

# MRS Bulletin

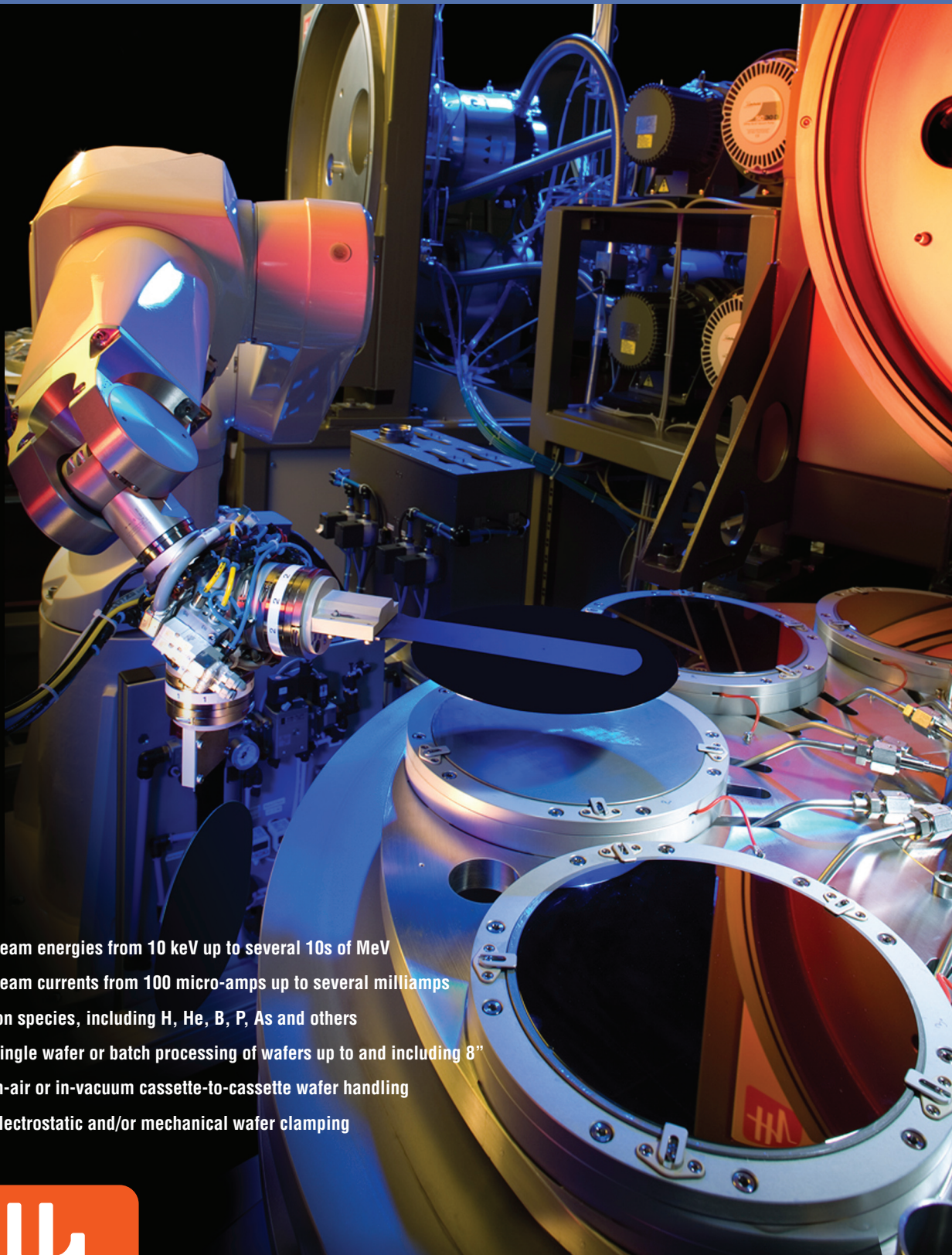


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**Next-generation biopolymers:  
Advanced functionality  
and improved sustainability**

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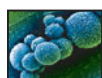


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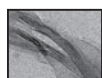


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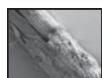
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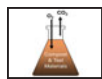
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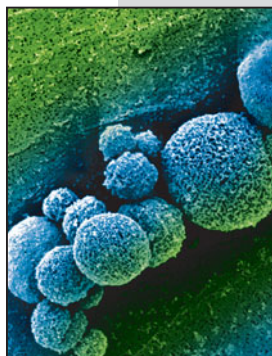
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### ON THE COVER



**Next-generation biopolymers: Advanced functionality and improved sustainability.** This issue of *MRS Bulletin* highlights current research that is pushing bio-based polymers (bioplastics) to the next level of performance. The science of industrial ecology enables a better understanding of the environmental effects of bioplastics. The cover shows scanning electron micrographs of starch foam spheres. The microspheres range from 1–10  $\mu\text{m}$  in diameter and consist of a matrix of pores in the nanometer size range. Image courtesy of Delilah Wood, USDA Agricultural Research Service, Western Regional Research Center, Albany, CA. See the technical theme that begins on p. 687.

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