The Fraunhofer Institute for Ceramic Technologies and Systems IKTS covers the field of advanced ceramics from basic preliminary research through to the entire range of applications. Superbly equipped laboratories and technical facilities covering 30,000 m² of useable space have been set up for this purpose at the sites in Dresden and Hermsdorf. Based on comprehensive materials expertise in advanced ceramic materials, the institute’s development work covers the entire value creation chain, all the way to prototype production. Fraunhofer IKTS forms a triad of materials, technology and systems expertise, which is enhanced by the highest level of extensive materials diagnostics for materials beyond ceramics. Chemists, physicists, materials scientists and engineers work together on an interdisciplinary basis at IKTS. All tasks are supported by highly skilled technicians.

The focus is placed on manufacturers and especially existing and potential users of ceramics as project partners and customers. Fraunhofer IKTS operates in eight market-oriented divisions in order to demonstrate and qualify ceramic technologies and components for new industries, new product ideas, new markets outside the traditional areas of use. The focus is on the challenges facing society as a whole in the area of new forms of mobility, networked hard- and software components as well as innovative concepts for resource-saving energy and agriculture, for which Fraunhofer IKTS integrates tried-and-tested and new materials, technology and systems concepts. They are used in Mechanical and Automotive Engineering, Electronics and Microsystems, Energy, Environmental and Process Engineering, Bio- and Medical Technology as well as Optics. In the cross-sectional divisions of Materials and Processes as well as Material and Process Analysis, established and new technologies are continuously being further developed as “pacemaker technologies” for all other fields.

The institute is therefore available as a competent consulting partner and starting point for all ceramics-related issues: a real “one stop shop” for ceramics.

Among our unique areas of expertise, we offer:

**End-to-end production lines: from starting materials to prototypes**

For any class of ceramic materials, Fraunhofer IKTS has access to all the standard processes of raw materials preparation, forming, heat treatment and finish processing. Where it makes sense, the institute can even conduct phase synthesis. In functional ceramics, IKTS holds a particular core competency in paste and tape technology. Multiple clean rooms and low-contamination production areas are kept at the ready, among other things, for multilayer ceramics and highly purified oxide ceramics lines of technology.

**Multi-scale development**

Fraunhofer IKTS can convert developments from the lab into the technical standard. There is industrially suited equipment and machinery of the latest designs available for all relevant lines of technology, in order for partners and customers to realize the prototypes and pilot-production series needed for market launch, to develop production processes, and to implement quality processes. Thus, residual cost risks and time to market can be minimized.
**Synergies between materials, technologies and applications**

The targeted combination of different technology platforms, of functional and structural ceramics for example, allows for multifunctional components and systems that intelligently exploit various ceramic properties. Innovative products with significant added value and lower costs can be directly tested, validated and optimized in several application centers.

**Competent analysis and quality assessment**

High-performance analysis and quality control are a decisive factor for market acceptance of products, especially in ceramic production processes. The fundamental understanding of materials and ceramic manufacturing processes in conjunction with the design and integration of complex testing systems enables unique solutions to be found for key material issues in product development, manufacturing and quality assurance.

**Network creator**

In ongoing projects Fraunhofer IKTS is currently associated with over 450 national and international partners. In addition, IKTS is active in numerous regional, national and international alliances and networks. Thus, the institute is well networked with the Fraunhofer Group for Materials and Components – MATERIALS – as well as with another 11 alliances within the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft.

Furthermore, as founding member Fraunhofer IKTS serves as spokesperson for the Fraunhofer AdvanCer Alliance, which consists of four institutes that specialize specifically in ceramics. By building up and actively working within various networks, Fraunhofer IKTS is able to identify and impart complementary competences at an early stage and integrate them for successful product development. In this way, solutions can be found in the interests of our partners far beyond the traditional materials development.

**Cross-locational management for sustainable quality assurance**

Quality, traceability, transparency and sustainability: to Fraunhofer IKTS, these are the most important tools to provide partners and customers with valid, reproducible and resource-saving research results. The IKTS therefore administers a standardized management system per DIN EN ISO 9001 as well as an environmental management system in accordance with DIN EN ISO 14001. Furthermore, each site of the institute is certified according to additional guidelines, including the German Medical Devices Act, and is regularly subjected to a variety of industrial audits.