

Author's Accepted Manuscript

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www.elsevier.com/locate/wear

PII: S0043-1648(13)00222-6

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.wear.2013.03.033>

Reference: WEA100683

To appear in: *Wear*

Received date: 4 December 2012

Revised date: 13 March 2013

Accepted date: 14 March 2013

Cite this article as: J. Kogovšek, M. Remškar, M. Kalin, Lubrication of DLC-coated surfaces with MoS₂ nanotubes in all lubrication regimes: Surface roughness and running-in effects, *Wear*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.wear.2013.03.033>

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**Lubrication of DLC-coated surfaces with MoS₂ nanotubes in all lubrication regimes:
surface roughness and running-in effects**

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Abstract

MoS₂ and WS₂ nanoparticles, on the one hand, and DLC coatings, on the other, are receiving increasing attention for tribological applications. However, investigations that combine DLC coatings and lubrication using nanoparticles are very scarce and the understanding of such tribological systems remains limited. In this work we looked at such a lubrication system by studying the effects of surface roughness and running-in on the behaviour of DLC-coated contacts in all lubrication regimes. We also present a model of how the surface roughness influences the mechanism of lubrication for the MoS₂ nanotubes. This model is based on a 2D 1:1 projection scale of dimensions of the surface profile, including its asperities, nanoparticles and film thicknesses, and is thus independent of the contacting materials.

It was realized that the addition of the nanotubes to the base oil lowered the coefficient of friction of the DLC by more than 50 % for the smooth, DLC-coated surfaces and up to 40 %

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