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#### ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# Fracture toughness of thermally sprayed MoSi<sub>2</sub> composite with different melting indices

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Abstract Whether the *in-situ* multiphase doping, especially the metastable phase, makes the thermally sprayed materials tough or brittle is still unknown. In this sense, plasma sprayed  $MoSi_2$  composite was accordingly fabricated to investigate the effect of *in-situ* multiphase doping on the fracture toughness by melting index (M.I.) tuning. The fracture toughness of plasma sprayed  $MoSi_2$  composite was improved with M.I. increasing. The maximum fracture toughness can reach to 5.64 MPa·m<sup>1/2</sup> at a M.I. of 0.59, which was the highest among currently reported single-phase-derived thermally sprayed  $MoSi_2$  composites. A large number of metastable  $\beta$  generated in plasma sprayed  $MoSi_2$  composite were responsible for such remarkable improvement. The fracture toughness of the plasma sprayed  $MoSi_2$  composite, however, would decline as M.I. value exceeded 0.59. Over-heating derived crystallization, which decreased the positive effect of  $\beta$ , caused the fracture toughness deterioration.

#### **Keywords**

A. Intermetallics; B. Fracture toughness; B. Microstructures; C. Analytical modelling

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