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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

## Mean stress sensitivity and crack initiation mechanisms of spring steel for torsional and axial VHCF loading

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#### Abstract

The very high cycle fatigue (VHCF) properties of shot-peened VDSiCr spring steel have been investigated with the ultrasonic fatigue testing method. Fatigue behaviour under cyclic torsion and cyclic tension loading at load ratios between R = -1 and R = 0.5is compared. For 90% of the VHCF failures under axial loading, fractured grain boundaries or inclusions in the interior of the material act as crack starters. In contrast, the initial crack is produced by cyclic shear in the interior or, less frequently, at the surface for more than 90% of the VHCF failures under torsional loading. The crack path deflects from mode II / mode III to mode I at the border of the initiating shear area. The change of crack path correlates to a stress intensity factor range for a crack loaded in  $\Delta K_{TISA} = 5.6 \pm 0.5 \text{ MPam}^{1/2}$ shear mode of for load ratio R = 0.1and  $\Delta K_{\tau,ISA} = 3.8 \pm 0.4 \text{ MPam}^{1/2}$  for R = 0.35, respectively. Residual stresses due to shotDownload English Version:

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