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In situ studies of catalytic soot oxidation by means of Environmental Transmission Electron Microscopy (ETEM)

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These years an awareness of health problems associated with soot particles from diesel engine exhaust gas leads to an introduction of diesel particulate filters on heavy vehicles as well as on passenger cars. The overall performance of diesel particulate filter is highly dependent on the kinetics for oxidation of soot deposits. Catalysts are generally used to speed up the oxidation rate of soot. Up to now, a limited number of studies have gained insight into the reaction mechanisms and the role of the catalytic materials by using kinetic reaction studies in combination with characterization of the catalysts [1].

In the present work, we outline recent results from our research that exploit ETEM to directly monitor the catalyzed oxidation of soot at the nano-scale. ETEM has earlier successfully been used in studying carbon growth *in situ* [2]. By using ETEM, we acquire movie sequences, i.e. time-lapse image sequences, at the soot-catalyst interfaces *in situ* during exposure to an oxygen atmosphere at elevated temperatures. The ETEM movies reveal direct insight into the dynamic restructuring processes at or near the soot-catalyst interface during catalyzed soot oxidation. How such ETEM movies provide new kinetic and mechanistic insight into catalytic soot oxidation on a nano-scale will be discussed [3].

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