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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

Laser-induced precipitation of  $(W_{1-x}Cr_x)_2C$ : mixed carbide phase for improved wear resistance of thermally sprayed hardmetal coatings

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#### Abstract

The mixed hemicarbide phase  $(W_{1-x}Cr_x)_2C$  is introduced in this work as an appropriate substitute for the pure tungsten carbide WC in thermally sprayed hardmetals acting as wear resistant coatings for various industrial applications. Dedicated laser post-treatments turn out to be most suitable means to precipitate the desired mixed carbide phase from the binder matrix of Cr<sub>3</sub>C<sub>2</sub>-37WC-NiCoCrFe coatings, which is left after spraying with considerable degree of supersaturation with excess tungsten, chromium and carbon from spraying-induced carbide dissolution. Major improvements of the coatings resistance against abrasive wear under high-stress conditions at room temperature and at 800 °C as well as under low-stress ASTM G65 conditions can be attained by the laser post-treatments, so that the performance of industrial benchmark coatings of WC-10Co4Cr and Cr<sub>3</sub>C<sub>2</sub>-25NiCr can be nearly met or surpassed respectively.

Keywords: (W,Cr)<sub>2</sub>C, mixed carbide, tungsten carbide, chromium carbide, hardmetal, thermal spray, laser treatment, abrasive wear

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