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Clio Azina, Jérôme Roger, Anne Joulain, Vincent Mauchamp, Bruno Mortaigne, Yongfeng Lu, Jean-François Silvain



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## Solid-liquid co-existent phase process: towards fully dense and thermally efficient Cu/C composite materials

Clio Azina,<sup>a,b</sup> Jérôme Roger,<sup>c</sup> Anne Joulain,<sup>d</sup> Vincent Mauchamp,<sup>d</sup> Bruno Mortaigne,<sup>e</sup> Yongfeng Lu,<sup>b</sup> Jean-François Silvain<sup>a,b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> *CNRS, University of Bordeaux, ICMCB, UPR 9048, F-33600 Pessac, France*

clio.azina@icmcb.cnrs.fr ; jean-francois.silvain@icmcb.cnrs.fr

<sup>b</sup> *Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0511, United States*

ylu2@unl.edu

<sup>c</sup> *University of Bordeaux, Laboratoire des Composites Thermostructuraux (LCTS), UMR 5801, 33600 Pessac, France*

jerome.roger@lcts.u-bordeaux.fr

<sup>d</sup> *Institut Pprime, CNRS–Université de Poitiers-ENSMA, UPR CNRS 3346, Téléport 2, Futuroscope Chasseneuil, France*

vincent.mauchamp@univ-poitiers.fr

anne.joulain@univ-poitiers.fr

<sup>e</sup> *DGA/DS/Mission pour la Recherche et l'Innovation Scientifique, 92221 Bagneux, France*

bruno.mortaigne@intradef.gouv.fr

### ABSTRACT:

Metal matrix composites are currently being investigated for thermal management applications. In the case of a copper/carbon (Cu/C) composite system, a particular issue is the lack of affinity between the Cu matrix and the C reinforcements. Titanium-alloyed Cu (Cu-Ti) powders were introduced in a Cu/C powder mixture and sintered under load at a temperature at which the Cu-Ti powders became liquid, while the rest of the Cu and C remained solid. Fully dense materials were obtained (porosity of less than 5%). The creation of regular and homogeneous interphases was confirmed. All Ti reacted with the carbon, hence purifying the Cu matrix. Thermal conductivities were enhanced as compared with the Cu/C composites without interphase. The chemical analyses are in agreement with thermodynamic simulations carried out to predict the phase transformation during the sintering process.

**KEYWORDS:** metal matrix composites, solid-liquid co-existent phase process, heat conduction, CALPHAD

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