





Ground and Structural Engineering Research Challenge



www.nottinghillgate.co.u



www.surgical-blog.com







www.otm.illinois.edu



# Materials for Life (M4L):

Biomimetic multi-scale damage immunity for construction materials

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# M4L: Vision

- A sustainable and resilient built environment and infrastructure
- Self healing materials and structures that continually monitor, regulate, adapt and repair themselves
- Enhanced durability, improved safety, reduced maintenance costs



M4L inspired by nature

# M4L: Scope and Aims

# A new generation of unique, versatile & robust self-healing construction materials

- Address structural/geotechnical applications & damage scenarios
- Focus on conglomerate materials (e.g. concrete, grout, grouted soils)
- Interdisciplinary, inspired by nature
- Self-healing over multiple spatial & temporal scales
- Novel and transformative
- Born of both Networks





Atomic scale

C-S-H Molecular level <1nm

# **Multi-scale Damage**

	Size of crack	Scale of	Description of damage/dislocation
	/dislocation	phase	
Nano scale C-S-H matrix/gel 5nm – 100nm	<1nm	5nm (nano)	Defects in the structure (e.e. vacancies due to dissolution of certain atoms, calcium leaching, interstitial or extra atoms etc.). Structural changes due to chemical reactions such as alkali-silica
			reaction etc.
Nano/Micro scale Cement paste 0.1μm – 100μm	5nm – 100nm	100nm (nano)	Dislocations between CSH particles seen as changes to packing of CSH 'globules'
Micro/Meso scale	0.1μm - 50μm	0.1μm - 100μm	Dislocations (or damage) within the CSH matric and Ca(OH) <sub>2</sub> crystals.
Cement paste + sand 0.05mm – 5mm	50μm – 1mm	(mano/micro) 50µm – 5mm (micro-meso)	Micro cracks coalesce to form networks of meso cracks. Also debonding between aggregate particles and cement matrix in Interface Transition Zones (ITZs).
<b>Macro scale</b> Mortar, Concrete >5mm	0.2mm – 10mm	>1mm (macro)	Continuous macro cracks formed when meso cracks in hardened cement paste merge and also link adjacent debonded ITZs.

# **Micro-scale Healing**

- Microencapsulation
- Range of cargos
- Responsive to different stimuli and trigger mechanisms
- Release and healing efficiency







## **Meso-scale Healing**

- Bacterial healing
- Calcium Carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) / Calcite
- Delivery & survivability in cementitious matrix
- Release & healing efficiency





# **Macro-scale Healing**

- > Autonomic / Autogenic
- Use of SMP tendons and grids
- Use of recycled plastics
- Monitoring & activation systems
- Alternative crack control mechanisms







Autogenous healing enhanced

Cracks form after loading

Tendons activated to close crack

Variant I - Crack Closure

Cracks prevented or limited to small widths

Tendons activated before mechanical loading



Tendons activated before mechanical loading

Variant II - Crack Prevention Variant III - Tri-axial Confinement



## **Multi-scale Healing**



- Vascular flow networks
- Methods for network incorporation in cementitious matrix
- Integration & testing of multi-scale healing systems
- > Optimise system behaviour
- Economic study of individual & combined healing systems
- Demonstration projects in field environments













### <u>WP4</u> Multi scale Flow Networks (PDRA 4)

### WP3 Meso/Macro scale Crack prevention (PDRA 3)





### WP1 Nano/Micro scale

Microcapsules (PDRA 1)

### WP2 Micro /Meso scale Bacteria (PDRA 2)













### <u>WP4</u>

Multi scale Flow Networks (PDRA 4)

### WP3

Meso/Macro scale Crack prevention (PDRA 3)

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### <u>WP1</u> Nano/Micro scale Microcapsules (PDRA 1)

WP2 Micro /Meso scale Bacteria (PDRA 2)





•Field demonstration projects •Steering group participation •Scale-up and commercialisation

• Technology transfer • Host PDRA visits • Dissemination of project findings • Fund PhD students

# **Scale-Up and Affordability**

### Scale up

- Learning from our academic collaborators and other sectors
- Potential scale up of individual components being identified
- Industrial collaborators will help address constructability challenges

### Affordability

- Promising initiatives in other sectors to minimise production costs of similar materials e.g. microcapsules
- Compatibility with cost of admixtures and additives
- Potential use of recycled materials, e.g. plastics
- Reduction in overall costs, e.g. with less steel reinforcement and cement
  - Reduction in whole life costs



www.tudelft.nl

#### Scaling up of healing agent at TU Delft



www.tudelft.nl

# **Whole Life Costs**

Initial indications demonstrate up to 50% saving in life cycle costs

Activity in T4.5 will address the whole life cost in more detail.

Items for steel reinforced concrete	Quantity for 1m <sup>3</sup> of concrete	Unit Cost (£/kg)	Cost for 1m <sup>3</sup> of conventional reinforced concrete (£)	Cost for 1m <sup>3</sup> of M4L reinforced concrete (£)
	(kg)			
Concrete	2400	46	46	46
Reinforcing steel*	413	1	413	413
Microcapsules**	5	2.5		12.5
Bacteria**	5	4		20
Flow Networks	4	6.5		26
PET	6	6.5		39
TOTAL			470	556.5

\*Based on 250kg/m<sup>3</sup> concrete

\*\*2% weight with respect to cement

Activity	Unit cost (£/m <sup>3</sup> )	Frequency	
Special Inspection	2.6	Every 5 years	
Destructive evaluation	16	Every 10 years for conventional concrete	
Monitored evaluation	9.6	Continual process for M4L concrete	
Major patch repairs	111	6 every 100 years conventional concrete 1 every 100 years M4L concrete	
Replacement	Initial Construction cost	Once every 100 years for conventional concrete only	

Cusson D., Lounis, Z., Daigle, L. Cement & Concrete Composites 32 (2010) 339-350 Dunn S. C., Jefferson A. D., Lark R. J., Isaacs B. Journal of Applied Polymer Science 120(5), 2516-2526, 2011.







### Properties of healing components:

- Responsive to host material damage
- Resistant to internal and external actions
- Compatible with the host matrix
- Long term efficacy



www.commandalkon-tms.nl

Protection of healing agent in porous aggregates and coated compressed powder tablets

### 1. A58, The Netherlands, 2010

• First engineered self-healing asphalt road with conductive fibres

### 2. University of Illinois, USA (field trial), 1994

- Four full scale concrete bridge decks with adhesive filled fibres
- Strength increased and cracks diverted following repeated loading
- Excellent performance over 3 years of monitoring

### 3. Interstate 94, Michigan, USA, 2009

• Bridge deck link slabs: Engineered Cementitious Composite with polypropylene fibres

### 4. Paviljoen Galder, The Netherlands, 2012

• Concrete crack repair with bacterial solution

### 5. Delft University, The Netherlands (field trial), 2009

• Soil Stabilisation using bacterial solution











Damage Indicating Paint www.sensorprod.com

### **Coatings and paints**



Scratch Healing Paint www.autoevolution.com



Artificial Skin www.theengineer.co.uk

**Polymer-Metal Skin** 



Sea Urchin www.asianscientist.com/

### **Bio-inspired materials**



Self Healing Polymers www.americanscientist.org

### Polymers and Polymer Composites



HGF within CFRP www.iccm-central.org/bondip222498p



Oil and Gas Sector BP-ICAM

• Self-healing systems • Fundamental properties • Implementation • Routes to commercialisation

• Technology transfer

# M4L and Beyond

- Development and demonstration of a suite of self-healing construction products and technologies that have been tested in real life situations.
- Establishment of UK Virtual Centre of Excellence to act as a platform for the further development of intelligent construction materials for structural and geotechnical applications.
- Bring together the relevant international community for the first time to collectively make significant advances for optimum impact.
- > Establishment of **site-based demonstration** projects for further exploitation.
- Contribution to the vision and legacy of Limesnet and FIF communities by working closely with other successful bids to address the wider structural and geotechnical engineering challenges.
- Continuation of the work through PhD projects and with others.
- Acquisition of additional funding to expand skills and further exploit the momentum of M4L.