

# **CARBON NANOTUBES**

Human existence is shaped by the materials we use. More than 70% of all basic materials can be improved by introducing a universal additive – graphene nanotubes. These tiny tubes provide us with a rare opportunity to create nanoaugmented materials that have extraordinary properties.

Graphene nanotubes can be described as a one-atom-thick graphene sheet rolled in a tube more than 5  $\mu m$  length. This material is also commonly called single wall carbon nanotubes (SWCNTs).

# **UNIQUE PROPERTIES OF GNTs**

With these unique properties of graphene nanotubes, many characteristics of materials are improved.

The pre-eminence of these nanotubes is related to their exceptional properties, such as superior conductivity, high temperature resistance, ultra-low weight, record strength and high flexibility.

Excellent conductor	Stronger than steel	Thermal stability	Length to diameter ratio
5 times lighter than copper	up to 100 times	up to 1,600°C in a vacuum	about 3,000 times

# GNTs — THE FIRST UNIVERSAL ADDITIVE FOR MATERIALS

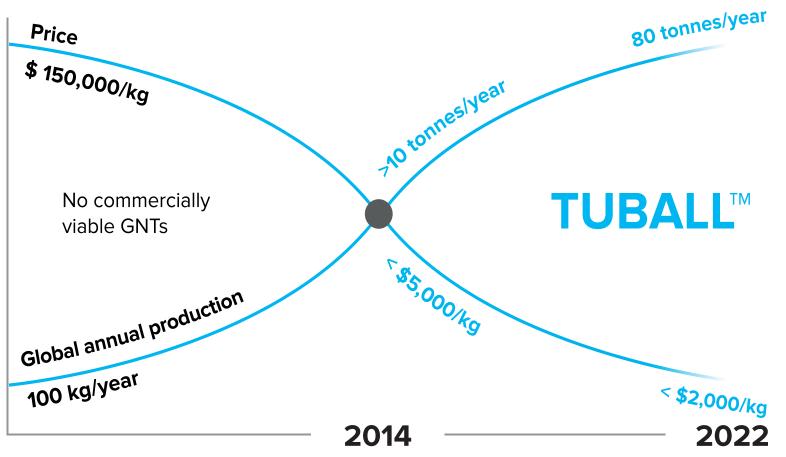
Owing to their extraordinary thermal conductivity and their mechanical and electrical properties, GNTs find applications as additives in an extremely wide range of structural materials.



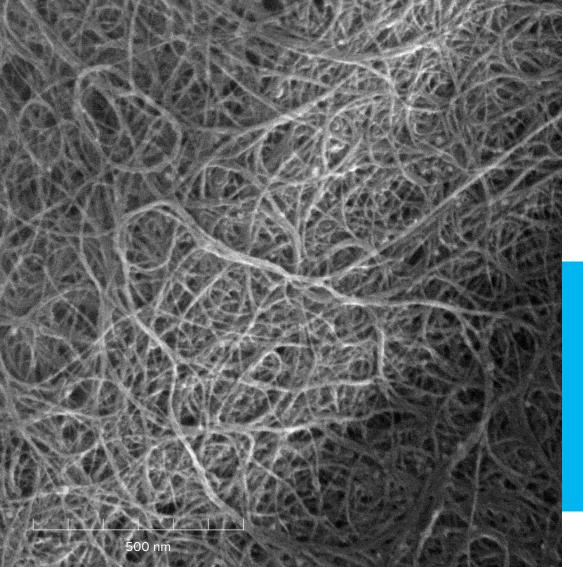
# WHY GNTs LEFT UNUSED

# **BY CIVILIZATION BEFORE?**

In 2014 GNTs became available to the mass industry







# TUBALL™

While the huge potential of GNTs has been recognised for many years, until recently their wide application in industry was not possible because of the absence of technology for their mass production, their high price and the lack of methods for introducing them into materials.

TUBALL<sup>™</sup> nanotubes are the first GNTs to be available for commercial applications in a wide range of industries. OCSiAl's breakthrough is low-cost mass-production technology has made the widespread use of nanotubes economically viable while still preserving their high quality.

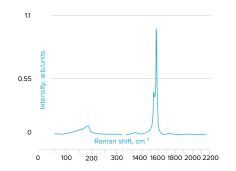
# **FEATURES**

- High-quality nanotubes (G/D ratio > 90)
- Maintains color, elasticity, durability and other key properties of improved materials
- Gains traction starting from ultra-low concentrations
- Enhances mechanical properties
- Adds uniform, permanent and stable electrical conductivity
- Versatile for an extremely wide range of applications

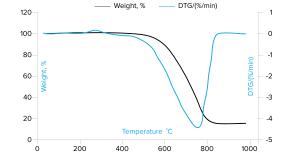
# **TECHNICAL INFO**

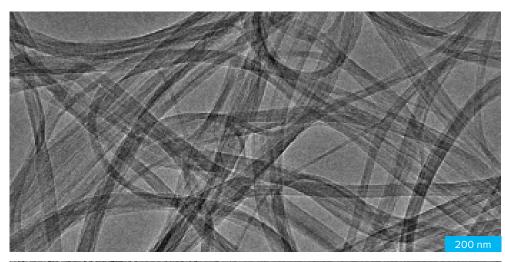
	UNIT OF MEASURE	VALUE	METHOD OF EVALUATION
CNT content	wt.%	≥ 80	OCSiAl internal method: ash residue
Number of layers CNT	unit	1	TEM
Outer mean diameter CNT	nm	1.6 ± 0.4	Optical absorption: ISO/TS 10868:2017 (E)
Length of CNT	μm	> 5	AFM
Metal impurities	wt.%	≤ 15	OCSiAl internal method: ICP-AES
Moisture	wt.%	< 5	OCSiAl internal method: infrared thermogravimetry

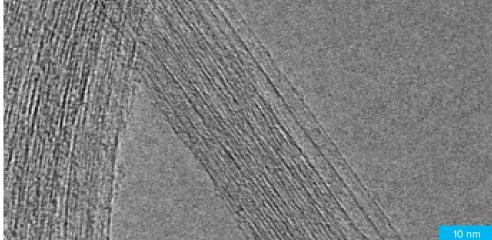
**RAMAN SPECTRUM** 



**TGA CURVES** 











# INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION OF GNTs

# OCSiAl is the only company with a scalable technology for industrial synthesis of graphene nanotubes.

On 14 November 2013, the company launched Graphetron 1.0 – the first industrialscale facility for graphene nanotube synthesis. With a capacity of 1 tonne of TUBALL<sup>m</sup> per year, it became the world's largest facility. In 2019 Graphetron 50 was commissioned.

The joint capacity of the two current synthesis facilities now amounted to 60 tonnes per year. It is planned to expand existing capacity and launch a new facility in Serbia in 2024 and Luxembourg in 2027.

# FACILITIES

2013 GRAPHETRON 1.0
2019 Graphetron 50
2024 GRAPHETRON IN SERBIA
2027 GRAPHETRON IN LUXEMBOURG

**IN 2021 OCSIAI HAD** 



# OF THE WORLDWIDE GNTs PRODUCTION CAPACITY

Source: estimates based on report and analysis provided by one of the leading management consulting firms



# **OCSIAI FACILITIES**

OCSiAl is expanding and optimising its production globally by building new TUBALL<sup>™</sup> synthesis facilities in various locations around the world. OCSiAl's annual production capacity as of 2022 is 60 tonnes per year.



ISO certificates obtained from 2017 confirm the required high level of OCSiAI's quality control, environmental, health and safety management systems. Currently, OCSiAI is certified in accordance with ISO 9001, ISO 14001, ISO 45001: 2018 and BS OHSAS 18001. In 2019–2020, the OCSiAI production facility successfully passed an audit for compliance with German automotive industry standard VDA 6.3.

# INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS

# HOW IT WORKS

TUBALL<sup>™</sup> provides significant improvements in material properties upon the addition of ultra-low loadings, starting from as little as 0.01%.

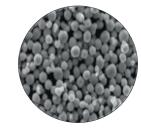


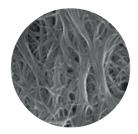


Unlike conventional additives such as multi wall carbon nanotubes, carbon fibers and most types of carbon black, which all disperse unevenly throughout the material's matrix, GNTs create a uniform 3D reinforcing and conductive network.\*

# **COMPARISON OF ADDITIVES THRESHOLD OF CHANGE**







CARBON BLACK 20–40% METAL FILLERS 15–35%

CARBON FIBERS 3–12%







MWCNTs 0.5–5%



GNTs 0.01-0.1%

\* Graphene nanoplatelets, graphene oxide, reduced graphene oxide, etc.

TUBALE<sup>M</sup> PROTOTYPING CENTER analysis and quality control of graphene nanotubes

electrochemical power sources

elastomers

+

thermoplastics

thermosets

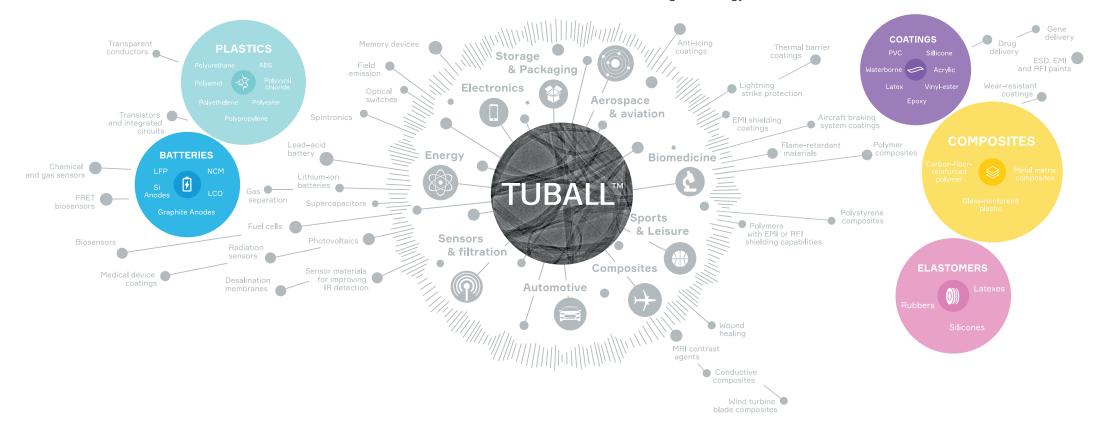
... and others



coatings

# TUBALL<sup>™</sup> APPLICIATIONS: ONE ADDITIVE FOR THOUSANDS OF MATERIALS

TUBALL<sup>™</sup> nanotubes can dramatically improve the properties of the majority of materials used in industry. This wonder-material is just at the beginning of its journey. OCSiAI is taking the lead in the developing of numerous dispersion technologies that allow customers to integrate TUBALL<sup>™</sup> into their products without changes in manufacturing technology or formulation.



# TUBALL<sup>™</sup> MATRIX CONCENTRATES

⊡TUBALL"

# TUBALL<sup>™</sup> MATRIX in a polymer



OCSiAl has taken the lead in the creation of technologies for introducing nanotubes into material matrixes.

In 2016 OCSiAI presented TUBALL<sup>™</sup> MATRIX – a line of graphene nanotubebased concentrates that provide materials with uniform and permanent electrical conductivity without compromising the original color or mechanical properties of the product. OCSiAI has now developed concentrates for most of the widely used industry-standard formulations.

# **BENEFITS**

from 0.1%





Retention of wide range of colors

Maintained or even increased mechanical strength





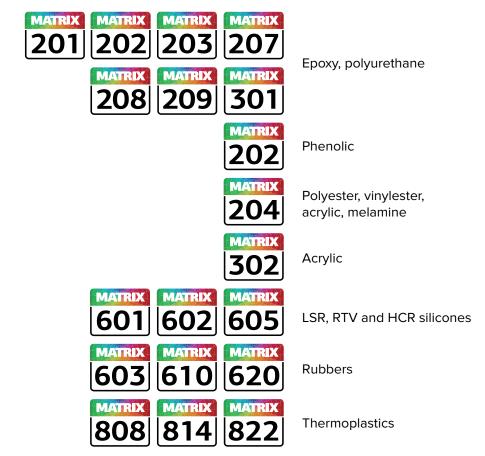
Minimum

Permanent and uniform conductivity without "hot spots"

impact on viscosity and density



# FOR NUMEROUS INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS



...and many more to come

# CERTIFICATION AND EHS

5.50



# **ENVIRONMENT, HEALTH & SAFETY**

OCSiAl is the first company to be authorised to start large volume commercial shipments of SWCNTs to customers in Europe, North America and other key global markets.



**ECHA** 

# REACH

Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals

- First and only SWCNT completed (September 2016)
- TUBALL<sup>™</sup> is registered under the number 01-2120130006-75-0000
- With the tonnage band upgrade, which is compliant with REACH Annex VIII, as of April 2020, its allowe commercialization volumes in Europe up to 100 tonnes of nanotubes annually



# EPA

**Environmental Protection Agency** 

- EPA consented
- PMN4 number P-17-0257
- On December 5, 2019, OCSiAl's regulatory status with EPA advanced with the publication of a significant new use rule ("SNUR") in the Federal Register covering OCSiAl's products with number § 40 CFR 721.11179 It removes restrictions on the sales and supply of TUBALL<sup>™</sup> nanotubes in the United States

# INDEPENDENT NANOSAFETY TESTINGS

# OCSiAl invests in EHS-related research projects that are conducted by independent laboratories

For instance, VITO and INERIS, two of the leading European independent research centers, they supported OCSiAI in several studies and testing programs, including incineration and combustion tests, nano ecotoxicity, and various mechanical degrading studies to investigate and measure possible aerosol release to find out whether nano- and microsized particles were released from the different TUBALL<sup>™</sup>-containing composite materials that were tested.

# **ECOTOXICITY TESTS RESULT**

TUBALL<sup>™</sup> itself has no eco-toxicity effect verified by:

- Daphina magna, Acure Immobilization (eco-toxicity) test according OECD 202
- Freshwater Alga Growth inhibition (eco-toxicity) test according OECD 201

### 25 75 50 60 45 antration, pt/cm<sup>3</sup> 51 pt/cm<sup>3</sup> ation, pt/cm<sup>3</sup> 40 50 ation, 35 15 40 Particle number conce 30 con 00 30 25 ber 10 numb nur 20 article I 20 <sup>D</sup>article 15 10 5 0 Blank 0.01% Blank 0.2% Blank 0.2% TUBALL PE TUBALL™ elastomer TUBALL epoxy PF elastomer epoxy

Graphics from original report from VITO

- No protruding nor free-standing CNTs or TUBALL<sup>™</sup> were found
- As a result of the strength and cohesion improvement, nanotube-formulated materials release fewer nano-sized particles compared with the neat material

Exposure of TUBALL<sup>™</sup> is extremely limited and not considered of posing any hazards to consumers, neither by inhalation, dermal or oral exposure.

# **PARTICLES RELEASE**

When TUBALL<sup>™</sup> is used as a reinforcing material in polymer composites, it no longer displays nano-particle characteristics, and even in cases where such composite material is grinded, cut, or otherwise mechanically degraded, pure TUBALL<sup>™</sup> typically does not become released, but is only release as part of highly aggregated, polymer-bound particles.

# **OCSIAI ENABLES PEOPLE TO BENEFIT FROM** ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES WITHOUT DAMAGING THE PLANET

Materials – at all stages of their life cycle from extraction to recovery – contribute to one of the largest inputs of greenhouse gas emissions. And the production of materials to meet the needs of the increasing population will double in the next 40 years.

Additionally, materials and products are often used only partially to their full potential. Useful load of:



office building

passenger car

20%

To reduce global materials consumption, we need to make materials more energy efficient, stronger and more durable.

Graphene nanotubes can improve the properties of most materials existing on Earth. As a result, less materials can be used to achieve the same result. Enhanced products demonstrate higher energy efficiency and longer cycle life, decreasing the need for new products and thus the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from their manufacturing.

# Car body frames

TUBALL<sup>™</sup> allows to reinforce thermoplastic compounds, improve durability and reduce weight, what potentially leads to higher energy efficiency of cars

# Li-ion batteries

High-performance Li-ion batteries with TUBALL<sup>™</sup> not only bring the mass adoption of EVs closer, they also enable a reduction in the number of battery cells to be sent for recycling

# Tires

High-performance tires with TUBALL<sup>™</sup> open the possibility to avoid required 600 g of carbon black per tire, potentailly leading to a significant reduction in  $CO_2$ emissions from the manufacturing of carbon black

# Industrial coatings

TUBALL<sup>™</sup> allows to enhance the properties of water-based coatings and allows them to overcome technological challenges, leading to reduced usage of solvent and other volatile organic compounds

... and many other ongoing projects with TUBALL<sup>™</sup> show the potential for significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions



OCSiAl is the world's largest manufacturer of graphene nanotubes and owns the only scalable technology that can synthesize them in industrial volumes.

A graphene nanotube (also known as a single wall carbon nanotube) is a rolledup sheet of graphene. High electrical and thermal conductivity, strength, and flexibility– all together, these exceptional properties allow graphene nanotubes to improve the properties of most known materials. When embedded into a material, the nanotubes create a 3D reinforcing and conductive network. OCSiAl produces high-purity graphene nanotubes under the TUBALL<sup>™</sup> brand name.

OCSiAI accelerates the transformation process of nanotubes from the laboratory to being an industrial-scale material by simplifying their handling. The TUBALL™ MATRIX nanotube concentrate product line allows nanotubes to be used directly in standard manufacturing technological processes. Often as little as 0.1% of the concentrate is enough to improve a material's properties significantly.

So far, OCSiAI has developed TUBALL<sup>™</sup>formulated technologies for electrochemical power sources, elastomers, composites, plastics, paints and coatings. To provide its customers with advanced technical support and to develop new nanotube technologies, the company has launched TUBALL Centers in Luxembourg, China and CIS.

For industrial-scale commercialization in global markets, OCSiAI has registered its TUBALL<sup>™</sup> single wall carbon nanotubes with regulators of various countries, including EU-REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorsation and Restriction of Chemicals) and the US Environmental Protection Agency. OCSiAI is the only manufacturer authorized to commercialize up to 100 tonnes of single wall carbon nanotubes in Europe annually.

Luxembourg-based OCSiAI partners with more than 1,500 companies around the world in regions including Europe, US, South Korea, China, Hong Kong, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, South-East Asia, Taiwan, Japan, India. OCSiAI has over 450 employees, with over 70 of those being R&D experts.



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