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## Effect of annealing temperature on the structure, morphology and optical properties of $\text{Sm}^{3+}$ doped lanthanum phosphovanadate

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**Abstract content** &nbsp; (Max 300 words) <a href="http://events.saip.org.za/getFile.py/target=\_blank">Formatting & Special chars</a>

This work explores the influence of annealing temperature on the  $\text{Sm}^{3+}$  activated lanthanum phosphovanadate phosphor powders prepared by solution combustion method. The prepared phosphor powders were annealed at different temperatures (600–1000 °C) for 2 hours. The structure and surface morphology were investigated by X-ray diffraction (XRD) and scanning electron microscopy (SEM) respectively. The XRD analysis indicated that as the annealing temperature is increased, the crystal structure of the prepared phosphor powders changed from monoclinic to tetragonal phase. The SEM images showed different morphologies and sizes. The estimated band gap from diffuse reflectance spectra (DRS) is  $\sim 3$  eV. The excitation spectra showed a strong broad band extending from 200 to 350 nm with maximum at  $\lambda = 273$  nm. The photoluminescence result showed three emission peaks and they are attributed to  ${}^6\text{G}_{5/2} - {}^6\text{H}_{5/2}$ ,  ${}^6\text{G}_{5/2} - {}^6\text{H}_{7/2}$  and  ${}^6\text{G}_{5/2} - {}^6\text{H}_{9/2}$  transitions of  $\text{Sm}^{3+}$  ion.

**Apply to be considered for a student award (Yes / No)?**

No

**Level for award (Hons, MSc, PhD, N/A)?**

PhD

**Main supervisor (name and email) and his / her institution**

Prof OM Ntwaeaborwa

**Would you like to submit a short paper for the Conference Proceedings (Yes / No)?**

Yes

**Please indicate whether<br>this abstract may be<br>published online<br>(Yes / No)**

No

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