# Innovation ... Delivered.

Development Toward the Large Scale Synthesis of TEX Dr. Sarah A. Headrick



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- Development of novel Insensitive Munitions (IM) is a top priority for the US government
  - IM materials respond only when specifically initiated
- IM materials are targeted to replace legacy materials such as RDX
  - RDX is not IM
  - RDX is environmentally unfriendly
- Novel IM material is TEX
  - Low solubility = environmentally friendly
  - Easily synthesized from inexpensive starting materials
    - Simple, two step process provides high producibility and low cost
  - Energy resultant mainly from caged chemical structure
    - High energy with low sensitivity

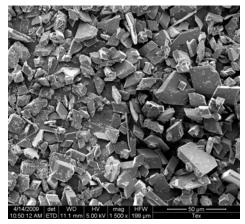
TEX is inexpensive, producible IM material of the future

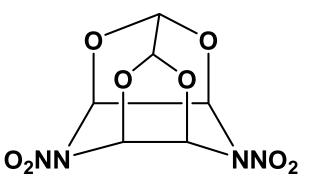


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	RDX	NTO	TEX
Density (g/cc)	1.82	1.91	1.99
VOD (ms/@TMD)	9045	8328	8683 (calc)*
Impact (ABL, cm)	3.5	N/A	33
Friction (Ib@8 ft/sec)	324	N/A	800
ESD (Joules)	0.22	0.91	0.43
Onset (ºC)	234	270	300

\*Calculated using Cheetah 3.0





Excellent IM improvement over RDX

# Synthesis of TEX

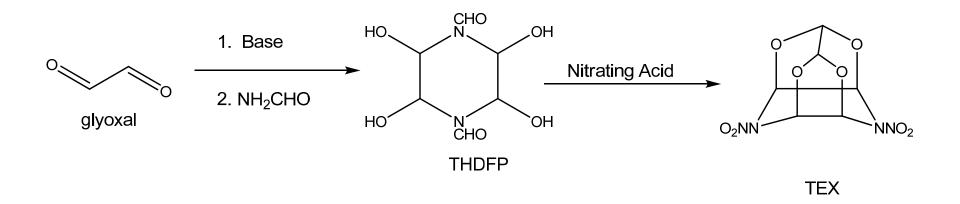


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#### Two step synthesis from glyoxal

- Completed on 2 and 10 g scale at AES
- Material hazards tested and characterized via DSC

Hazards Test	ТЕХ	
Impact	51 cm	
ABL Friction	210 lbs @ 8 ft/sec	
ESD	0.025 J	

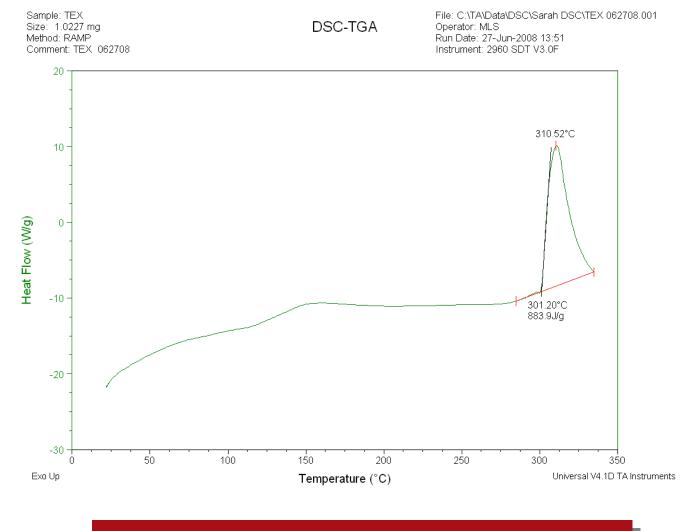


### TEX from facile, two step process

## **TEX DSC Trace**



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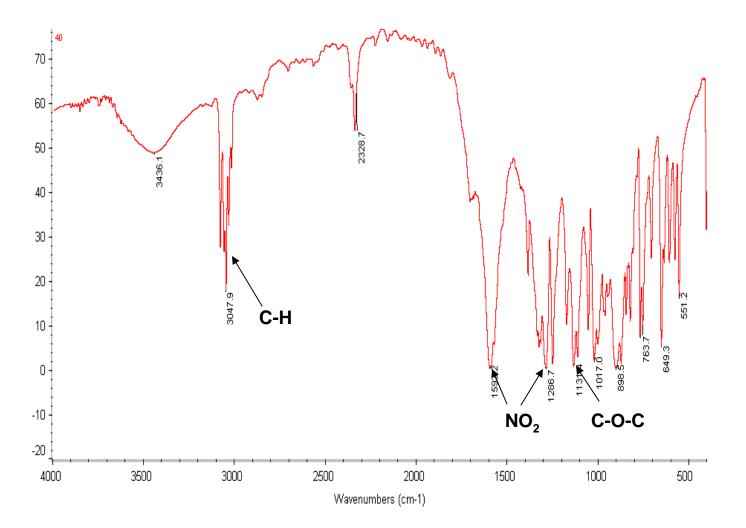


Clean, sharp exotherm peak indicates purity

# **TEX IR Spectrum**



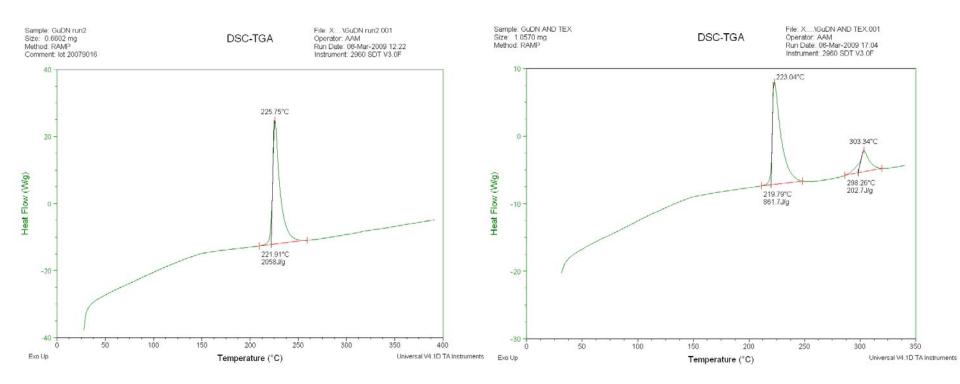
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High quality TEX

# **TEX DSC Compatibilities**

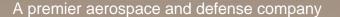
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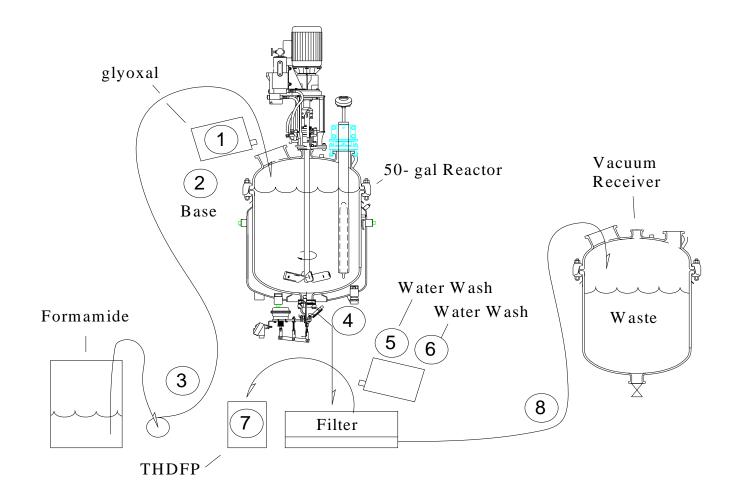


TEX compatibility tested with NTO, GuDN, NC, NG, RDX and NQ
Compatible with all materials

TEX has exceptional compatibility

### **Pilot Scale THDFP Flow Diagram**



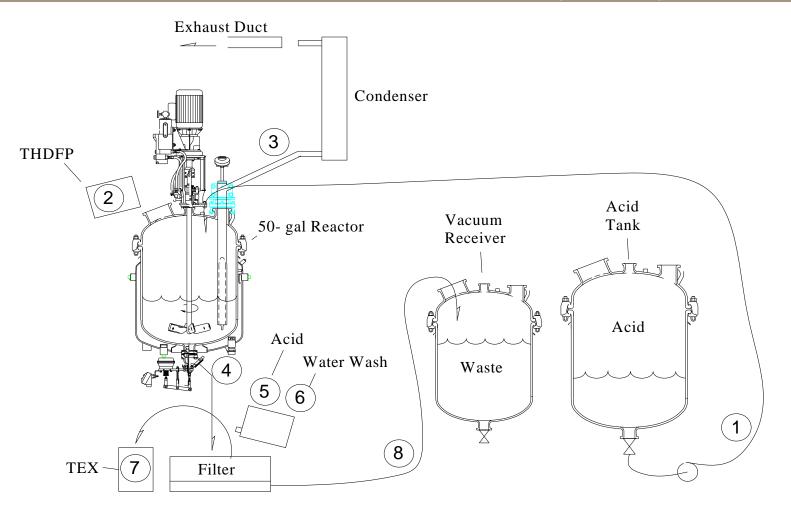


Predictable, inert reaction

# **Pilot Scale TEX Flow Diagram**



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Easy, fast nitration

### Pilot Plant open and ready for business

# **Future Pilot Scale Synthesis**

- TEX to be synthesized in AES's new pilot plant
  - Built in 2008
  - Designed for manufacture of specialty materials
    - Explosive and inert
  - Air permitted
  - Sited for 10,000 lbs of explosive
  - 2 L to 100 gallon capacity reactors
    - Flexible configuration
  - Support buildings for additional storage
  - Conductive flooring throughout







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# **Pilot Plant Safety Features**





- Loading dock for transporting materials
  - Provides minimal movement for sensitive materials
  - Eliminates need for heavy lifting

# Separate control room allows for remote capability

 State of the art PLC system including 7 cameras

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 Remote control of pumps, stirrers, heating, cooling, dump valves and two electrical outlets



### Necessary safety features in place

# **Flexible Facility**



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Small scale reactors move in and out

- Medium scale (10 and 20 L) on rolling stands
- Multiple heating, cooling, steam, vacuum, compressed air and ventilation connections
- Easily changes configuration
- Permitted for all kinds of processes

#### Flexible to fulfill customer needs





# **Support Utilities**





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- Large capacity storage
  - Acid storage tank
  - Vacuum receiver tank
  - Acid neutralization tank

- Glycol heating and cooling system
- Drown tank available for exotherms



### All necessary utilities provided

# **Technical Results**



#### **TEX has been synthesized on small scale**

- Quick, two step process
- Material characterized by DSC
- Material DSC compatibility tested with several materials
  - Compatible with those tested
- Future work to complete pilot scale synthesis of TEX
  - To be performed in AES new pilot plant
    - Construction completed in 2008
    - Fully equipped for energetic and non-energetic reactions (TEX and THDFP)

### AES has manufacturing capability for excellent IM material



#### TEX is a novel IM material

- Inexpensive to produce
- Simple chemistry yields high producibility
- Quick reaction times yields fast manufacturing of production quantities

### • AES Energetics Pilot Plant

- Fully constructed
- Exceeds all necessary industry safety standards
- Fully flexible for various operations
- All necessary utility support included

### AES Pilot Plant open and ready for business