Materials Science and Manufacturing

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MSM position within CSIR





Materials Science & Manufacturing



our future through science

Overview of Materials Research in South Africa

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Outline of presentation

- Introduction
- Drivers of Materials Research Since 1996
- Research Themes and Focus



Introduction

- Only a selection of materials research in South Africa
- Manufacturing related materials research
- Research aligned with national priorities
- Included in our Materials Science sessions:
- Batteries
- Polymers
- Nanocomposites and nano-metal matrix composites
- Piezoelectric materials
- Light metals
- Laser processing of materials



Drivers of Materials Research Since 1996

- 1996 White Paper on Science and Technology (S&T)
- 1999 Manufacturing/Materials & Mining and Metallurgy Foresight Studies
- 2002 National R&D Strategy by the DST Relevant S&T Missions:
 - Advanced manufacturing
 - Astronomy
 - Resource-based industries
- 2002 Integrated Manufacturing Strategy by the dti
- 2002/3 Development and approval of the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Strategy (AMTS)
- 2004 Establishment of implementation initiatives







- 2005: The Advanced Metals Initiative was established and championed by DST through its Resource-Based Industries mission
- 4 Pillars of the AMI:
 - Light Metals Development Network (LMDN)
 - Aluminium, Titanium, Magnesium: Led by CSIR
 - Precious Metals Development Network (PMDN)
 - Platinum Group Metals & Gold: Led by Mintek
 - New Metals Development Network (NMDN)
 - Zirconium, Hafnium, Niobium, Tantalum: Led by Necsa
 - Ferrous & Base Metals Development Network (F&BMDN)
 - Steels, Base Metals: Led by Mintek



- 2007: DST publishes South Africa's 10 Year Innovation Plan
- Grand Challenges:

(A mechanism to create focus and develop a research agenda with specific national outcomes)

- 1. Farmer to Pharma value chain to strengthen the bio-economy;
- 2. Space science & technology;
- 3. Energy security;
- 4. Global-change science (climate change); and
- 5. Human and social dynamics
- Centres of Competence
 - To close gaps along the technology development value chain
 - To provide support for technology and systems integration
 - To develop production capabilities
 - To develop productive human capacity
 - To facilitate the commercialisation of R&D outcomes



- 2007: The dti publishes the National Industrial Policy Framework (NIPF) and Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP)
- 2010: Updated Industrial Policy Action Plan (IPAP2)
 - Advanced Manufacturing
 - Advanced Materials: Titanium, Nano-materials, Natural fibre composites, high performance composites
 - Plastics for the plastic conversion industry
- 2005: Aerospace Industry Strategy (the **dti**)
- 2010: Aerospace Sector Development Plan (the **dti** and DST)
 - Subsector: Advanced Materials and Manufacturing
 - Lightweight materials: metals and composites



- Energy crisis in South Africa need for renewed focus on energy research, especially renewables
 - Battery technology research
 - Fuel cell R&D
- 2006: CSIR establishes a Nanotechnology ERA
- 2007: CSIR and DST establishes the National Centre for Nano-Structured Materials (NCNSM)



Research Themes and Focus



South African Industrial Opportunity with Titanium



Titanium Centre of Competence Collaborators





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Precious Metals Development Network Objective

The objective of the PMDN is to help South Africa to retain some of the precious metals value matrix by identifying, research, develop and promote new technology and applications that will expand the local technical capacity, impact positively on human resource development, and create the potential to establish local benefication industries.





Catalysis & Powder / Coatings

- Precious Metals' Catalysts R&D for Chemical Processing Reactions
- Scale Up of Precious Metals Catalysts
- Powder Metallurgy Gas Atomising of Precious Metals
- High Temperature Oxidation Resistant Coatings







The New Metals Development Network Main Objective

To beneficiate the minerals of Zr, Hf, Ta and Nb across the whole value chain:





World Production of Zircon





Source: Roskill 2011







Zircaloy as cladding material for nuclear

fuel rods



A typical 2400 MW PWR reactor uses 2 400 km of fuel cladding tubing and 22 km of thimble tubing in its initial fuel loading, equivalent to approximately 27 t of Zircaloy-4, thereafter, replenished with an average of 10 t per year.







Ceramic Applications of New Metals in Aerospace

- ZrB₂ Refractory ceramic for hypersonic flight or rocket propulsion systems (very high temperature resistant)
- ZrN Refractory ceramic for high wear resistance on turbo blades
- Yttria-stabilised zirconia Thermal barrier coatings on gas and jet turbine engines
- Coatings on turbo blades High wear resistance
- Hafnium Carbide Structural material in high temperature aerospace applications



Biocomposites

BioAERO

- Product Focus: Interior panels for commercial aircraft
- Present Investments: NATFIBIO 2009 2011
- Typical Products:





Aircraft window panels

- Natural fibre reinforced phenolic panels successfully screened at Airbus
- Mechanical characteristics under variable environmental conditions being determined
- 1 patent
- 1 technology demonstrator completed, 1 in progress

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Conclusions

- Materials research in South Africa has been directed quite strongly over the past two decades to align with national priorities
- There is a growing expectation from funders is that researchers should be able to indicate the impact of their research towards strengthening and growing the South African economy
- CSIR, in collaboration with the DST, plays an important role in leading major national R&D initiatives



Thank You

