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**Chromium silicide-based composites fabricated via solid-state reactions: Phase development, oxidation behavior and electrical properties at high-temperatures**

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**Abstract**

The chromium silicide-based electroconductive composites were fabricated by solid-state sintering of chromium silicide and chromium oxide powders at 1370°C in argon. The final densified composites were composed of various solid solution and silicide phases (e.g. Cr<sub>3</sub>Si, Cr<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>3</sub>) and silica, depending on the starting silicide/oxide volume ratio ranging from 0.67 to 9.0. Major phases were found to be homogeneously distributed within the metastable (cristobalite) and/or amorphous silica grain boundary phase. The controlled oxidation experiments revealed excellent oxidation resistance at 50°-870°C, where low-level oxidation was observed. The composites all displayed a metallic-type electrical conductivity due to the presence of the Cr<sub>3</sub>Si, Cr<sub>5</sub>Si<sub>3</sub> and CrSi as the major conductive silicide phases. Their electrical conductivities ranged from 42.1 to 213.7 S/cm at 1000°C. High-temperature annealing of the composites resulted in phase and microstructural changes, which further improved their high-temperature oxidation resistance and electrical transport properties.

**Keywords:** composite materials, intermetallics, solid state reactions, electrical transport, phase transitions, microstructure

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