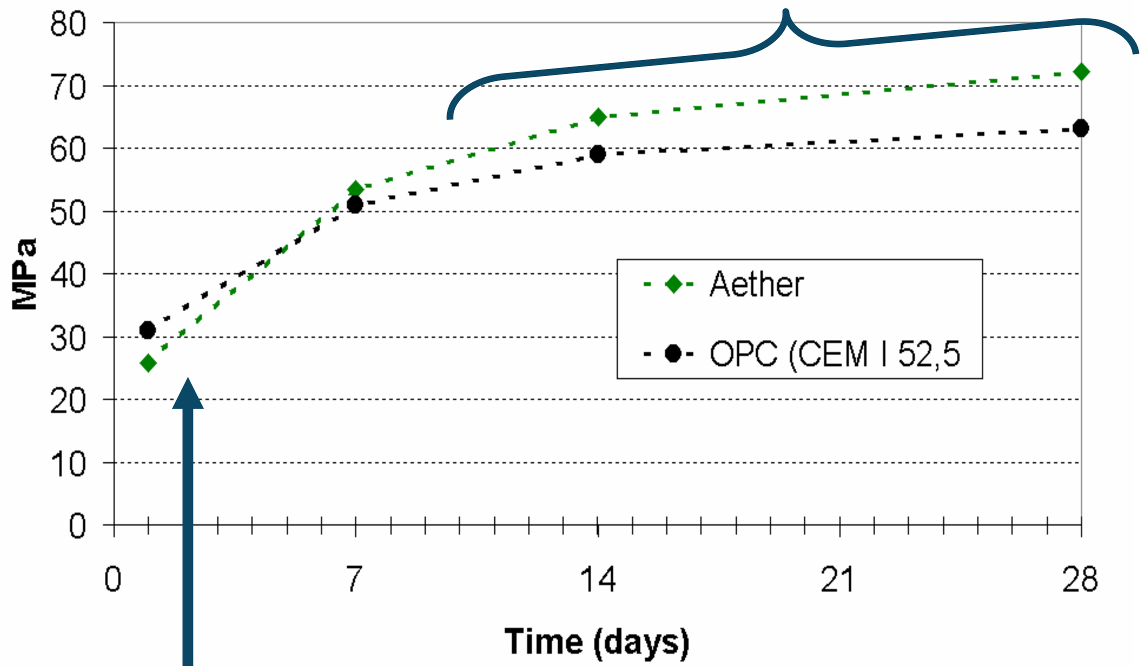
Perfect quantification of α' formation
= control of boron addition



Perfect quantification of phase formation
= control of clinkering process

Aether™ hydration
Aether™ Industrial Trial 2011 - Hydration

Compressive strength (standard mortar)



Step 2 : middle and long term strength given by belite and ferrite hydration

Step 1 : high early strength given by ye'elimite hydration

Aether™: Conclusion

AETHER cements based on clinkers containing belite, calcium sulfoaluminate and ferrite seem to be a promising alternative to Portland cements.

⇨ 20%-30% Reduction of CO_2 emissions relative to Portland cements

⇨ Use of similar raw materials and production in existing industrial installations

⇨ Similar concrete performance to Portland cements

⇨But more research is needed on process, hydration and durability, in order to develop appropriate standards, before Aether™ cements can be considered a large-scale alternative to Portland cement.

Thank you !

Discussion…