

## Accepted Manuscript

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PII: S0032-5910(17)30259-0  
DOI: doi:[10.1016/j.powtec.2017.03.042](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.powtec.2017.03.042)  
Reference: PTEC 12447

To appear in: *Powder Technology*

Received date: 21 July 2016  
Revised date: 7 March 2017  
Accepted date: 16 March 2017



Please cite this article as: Xiaoqing Kan, Jun Ding, Hongxi Zhu, Chengji Deng, Chao Yu, Low temperature synthesis of nanoscale titanium nitride via molten-salt-mediated magnesiothermic reduction, *Powder Technology* (2017), doi:[10.1016/j.powtec.2017.03.042](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.powtec.2017.03.042)

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**Low temperature synthesis of nanoscale titanium nitride via  
molten-salt-mediated magnesiothermic reduction**

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**Abstract:** We investigate a new method for the synthesis of nanoscale titanium nitride via a molten-salt-mediated reduction route; the reaction was carried out at a temperature of 600–1100 °C for 1–7 h in a nitrogen atmosphere using TiO<sub>2</sub> and Mg powders as starting materials. The effects of the TiO<sub>2</sub>/Mg mole ratio, reaction temperature, reaction time and salts on the formation of TiN were studied. The phase composition, morphological structure, and particle size of the TiN powder were characterized by X-ray diffraction, scanning electron microscopy, transmission electron microscopy, and a Brunauer–Emmett–Teller specific-surface-area analysis. The results showed that the as-synthesized TiN crystals were approximately 5–30 nm in size and the specific surface areas of the TiN particles were 76.47–93.09 m<sup>2</sup>/g, higher than the 9.83 m<sup>2</sup>/g of the raw TiO<sub>2</sub>. A possible reaction mechanism for the formation of TiN powder in molten salt is proposed.

**Keywords:** titanium nitride; phase morphology; molten salt; reaction mechanism

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