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Melissa, Toulouse, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 | Life Support |











# Surface biocontamination in the ISS



### Antimicrobial Surfaces for ISS applications



Wang et al. Adv. Mat. 2022

# Hydrophobicity to reduce surface contamination



# Hydrophobic surfaces of silica glass



## A safe and long exposure in the ISS



## Laboratory optical microscopy

### « Confined Lab. state »



#### «Exposed ISS state»

#### Three campaigns (8 holders, RGSH, > 6 months) Return Grid Sensor Housing 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023 2016 2017 Å M<u>ATISS1</u> ≡⊓≡ M ELJS SI npj Microgravity M Me Proof concepts cnes === **Kinetics** MATISS2 ¢ cnes === npj Microgravity M Patterning MATISS2.5 cnes Biocontamination MATISS3

# First campaign

Towards a passive limitation of particle surface contamination in the Columbus module (ISS) <u>Npj microgravity, 6, 29, **2020**</u>. 10.1038/s41526-020-00120-w

Experimental proof-of-concept MATISS1: MATISS sample holder for investigating the particulate contamination after long-term exposure

Relatively clean surfaces and clean environment (few particles.mm<sup>-2</sup>)
But final coverage of 2.2% in 20 years



# First campaign

Towards a passive limitation of particle surface contamination in the Columbus module (ISS) <u>Npj microgravity, 6, 29, **2020**</u>. 10.1038/s41526-020-00120-w

Varied shapes in the coarse (50-1500 µm<sup>2</sup>, N=4678) and fine (0.5-50 µm<sup>2</sup>, N=3175) fractions => 2 biocontamination sources : scale dices (tissue or skin) and microbial cells (bioaerosols)



More coarse/less fine particles on FDTS than on SiOC and parylene => impact of hydrophobic coatings ? Focus on FDTS

### FDTS fluorinated silane grafting by MVD. Application to the study of surface biocontamination in ISS

<u>Fluorinated silane monolayers</u> Fluorinated tails toward air interface Covalent bonds by silanisation on SiO<sub>2</sub>-surface



verre

1 nm

- No solvent
- High diffusivity
- Fast reaction
- Automated processing
- Low temperature processes
- Ultra-thin SAM films
- Outstanding uniformity and conformity





Three campaigns

Impact of an FDTS coating on the contamination



Higher density values of the coarse particles near the flow entry (opposite for fines) Only on FDTS and thus related to hydrophobic interactions

Perspective : to constrain the action mechanism (chemical nature of the particles)
New holder to combine optical, Raman and X-rays analyses

# Three campaigns

### Surface contamination and astronauts' occupancy rates

- Coarse particles sources vary over monthly periods
- > FDTS contamination by fine particles (N=2310)

4.45 $\pm$ 2.66 particles.mm<sup>-2</sup> for MATISS-1 during 193 days (mid-2017) 4.68 $\pm$ 2.30 particles.mm<sup>-2</sup> for MATISS-2 during 354 days (2019) 1.02 $\pm$ 0.58 particles.mm<sup>-2</sup> for MATISS-2.5 during 365 days (2020)



# In situ monitoring of surfaces biocontaminations in the ISS







Thank you for your attention.



### Three campaigns

Passive limitation of surface contamination by perFluoroDecylTrichloroSilane (FDTS) coatings in the ISS Npjmicrogravity, 8, 31, 2022. 10.1038/s41526-022-00218-3



Sources : coarse particles sources vary over monthly periods