

# Solution-Based Synthesis of Ultrathin Quasi-2D Amorphous Carbon for Nanoelectronics

Research & Innovation Center



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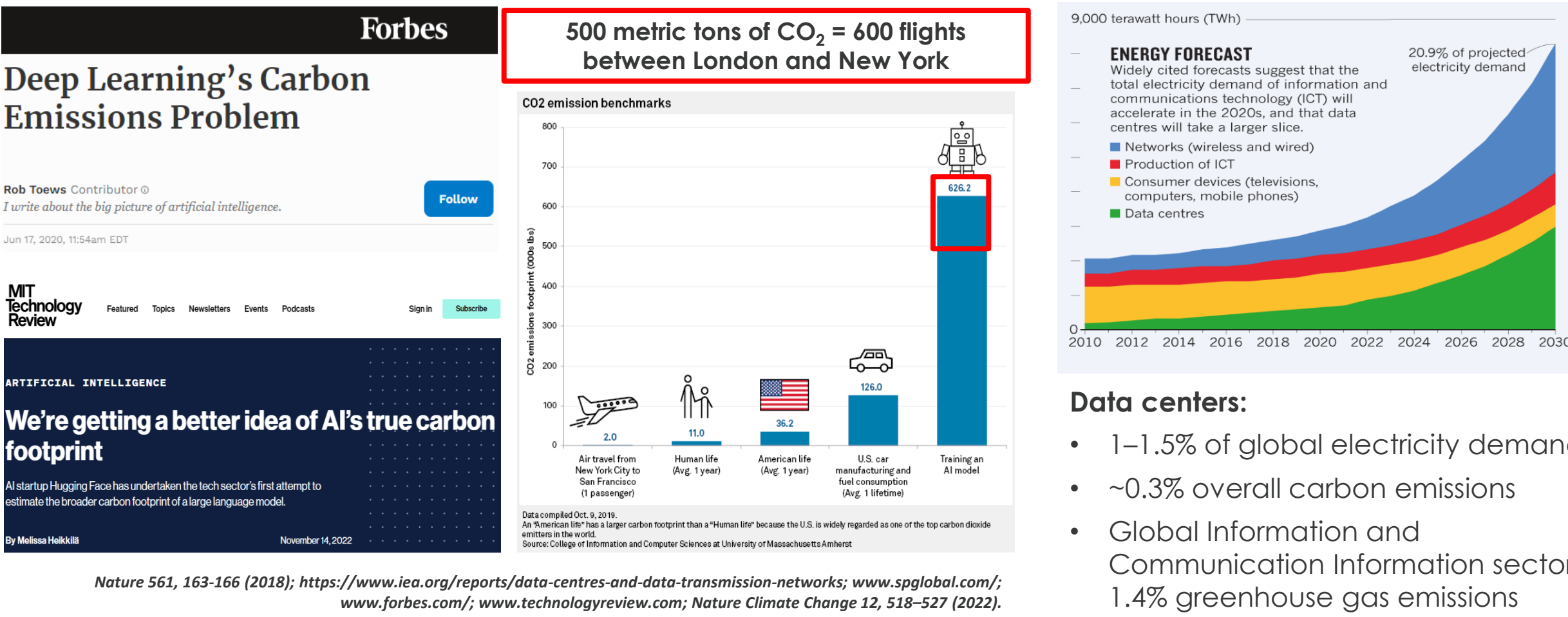
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## Abstract

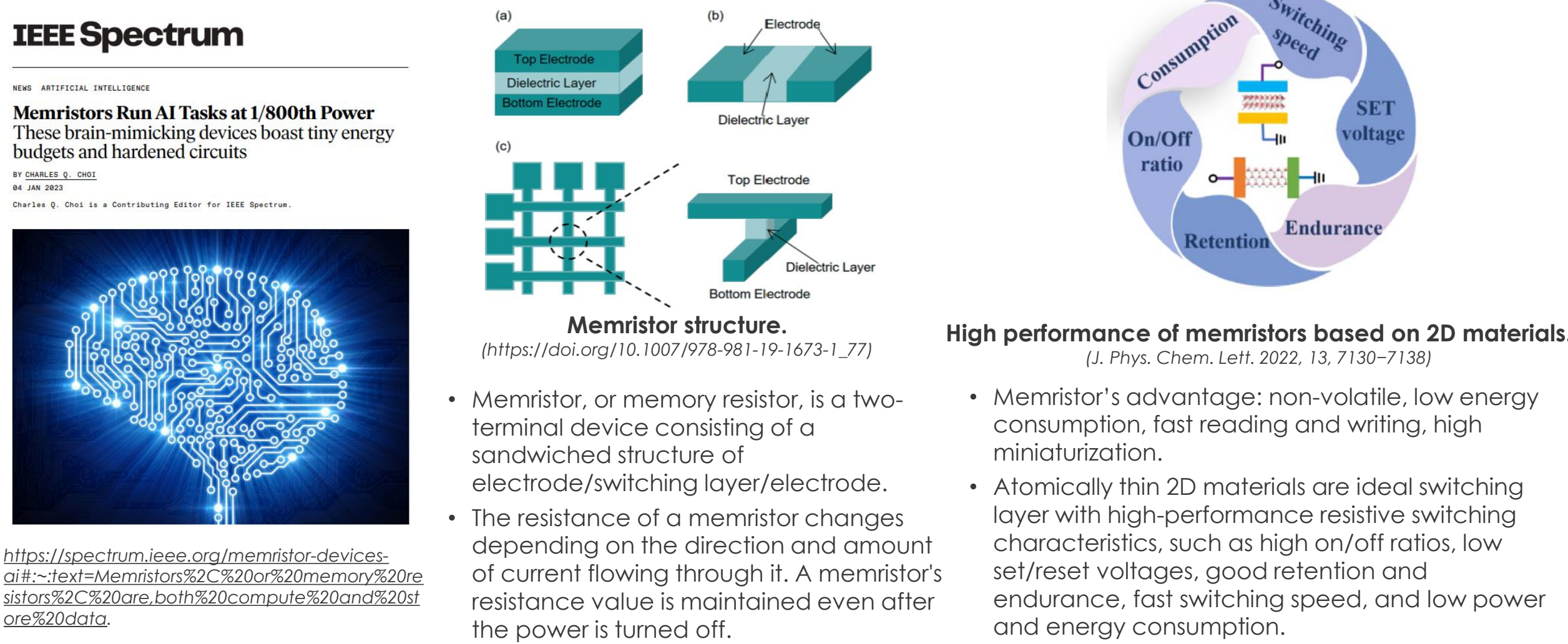
The synthesis of ultrathin 2D amorphous dielectric film represents a major challenge due to the metastable nature of amorphous phases. We describe a scalable and solution-based strategy to prepare wafer-scale 2D amorphous carbon with thickness down to 1–2 atomic layers from coal-derived carbon quantum dots as precursors. The prepared atomically thin 2D amorphous carbon can be suspended over cavities as freestanding membranes with high modulus of  $400 \pm 100$  GPa and demonstrate robust dielectric properties with dielectric strength above  $20 \text{ MV cm}^{-1}$  and leakage current density below  $10^{-4} \text{ A cm}^{-2}$  through a scaled thickness of three atomic layers. When implemented as ultrathin gate dielectrics in 2D transistors or ion-transport media in memristors, they enable exceptional device performance and spatiotemporal uniformity, resulting from their amorphous form, intrinsic ultrathinness, and 2D atomic structures.

## Introduction

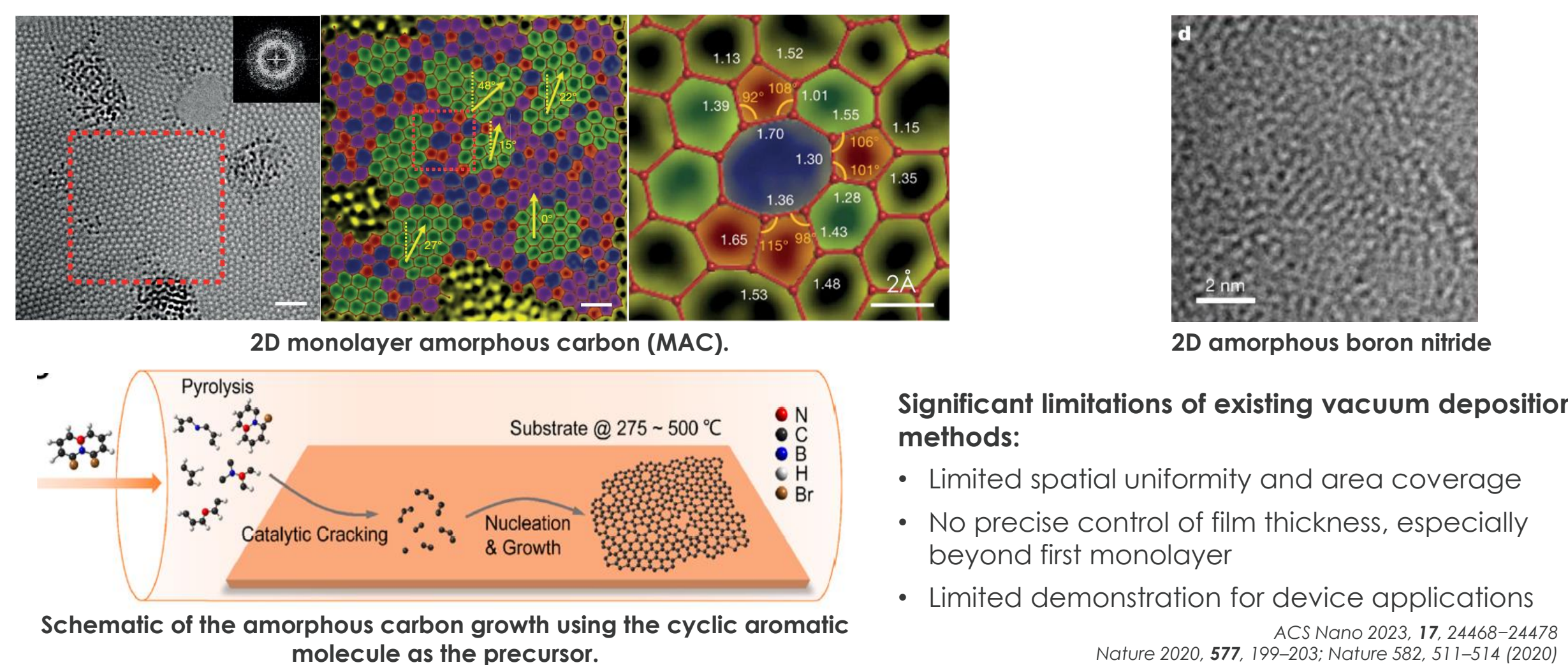
### Efficient Microelectronic Devices Needed to Reduce Energy Consumption & Emissions



### Memristors for Modern Computing

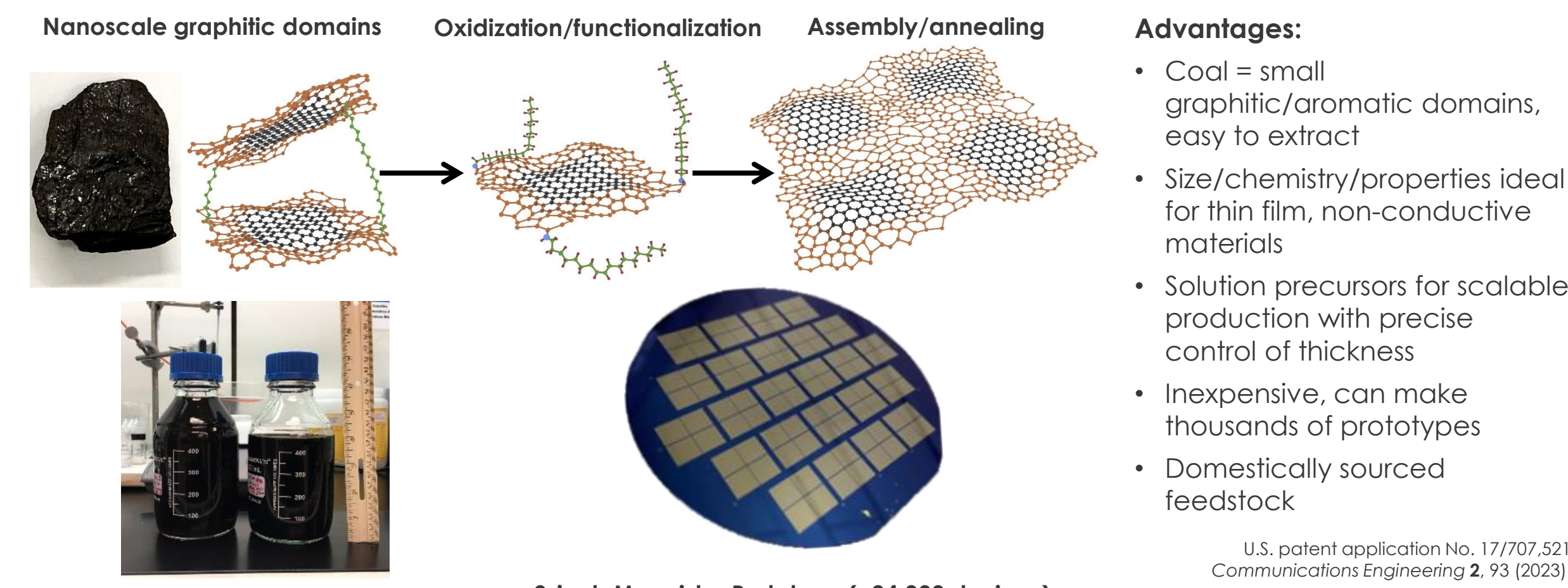


### 2D Amorphous Dielectrics as Switching Layers for Memristors

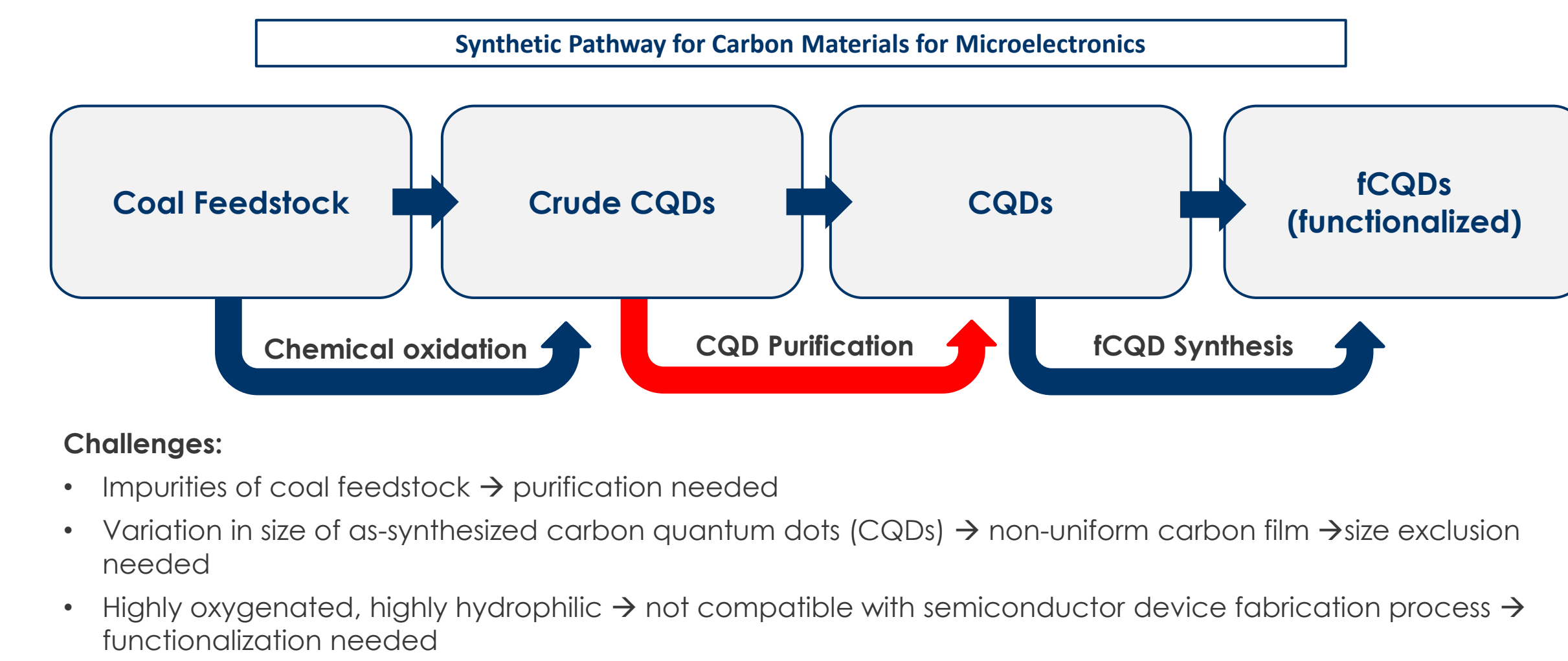


## Experimental

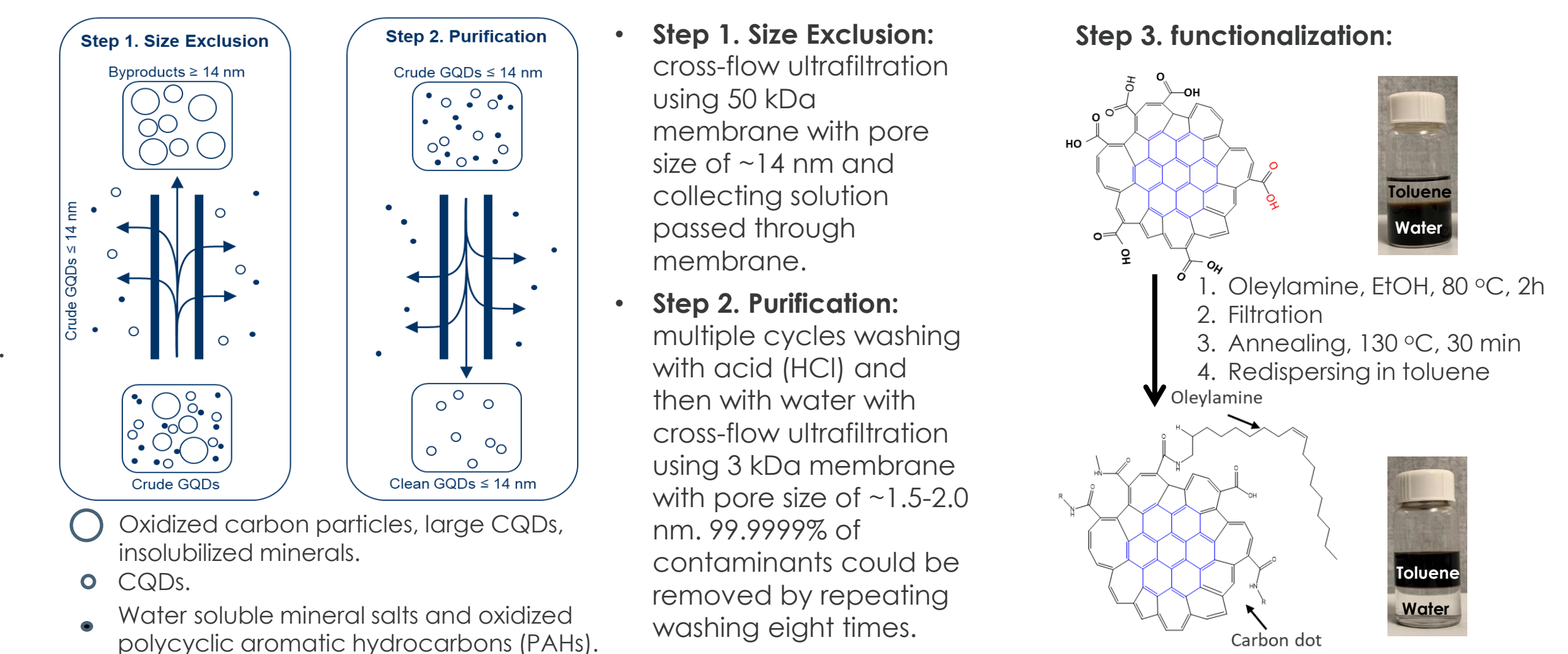
### Coal as Feedstock for Low-Cost, Scalable Production of 2D Dielectrics



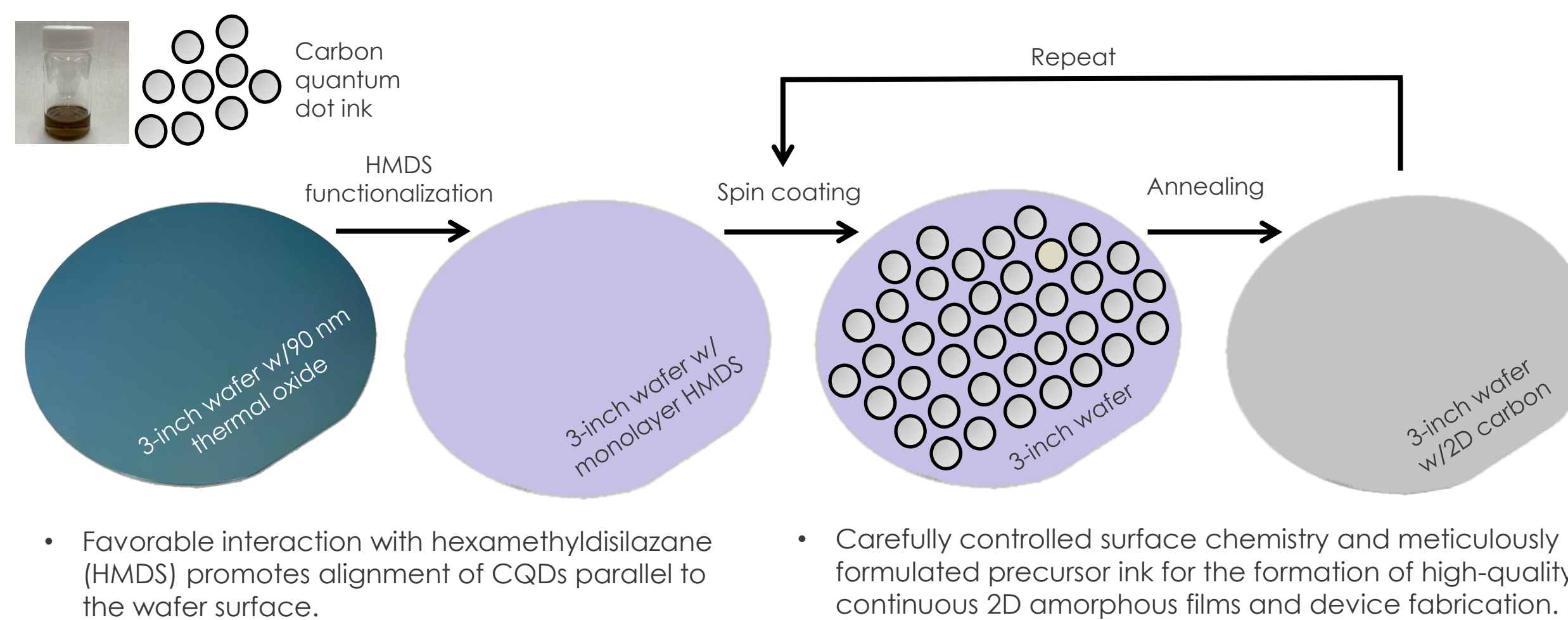
### Synthesis and Functionalization of CQDs



### Size Exclusion & Purification Using Cross-Flow Ultrafiltration, & Functionalization

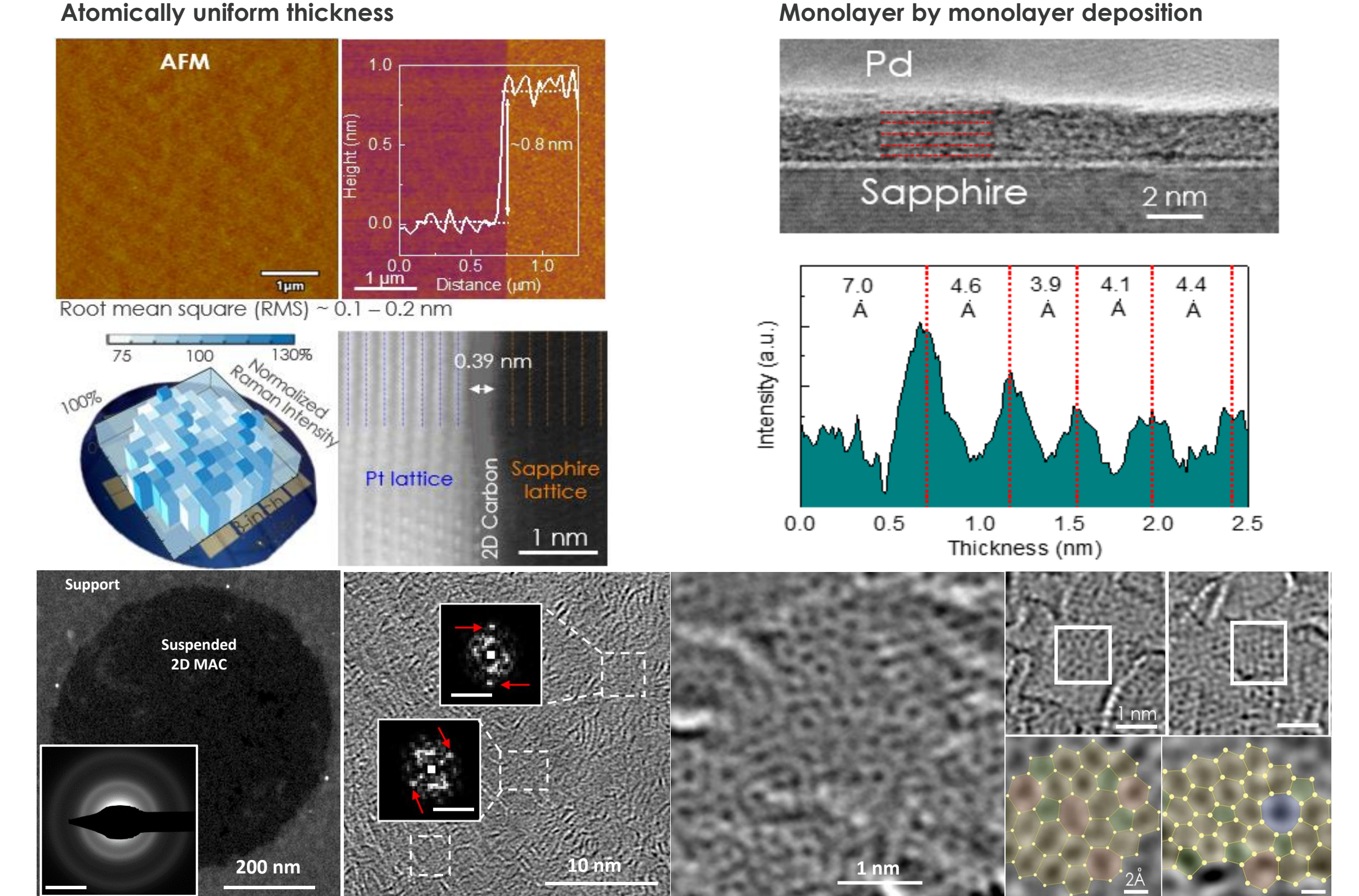


### Low-Cost Fabrication of Large Area Continuous 2D Amorphous Carbon

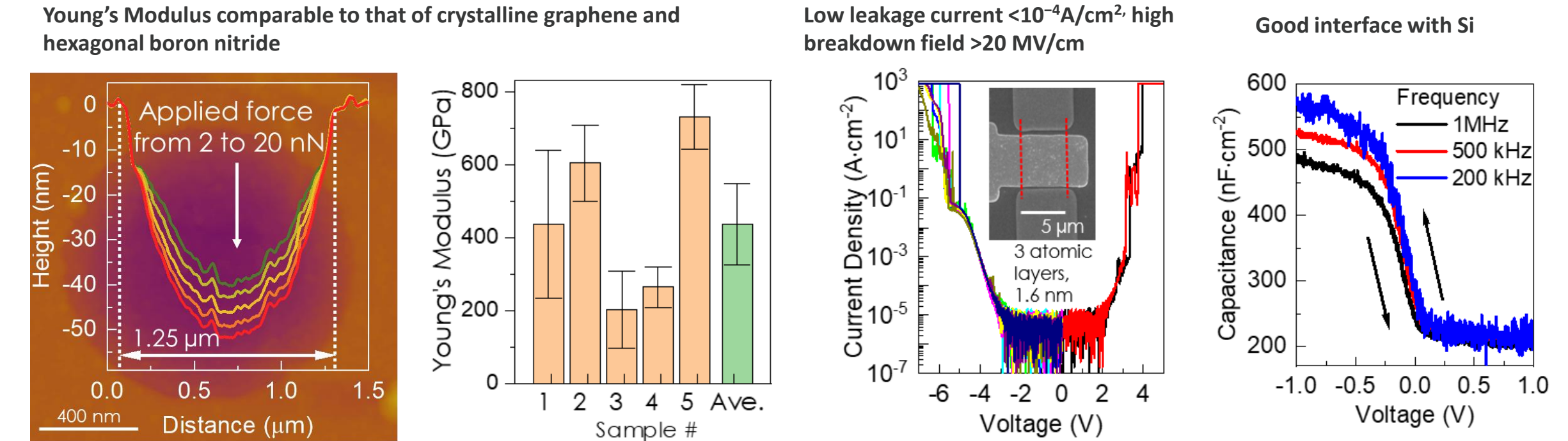


## Result and Discussion

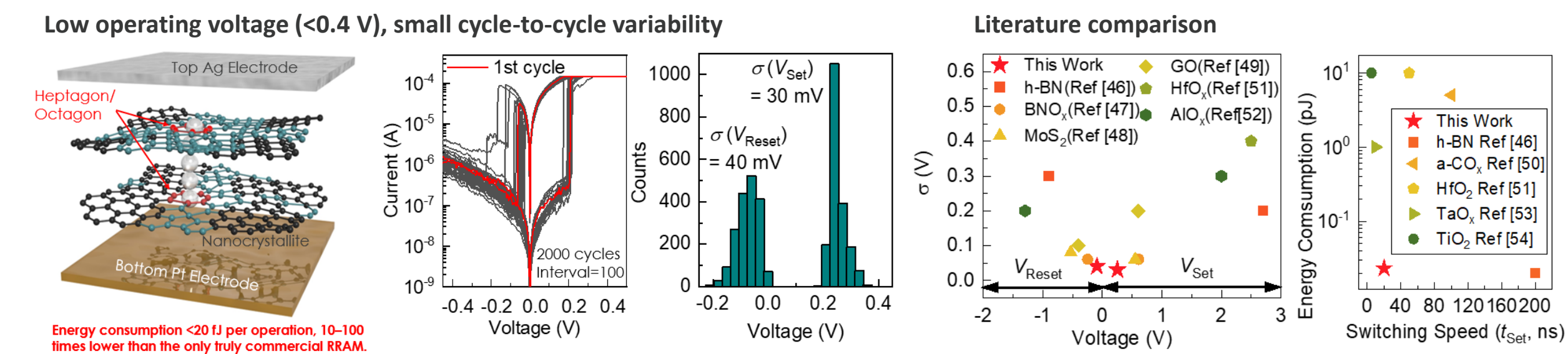
### Morphology Characteristics of 2D Amorphous Carbon



### Mechanical and Electrical Properties of 2D Amorphous Carbon



### 2D Amorphous Carbon as Switching Layer for Memristor



## Summary

- Synthesis and control of surface chemistry enable the production of the ideal solution precursor for the scalable fabrication of high performance 2D amorphous carbon.
- 2D amorphous carbon exhibits extraordinary mechanical and electrical properties that can enable next generation solid state electronic devices beyond the limit of existing technology with dramatically improved performance and reduced energy consumption.
- When implemented as the switching layer in memristors, the 2D amorphous carbon enables one of the best performing memristors with ultrafast switching time, low energy consumption, robust endurance, stable data retention, and reduced device spatiotemporal variability.

Reference: Communications Engineering, 2023, 2, 93

## Disclaimer

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## Acknowledgement

This work was performed in support of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management's Carbon Ore Processing Program and executed through the National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) Research & Innovation Center's Carbon Ore Processing Multiyear Research Plan.