TABLE OF CONTENTS

1 INTRODUCTION 1

1.1 Kyoto protocol 1

1.2 Coal-fired power plants 1

1.3 CO_2 capture concepts 1

1.3.1 The post-combustion process 2

1.3.2 The pre-combustion process 2

1.3.3 The oxyfuel process 3

1.3.4 Economic viability 4

1.3.5 Gas separation membranes for CCS 4

1.4 MIEC membranes for O_2/N_2 separation 5

2 SCOPE OF THE WORK 6

3 BACKGROUND 7

3.1 MIEC materials for oxygen permeable membranes 7

3.1.1 The perovskite structure 7

3.1.2 The Ruddlesden-Popper phase, K_2NiF_4-type structure ($A_2BO_{4+\delta}$) 12

3.2 Theory of oxygen transport 13

3.2.1 Bulk transport 15

3.2.2 Surface processes 17

3.3 Oxyfuel process 19

3.3.1 Oxycombustion 19

3.3.2 Flue gas recycling 20

3.3.3 Flue gas composition 20

3.3.4 Combustion 21

3.3.5 Combustion gas composition 21

4 CHARACTERISATION TECHNIQUES 23

4.1 X-ray diffraction technique (XRD) 23

4.2 Scanning electron microscopy (SEM) 24

4.3 Thermal Analysis 24

4.3.1 Differential Thermal Analysis combined with thermogravimetry (DTA/TG) 25

4.3.2 Precision Thermogravimetric Analysis (TGA) 25

4.3.3 Thermo Mechanical Analysis (TMA) 26

4.4 Mass spectrometry 26

4.5 Density measurements 28

4.6 ICP-OES 29

4.7 Hot gas extraction 29

5 MATERIALS SELECTED FOR THIS STUDY 30

5.1 Mixed conducting acceptor-doped perovskites 30

5.1.1 $La_{0.58}Sr_{0.4}Co_{0.2}Fe_{0.8}O_{3-\delta}$ (LSCF58) 30

5.1.2 $Pr_{0.58}Sr_{0.4}Co_{0.2}Fe_{0.8}O_{3-\delta}$ (PSCF58) 31

5.1.3 $Ba_{0.5}Sr_{0.5}Co_{0.8}Fe_{0.2}O_{3-\delta}$ (BSCF50) 31

5.2 Perovskite-related oxides 33

5.2.1 $La_2NiO_{4+\delta}$ 33
5.3 Sample preparation 34
5.3.1 Pressing 34
5.3.2 Sintering 34
6 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PERMEATION TEST SET-UP 36
6.1 Module 1: The gas mixing unit 36
6.2 Module 2: The membrane testing unit 37
6.2.1 The heating unit: 37
6.2.2 The recipient: 38
6.3 Module 3: The analytical unit 39
6.4 Development of the membrane recipient for dense ceramic membranes 42
6.4.1 Sealing technology 43
6.5 Testing the set-up 44
6.6 Oxygen permeation measurements 45
7 THERMO-CHEMICAL STABILITY INVESTIGATION SET-UP 48
7.1 CO_2 and H_2O vapour influence on stability 48
7.2 Experimental set-up 49
7.3 Annealing conditions 52
7.4 Sample preparation 53
8 CHARACTERISATION OF THE MEMBRANE MATERIALS SELECTED 55
8.1 Chemical analysis of the calcined powders 55
8.2 Phase composition of the calcined powders 56
8.3 Sintering of the pellets for the annealing experiments 58
8.4 Density of the sintered samples 64
8.5 Precision thermogravimetric analysis 64
8.6 Dilatometric measurements 70
9 OXYGEN PERMEATION THROUGH MIEC MEMBRANES 78
9.1 Thickness dependence of oxygen permeation fluxes 79
9.2 Comparison of the oxygen permeation fluxes through selected 1 mm membranes 87
9.3 Conclusion 94
10 THERMO-CHEMICAL STABILITY INVESTIGATION 95
10.1 Annealing in air 96
10.2 Annealing in CO_2-containing atmospheres 98
10.2.1 Air plus 10%CO_2 104
10.2.2 1% O_2, 99%N_2 plus 10%CO_2 107
10.2.3 43%O_2, 43%CO_2 and 14%N_2 109
10.2.4 67 mol% CO_2, 25 mol% O_2 and 8 mol% N_2 112
10.3 FactSage^{TM} thermo-chemical calculations 116
10.4 Annealing in water vapour-containing atmospheres 121
10.4.1 55 mol% CO_2, 28 mol% O_2, 12 mol% H_2O and 5 mol% N_2 123
10.4.2 50 mol% CO_2, 25 mol% O_2, 20 ol% H_2O, 5 mol% N_2 127
10.4.3 25 mol% O_2, 20 mol% H_2O, 55 mol% N_2 136

10.5 Volatilisation of chromium species 137
10.5.1 Theory 137
10.5.2 Results 138
10.5.3 Discussion 144
10.6 Co enrichment at the grain boundaries 145
10.7 Phase analysis 148
10.7.1 Results 149
10.7.2 FactSage™ thermo-chemical calculations 159
10.7.3 Discussion 162
10.8 Conclusion 162
11 CONCLUSION 165
12 REFERENCES 169