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**The Pressure Effect on the Ferroelectricity in Multiferroic  $RMn_2O_5$  ( $R=Tb, Dy, Ho$ )** CLARINA DELA CRUZ, BERND LORENZ, CHING-WU CHU, Dept. of Physics and TCSUH, University of Houston, SOON YONG PARK, SANG-WOOK CHEONG, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy and RCEM, Rutgers University, MARIN GOSPODINOV, Inst. of Solid State Physics, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences — The effect of isotropic pressure ( $\mathbf{P}$ ) up to 1.7 GPa on the magnetic and ferroelectric phase diagram of  $RMn_2O_5$  ( $R=Tb, Dy, Ho$ ) is investigated. Distinctive anomalies of the  $b$ -axis dielectric constant identifying the critical temperatures for the various magnetic and ferroelectric transitions are monitored as a function of  $\mathbf{P}$  and the temperature-pressure phase diagram of multiferroic  $RMn_2O_5$  was constructed. The magnetic and ferroelectric orders are stabilized under pressure and their respective onset temperatures increase with  $\mathbf{P}$ . Most notably, the step-like change of the dielectric constant at lower temperatures ( $T_{C2}$ ) that is associated with a drop in the ferroelectric polarization is suddenly quenched upon passing a critical pressure. These results suggest that above the critical pressure the ferroelectric polarization is restored below  $T_{C2}$  and the ferroelectric phase in  $RMn_2O_5$  is stabilized and extends to the lowest temperatures. \*also at LBNL, Berkeley and HKUST, Hong Kong

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