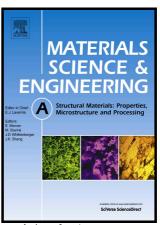
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www.elsevier.com/locate/msea

PII: S0921-5093(17)30218-6

http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.msea.2017.02.058 DOI:

MSA34734 Reference:

To appear in: Materials Science & Engineering A

Received date: 26 January 2017 Revised date: 15 February 2017 Accepted date: 16 February 2017

Cite this article as: X.J. Sun, S.F. Yuan, Z.J. Xie, L.L. Dong, C.J. Shang and R.D.K. Misra, Microstructure-property relationship in a high strength-hig toughness combination ultra-heavy gauge offshore plate steel: the significance o multiphase microstructure, Materials Engineering Science & http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.msea.2017.02.058

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Microstructure-property relationship in a high strength-high toughness combination ultra-heavy gauge offshore plate steel: the significance of multiphase microstructure

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Abstract

We elucidate here the microstructure-property relationship in a high strength and high toughness 60 mm thick ultra-heavy gauge plate steels characterized by ferrite-bainite multi-phase microstructure and compare with the conventional bainitic microstructure. Pilot-scale results indicated that high yield strength of ~486-508 MPa with high ductility of ~10% in uniform elongation, low yield to tensile (Y/T) ratio of ~0.74-0.77, excellent low temperature toughness of ~186-228 J at -60°C and good weldability are obtained in a multi-phase steel through combination of controlled rolling and accelerated cooling. The multi-phase microstructure steel consisted of quasi-polygonal ferrite and lath bainite with the corresponding phase proportion of 3:2 and 2:3 at 1/4 thickness (1/4t) and 1/2 thickness (1/2t) locations, respectively. The positive impact of multi-phase microstructure on ductility, Y/T ratio, toughness and weldability were attributed to the following aspects: (a) results from Crussard-Jaoul (C-J) analysis indicated that the soft ferrite phase in the multi-phase microstructure favorably modifies the work hardening behavior and results in high ductility

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