

Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0257-8972(15)00455-7
DOI: doi: [10.1016/j.surfcoat.2015.07.042](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.surfcoat.2015.07.042)
Reference: SCT 20427

To appear in: *Surface & Coatings Technology*

Received date: 1 May 2015
Revised date: 30 June 2015
Accepted date: 1 July 2015



Please cite this article as: M.P. Appleby, Dongming Zhu, G.N. Morscher, Mechanical properties and real-time damage evaluations of environmental barrier coated SiC/SiC CMCs subjected to tensile loading under thermal gradients, *Surface & Coatings Technology* (2015), doi: [10.1016/j.surfcoat.2015.07.042](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.surfcoat.2015.07.042)

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Mechanical properties and real-time damage evaluations of environmental barrier coated SiC/SiC CMCs subjected to tensile loading under thermal gradients

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ABSTRACT

Environmental barrier coating (EBC) coated ceramic matrix composite (CMC) systems are currently being investigated for use as turbine engine hot-section components in extreme environments. In these extreme conditions, it becomes critical to understand material response to environmental exposure and performance under thermo-mechanical loading. Electrical resistance (ER) monitoring has recently been correlated to tensile damage accumulation in SiC/SiC CMCs, and the focus of this study is to extend the use of ER to evaluate high-temperature thermal gradient fracture of EBC/CMC systems. Tensile strength tests were performed at high temperature (1200°C) using a laser-based heat-flux technique. Specimens included an as-produced SiC/SiC CMC and coated SiC/SiC substrate that have been exposed to simulated combustion environments in a high-pressure burner rig. Localized stress-dependent damage was determined using acoustic emission (AE) monitoring and compared to full-field strain mapping using a high-temperature digital image correlation (DIC) technique. The results are compared with in-situ ER monitoring, and post-test inspection of the samples in order to correlate ER response to damage evolution.

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