**Thermal stability of p-type skutterudites DD0.6Fe3CoSb12 by Knudsen effusion mass spectrometry**

F. Zelenka1,2, P. Broz1,2,\*, J. Vrestal1,2, J. Bursik3, G. Rogl4,5, P. Rogl4,5.

*1 Masaryk University, Faculty of Science, Department of Chemistry, Kotlarska 2, 611 37, Brno, Czech Republic; 2 Masaryk University, Central European Institute of Technology, CEITEC, Kamenice 753/5, 625 00, Brno, Czech Republic; 3 Institute of Physics of Materials, ASCR, Žižkova 22, 616 62, Brno, Czech Republic; 4 Institute of Materials Chemistry and Research, University of Vienna, Währingerstraße 42, A-1090 Vienna, Austria; 5 Christian Doppler Laboratory for Thermoelectricity, Vienna, Austria*

*\* The corresponding author e-mail: broz@chemi.muni.cz*

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Thermoelectric materials have gained increased interest for their ability to exploit waste heat (renewable energy) and convert it to electricity in automotive and aerospace industry, electronics and other areas. The current research, among other materials, is oriented on doped CoSb3 based skutterudites with high ZT-levels which can further be increased, e.g. by nano-structuring. Current materials contain volatile elements (Sb, Sr, Yb, etc.), which can evaporate at operation conditions leading to structure changes, damaging the thermoelectric properties.

The temperature and phase stability of p-type skutterudites DD0.6Fe3CoSb12 exhibiting a high ZT-level have been studied by means of thermal analysis (TA) and Knudsen effusion mass spectrometry (KEMS). The results from phase transformation measurements and characteristics of evaporation of the volatile elements supported by microstructure observations and of diffusion profiles are summarized and discussed in view of a full understanding of the degradation processes and knowledge on long term operation stability of the bulk and nano-structured thermoelectrics studied.

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