Fabrication and Characterization of Magnetron Sputtered Tungsten/EUROFER 97 Coatings

Thomas Weber¹, Michael Stüber², Sven Ulrich², and Jarir Aktaa¹

¹Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Institute for Materials Research II, Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany

²Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Institute for Materials Research I, Hermann-von-Helmholtz-Platz 1, 76344 Eggenstein-Leopoldshafen, Germany

Abstract

A specific topic of R&D on components of the helium cooled divertor developed at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology addresses the thermal mismatch between the ferritic martensitic steel EUROFER97 and tungsten. Previous FE-simulations showed that a functionally graded joint between these two materials should result in a reduction of the thermally induced stresses and strains.

In this work materials science based aspects of the development of new functionally graded tungsten/EUROFER97 joining layers will be presented and critically discussed. W-Fe-Cr-Mn-C coatings were deposited by magnetron sputtering of a segmented tungsten/EUROFER97 target. The substrate samples were placed in various, stationary positions opposite to this target. For each substrate position, a W-Fe-Cr-Mn-C coating with individual elemental composition, microstructure and properties were deposited. These coatings were characterized before and after heat treatment at 700°C by XRD methods to determine their crystal structure and a possible appearance of intermetallic phases. Porosity and morphology of the coatings were analysed by scanning electron microscopy. Additionally, nanoindentation tests were performed providing preliminary knowledge about the mechanical behaviour of the deposited layers.

Keywords: divertor, functional graded materials (FGM), tungsten, EUROFER97, magnetron sputtering