# APPLICATIONS FOR HIGH CARBON PULVERISED FUEL ASH

### Maythem Mahmud, M. Mercedes Maroto-Valer

Energy and Sustainability Research Division, Faculty of Engineering
University of Nottingham

Roger Brandwood

E.ON-Engineering Ltd.

14th April 2010

### **Outline**



- Background
- Aim
- Project plan
- Experimental work
- Conclusions
- Acknowledgements

# **Background**



- Coal Combustion by-Products (generation)
- Alternative fuels & Marketability
- •High carbon pulverised fuel ash

### Aim

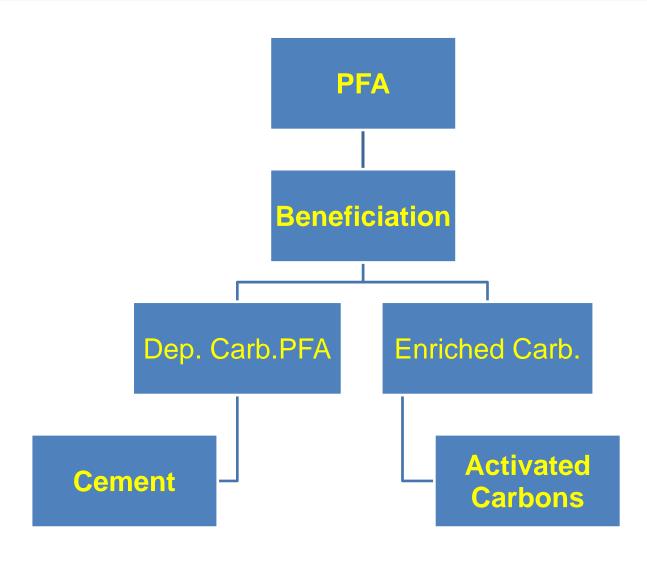


• Characterise high carbon PFAs produced from biomass and import coals.

• Identify applications for carbon-rich material produced by PFA beneficiation of biomass and import coals.

# Project plan





# EXPERIMENTAL WORK

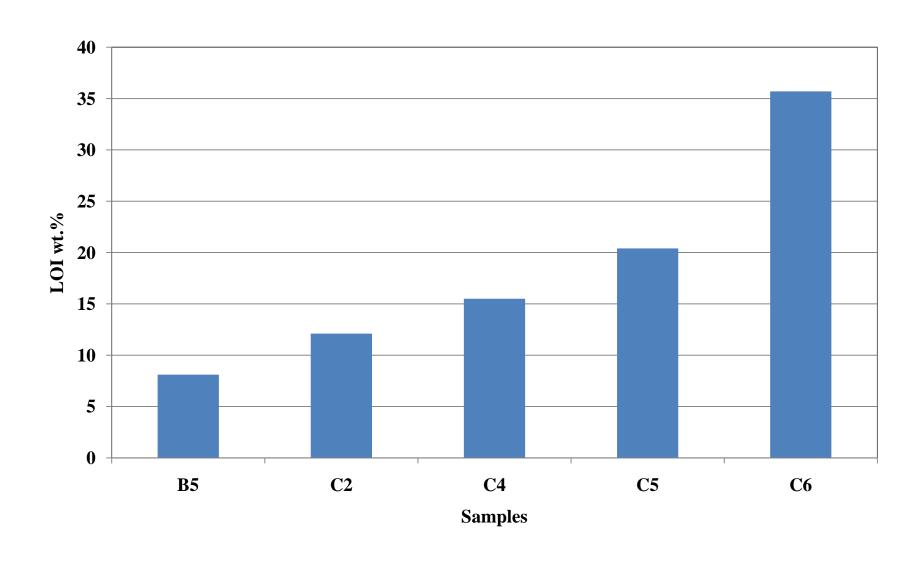
# Samples details



Samples	Collection device	Fuel type	LOI wt. %	
<u>P.S-1</u>				
C1	<b>Electrostatic Precipitator</b>	Coal (La Loma-Colombian	3.6	
C2	<b>Mechanical Separator</b>	Coal (La Loma-Colombian	12.1	
B1	<b>Electrostatic Precipitator</b>	S.F 7% + Coal (Russia)	5.7	
<u>P.S2</u>				
<b>C3</b>		Coal (Pittsburgh-US)	8.8	
<b>C4</b>	<b>Electrostatic Precipitator</b>	Coal (Pittsburgh-US)	15.5	
C5		Coal (Pittsburgh-US)	20.4	
<b>C6</b>		Coal (Pittsburgh-US)	35.7	
C7		Coal (Pittsburgh-US)	8.6	
C8		Coal (Pittsburgh-US)	9.5	
<u>P.S.3</u>				
<b>C9</b>		Coal (Russia)	8.2	
C10		Coal (Russia)	5.0	
<b>B2</b>	Electrostatic Precipitator	Oat 3%+ Coal (Russia)	6.1	
B3	Economiser	Oat 5%+ Coal (Russia)	5.8	
<b>B4</b>	Economiser	Oat 5%+ Coal (Russia)	3.9	
B5	<b>Electrostatic Precipitator</b>	Oat 5%+ Coal (Russia)	8.1	
<b>B6</b>		Oat 5%+ Coal (Russia)	5.4	

# LOI analyses





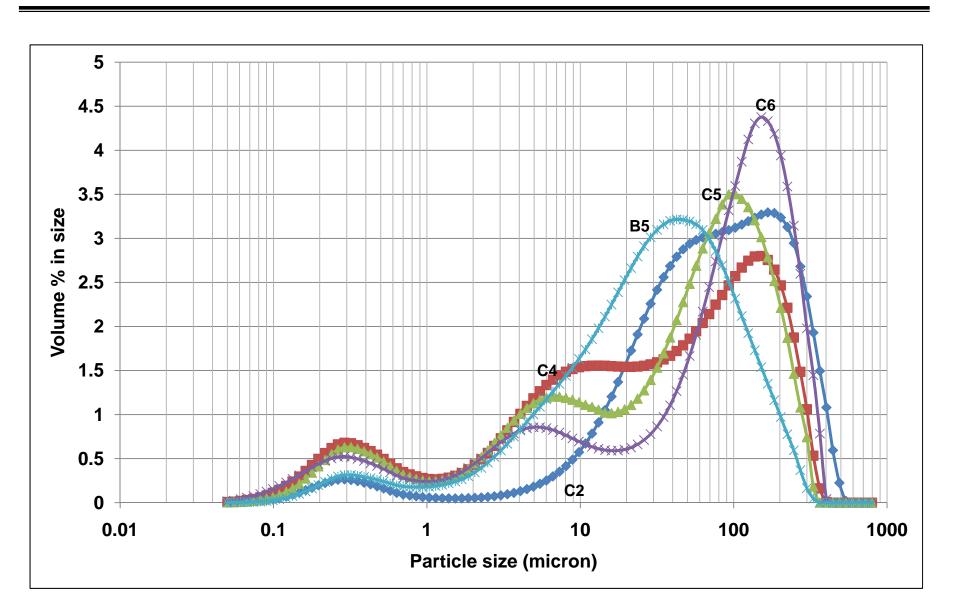
# Surface area (BET)



Samples	LOI wt.%	BET m²/g		
C10	5.0	6.6		
B2	6.1	9.7		
B3	5.8	10.2		
B4	3.9	7.2		
B5	8.1	17.0		
B6	5.4	10.6		

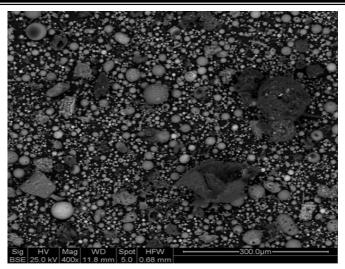


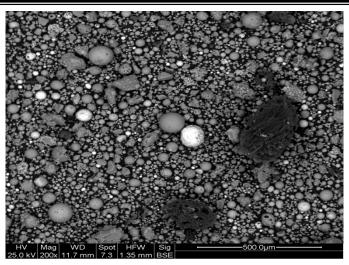
### Particle size distribution-Water



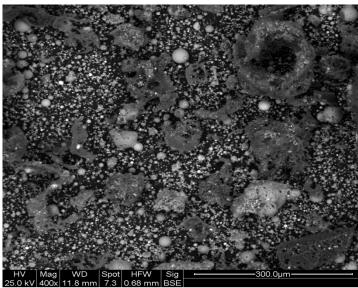
### **SEM studies**







**B5** 



**C2** 



## High carbon PFA utilisation

- 1. PFA beneficiation
  - -Incipient fluidisation
  - -Thermal treatment using microwave (vitrification)
- 2. Cement tests
- 3. Carbon activation



# **Incipient fluidisation**



### I.F. results



Samples	LOI (wt.%) parent fly ash	LOI (wt.%) for ash stream	Efficiency %	Yield % for fly ash	LOI (wt.%) for carbon stream	Yield % for carbon
B5	8.1	4	51	49.4	60.5	50.6
C2	12.1	1.5	88	12.4	81.5	87.6
C4	15.5	5.3	66	34.2	37.2	65.8
C5	20.4	8.5	58	41.7	40.2	58.3
C6	35.7	11.7	67	32.8	55.2	67.2

### Microwave treatment







B1 B3

LOI wt.%= 5.7 LOI wt.%= 5.8

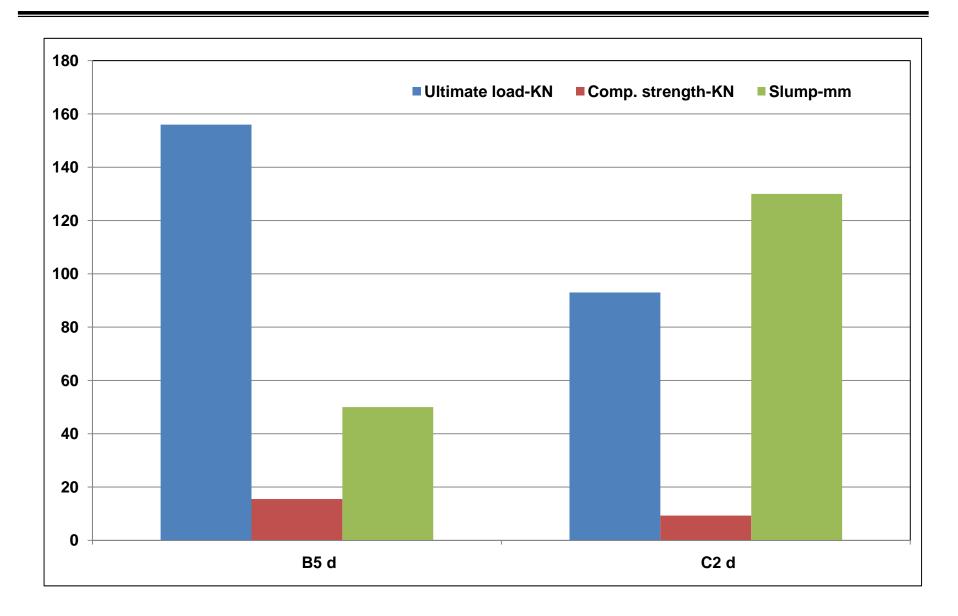
### **Cement tests**



Material	Kg-(10%-mixture)
Cement	1.7
Coarse aggregates	6.86
Fine aggregates	6.3
PFA-B5d & C2d	0.189
H <sub>2</sub> O	1400 ml
AEA	9.5 ml

### **Cement results**





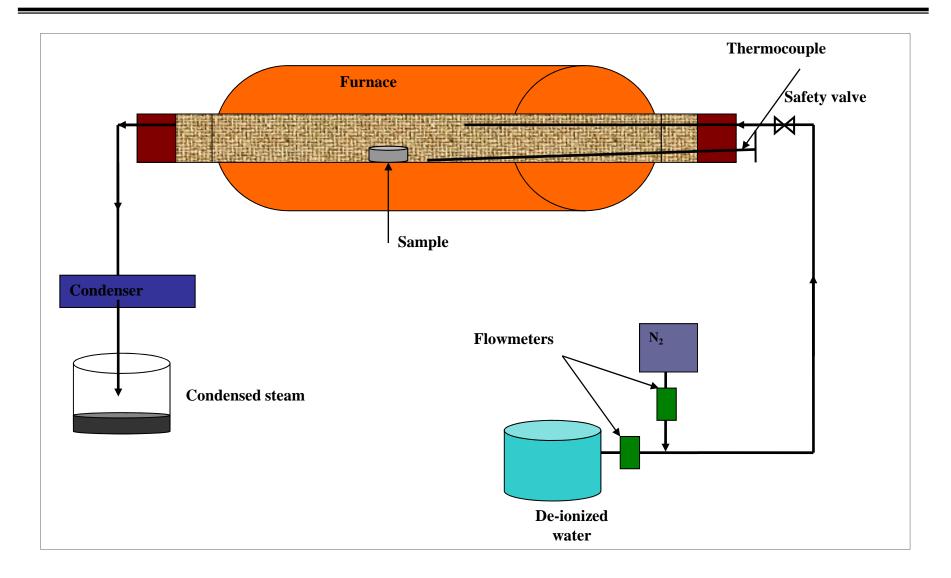
# **ICP-AES** analyses



Minerals oxides	B5	C2	C4	B5d	C2d	C4d
Fe 273.955	8.20	14.89	12.22	8.82	12.78	13.66
AI 396.153	19.92	15.49	20.70	20.20	16.87	24.94
Mg 280.271	2.33	2.41	1.52	2.54	2.24	1.73
Mn 257.610	0.11	0.16	0.10	0.11	0.11	0.10
Mn 294.920						
Ti 334.940	0.88	0.66	0.92	0.93	0.77	1.11
Ca 317.933	5.83	3.17	3.86	6.12	3.08	4.36
Ca 422.673						
Ca 315.887						
S 180.669	0.56	0.60	1.36	0.63	0.48	1.45
P 178.221	0.59	0.86	0.49	0.72	0.64	0.53
P 177.434						
Na 589.592	1.36	0.84	0.95	1.33	0.86	1.11
K 766.490	2.01	1.42	1.91	2.02	1.56	2.16
S 181.975						
Si 251.611	57.12	58.31	48.09	56.83	61.17	51.90
Si 212.412						
	98.90	98.80	92.14	100.26	100.56	103.04

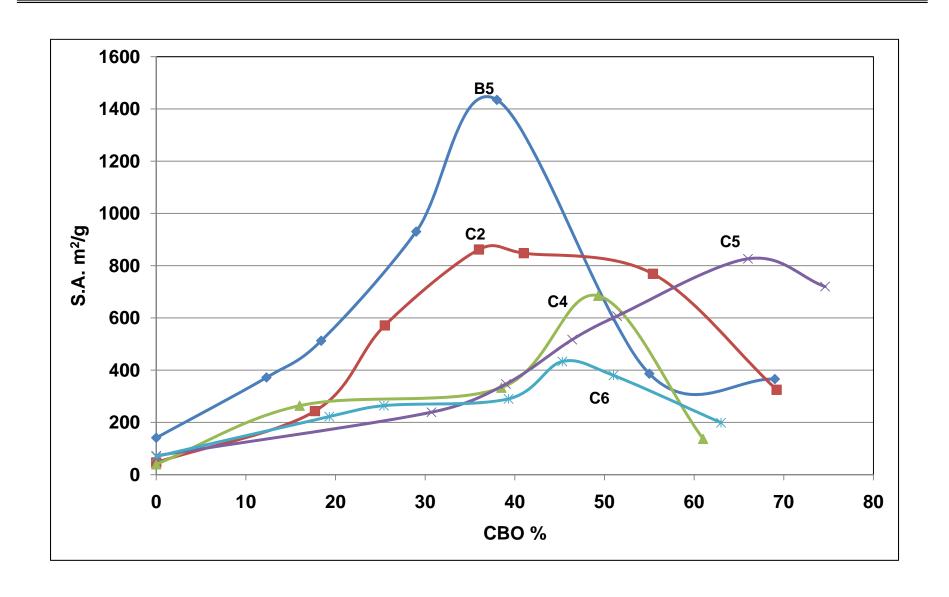


### **Carbon activation**



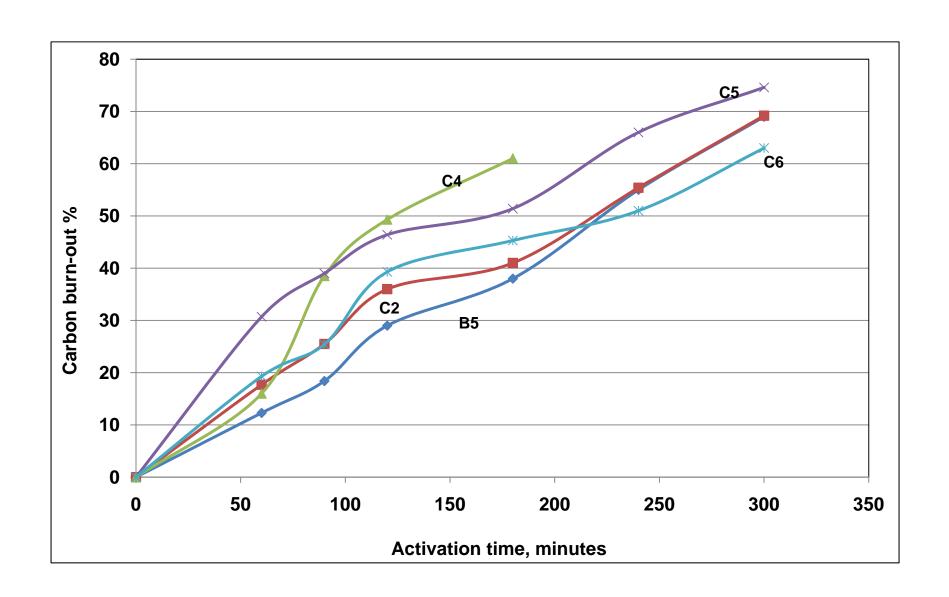
### **Carbon activation**





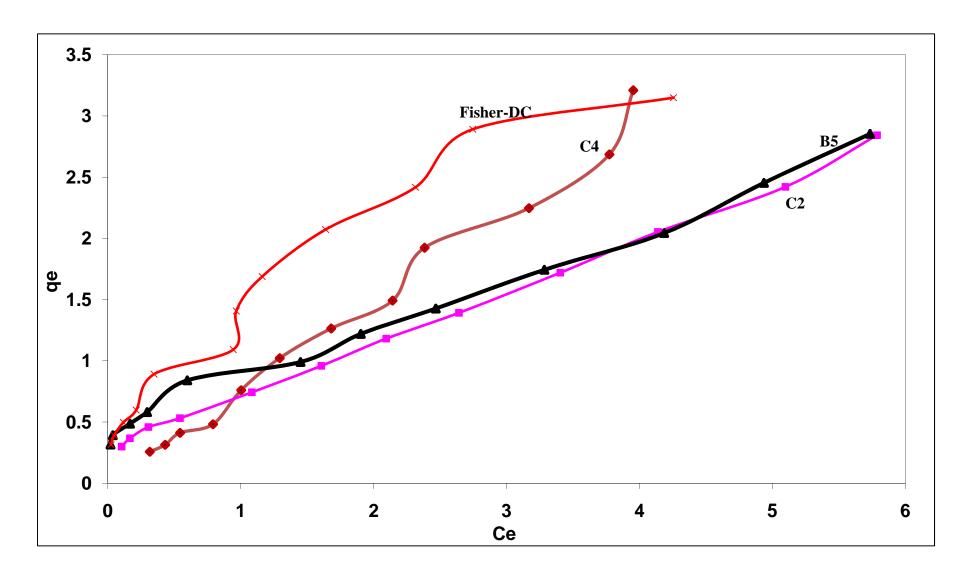
### **Carbon activation**





# Comparison with commercial carbons: Methylene blue adsorption tests







### **Conclusions**

- LOI value for the PFA samples varies from power plant to another.
- The carbon content in PFA samples collected from back rows increases compared with the samples collected from front rows of ESP units.
- PFAs derived from biomass co-firing showed higher S.A. compared with PFAs coal.
- PFAs derived from biomass co-firing need more water in cement tests in order to increase the workability.
- Enriched carbon stream is considerably utilised as a precursor for carbon materials.
- Enriched activated carbon materials have similar adsorption properties as commercial carbons.



# Acknowledgements

•I would like to thank my supervisor Prof. M. Mercedes Maroto-Valer for her supervision and great support. I also would like to thank E.ON for financial support and for providing the samples and EPSRC (CNA-CASE award) for supporting this work.

# Thank you