

Titanium Powder Metallurgy

Science, Technology and Applications

EDITED BY

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Dr. Francis H. (Sam) Froes has been involved in the Titanium field with emphasis on powder metallurgy (PM) for more than 40 years. After receiving a BSc (Liverpool University) and an MSc and PhD (from Sheffield University) he was employed by a primary titanium producer, Crucible Steel Company, where he was leader of the titanium group and led a major effort on PM titanium under US Air Force (USAF) funding. He then spent time at the USAF Materials Lab, where he was supervisor of the Light Metals group (which included titanium) and again involved an emphasis on PM. While at the USAF Laboratory, he coorganized a landmark TMS-sponsored Conference on Titanium PM (1980) and presented the keynote speech at the first International Titanium Association Conference in 1984. This was followed by 17 years at the University of Idaho, where he was a director and department head of the

Materials Science and Engineering Department, again leading a number of programs on titanium PM. During this tenure, he was the Chairman of the World Titanium Conference held in San Diego in 1992. He has more than 800 publications, in excess of 60 patents, and has edited almost 30 books – the majority on various aspects of titanium. Recent publications include a comprehensive review of titanium PM and an article on titanium additive manufacturing. Since the early 1980s, he has taught the ASM International course on “Titanium and Its Alloys.” He has organized more than 10 symposia on various aspects of Titanium Science and Technology, including in recent years cosponsored four TMS Symposia on Cost Effective Titanium (which included a large number of papers on titanium PM). He is a Fellow of ASM and a member of the Russian Academy of Science, and he was awarded the Service to Powder Metallurgy by the Metal Powder Association.

Preface

The first known research effort of titanium powder metallurgy (PM) was made by Dr Kroll (W. Kroll, Verformbare Legierungen des Titans, *Z Metallkunde*, 29 (1937) 189–192). In the work published, Dr Kroll compacted and sintered 14 different binary titanium alloys (Mo, W, Ni, Fe, Co, Be, Si, Mn, Cr, Cu, Al, Zr, V, and Ta with one addition for each element in the range of 2–9 wt%) in argon soon after he was able to produce about 0.5 kg batches of sponge fines in 1937. Thanks to the persistent development of the Kroll process since 1937 (Dr Kroll switched to the magnesium approach from the calcium in late 1937), titanium as a metal of industrial stature was established in 1948 in the United States, marked by world's first high-quality sponge production by DuPont (3 metric tons of >99% pure sponge in 1948) and the 1st Titanium Symposium in Washington, DC, held also in 1948. Although more than seven decades have passed, the high cost of titanium components still limits its usage compared to the lower-cost structural material options such as steel and aluminum alloys. A major proportion of this high cost is associated with the machining of wrought products to final configurations, suggesting that fabrication of near-net shaped titanium products could lead to dramatically increased use. In that regard, PM techniques remain to be an attractive solution to the production of cost-effective near-net shaped titanium components. In addition, it offers the potential for rapid turnaround prototype parts, manufacture of complex parts without having to make dies or molds, and a method for repairing mismachined parts or worn parts. Another important advantage is that Powder Metallurgy (PM) offers the potential of producing alloys that could not be produced via ingot metallurgy due to segregation problems.

The purpose of this book is to review the developments of titanium PM technologies to date. The subjects covered include titanium powder production methods, including both well-established and developing potential lower-cost approaches, and various near-net-shape-forming PM techniques, including the blended elemental approach, the prealloyed plus hot isostatic pressing method, additive manufacturing, metal injection molding, and spray forming. The last two chapters discuss the current and future markets for Ti PM and the editors' perspectives on the future of Ti PM. In total, the field has been covered in a comprehensive manner and we hope that this effort could help in bringing titanium components made from powder into widespread use in the future.

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