



Driving Forces behind Developing AM-Specific Materials

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QSmetalAM 2024 «Materials – The name of the game»
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✦ Property Requirements

- Desired mechanical, thermal and electrical properties
- Enhancing corrosion and wear resistance

✦ Process Compatibility

- Suitability for AM processes
- Optimizing flowability and reducing residual stresses

✦ Design Flexibility

- Enabling complex geometries and lightweight structures
- Customizing properties for different component sections

✦ Cost Efficiency

- Reducing material waste and production costs
- Minimizing post-processing and energy consumption

✦ Sustainability

- Using renewable materials
- Reducing environmental impact and carbon footprint

✦ Regulatory and certification standards

- Meeting industry-specific requirements and standards
- Enhancing competitive advantage with advanced materials

Processes in Conventional vs. Additive Manufacturing of Metals

Processing → Microstructure → Property

Conventional

Melting of bulk material

- ✦ Casting
- ✦ Homogenization
- ✦ Rolling
- ✦ Extrusion
- ✦ ...

Solidification
+
Heat Treatment
+
Deformation

cooling rates
1-100 K/s



630mm x 2120mm, 5 strands, AA 5083 Alloy
Cast on Almix's CASTRIGHT II™ System

2 m



20 μm

Additive

Melting of bulk material

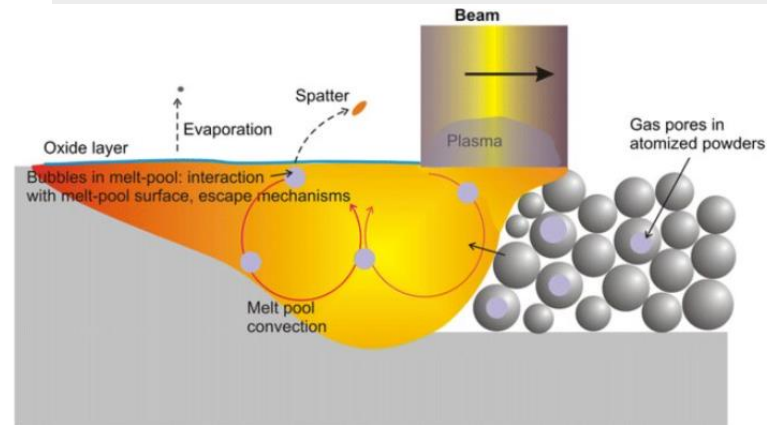
- ✦ Production of powder, filament, wire, ...

- ✦ Laser Powder Bed Fusion (LPBF)
- ✦ Directed Energy Deposition (DED)
- ✦ Electron Beam Melting (EBM)
- ✦ ...

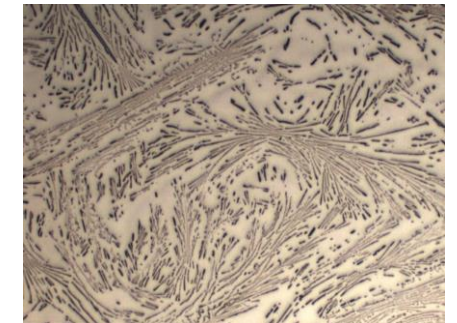
Melting cycles
+
Solidification
+
Heat Treatment

cooling rates
10³-10⁶ K/s

No deformation!



500 μm



5 μm

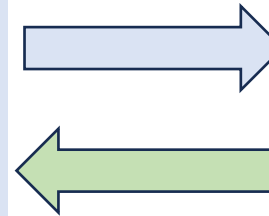
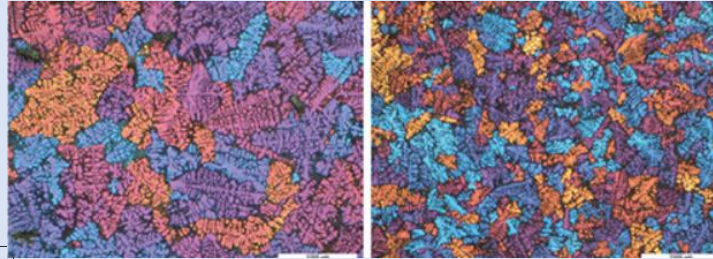
Development of a conventional alloy: Al 7075

Aerospace material designed in 1943 in Japan

Al - 5.5Zn - 2.5Mg - 1.5Cu - 0.2Cr - 0.3Fe - 0.3Si - 0.2Mn - 0.2Ti - 0.01B

Roles of alloying elements

- ✦ Ti and B : Grain refinement
- ✦ Zn: Strengthening with MgZn \square
- ✦ Mg: MgZn \square precipitates, solid solution hardening
- ✦ Cu: Al \square CuMg precipitates, solid solution hardening
- ✦ Cr: Dispersoids inhibit recrystallization during HT
- ✦ Fe: High temperature strength
- ✦ Si: Increases fluidity and castability
- ✦ Mn: Solid-solution strengthening



Processing steps

- ✦ Direct Chill Casting
- ✦ Homogenization
- ✦ Hot Rolling
- ✦ Cold Rolling
- ✦ Solution Heat Treatment
- ✦ Aging

Possible defects

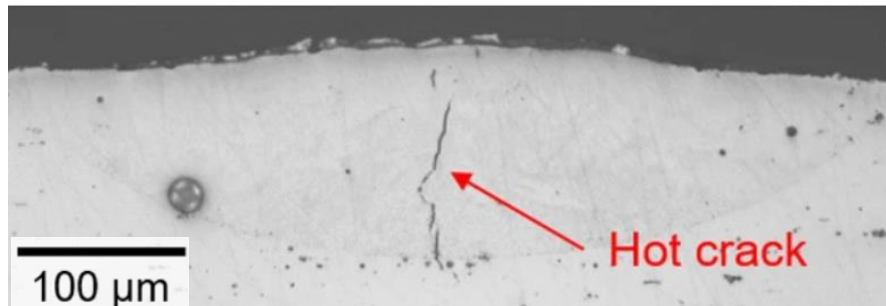


Hot tearing
Porosity
Segregation
Inclusions

Processing → Microstructure → Property

Al - 5.5Zn - 2.5Mg - 1.5Cu - 0.2Cr - 0.3Fe - 0.3Si - 0.2Mn - 0.2Ti - 0.01B

- Hot tearing due to rapid heating and cooling cycles



- Grain refinement effect of Ti and B reduces due to melting cycles.
- High cooling rates promotes microsegregation, where alloying elements like zinc and magnesium concentrate in certain areas.
- Significant vaporization of Mg and Zn

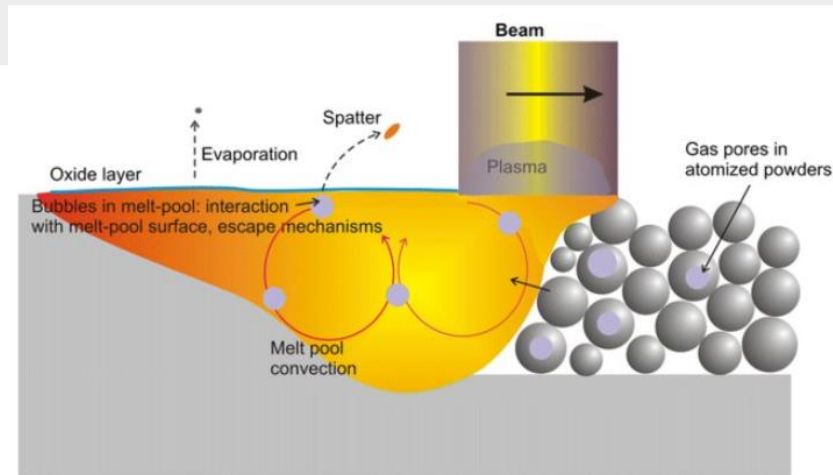
Melting of bulk material

✦ Production of powder

✦ Laser Powder Bed Fusion (LPBF)
✦ Electron Beam Melting (EBM)

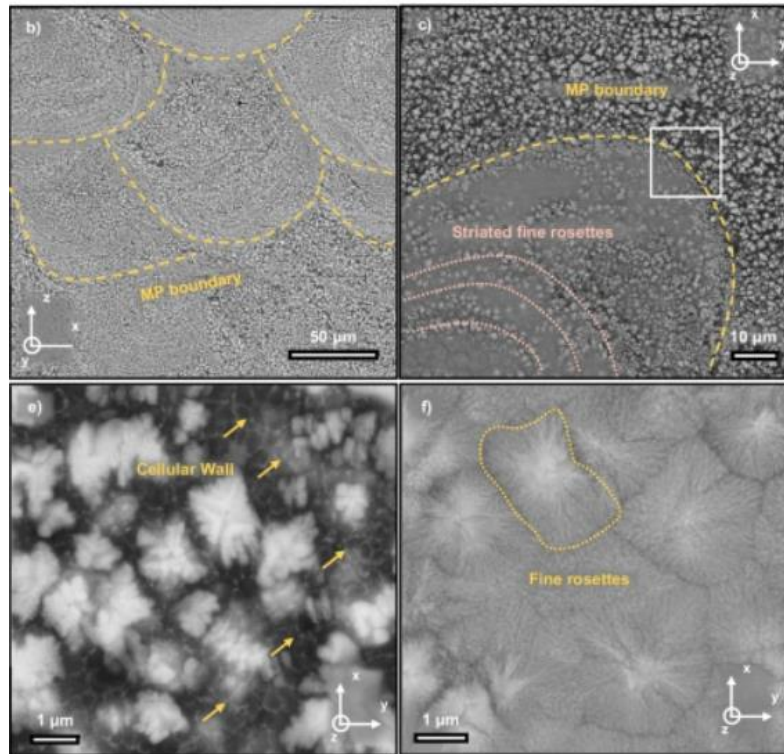
Melting cycles
+
Solidification 10^3 - 10^6 K/s
+
Heat Treatment

No
deformation!

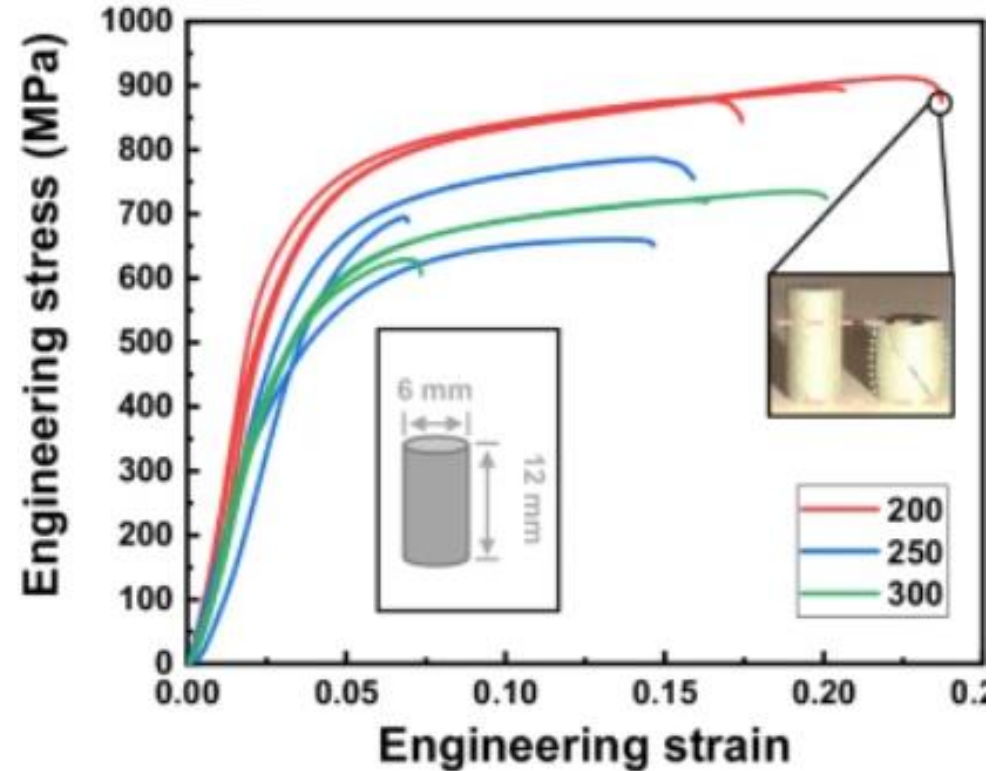


Development of an LPBF-specific alloy: Al-2Ti-2Fe-2Co-2Ni

- Benefits from rapid solidification conditions to form fine intermetallic lamellae
- Potential for manufacturing lightweight, strong, and deformable components



Formation of heterogeneous nanoscale medium-entropy intermetallic lamellae



Good printability and mechanical properties, high strength and plastic deformability

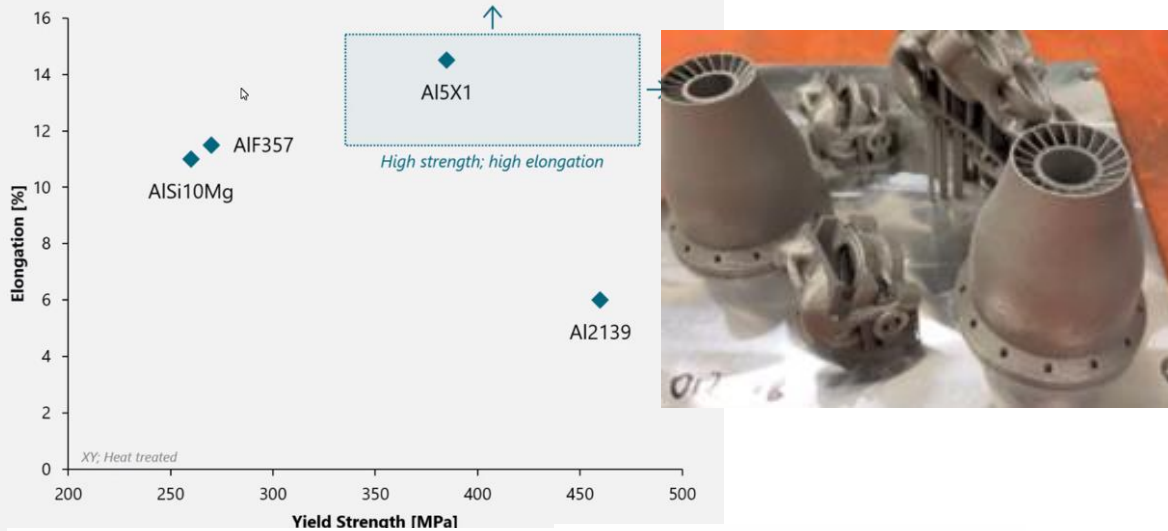
Emerging alloys in AM

**EOS Aluminium
Al5X1**

Al-3Mg-1.2Zr-0.5Mn

Constellium

Aheadd® CP1 20/63
ALUMINIUM POWDERS
FOR ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING



CHEMICAL COMPOSITION
(Aluminum Association No 8A61)

	Fe	Zr
Wt% Min	0.8	0.9
Wt% Max	1.4	1.4

MECHANICAL PROPERTIES

	Tensile properties (Z axis) at 25°C		
	YS MPa	UTS MPa	El%
As built	137	203	23
Heat treated 4h-400°C	323	342	13

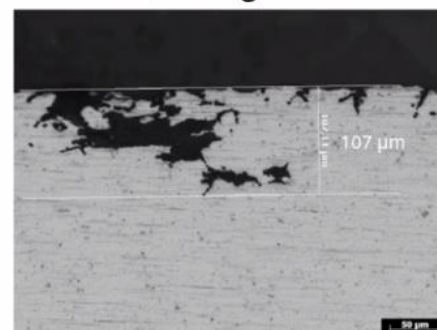


Al5X1, Heat treated

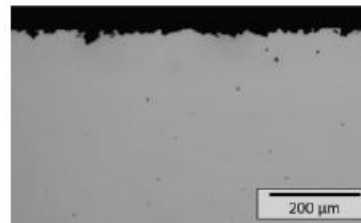


Heat treatment improves corrosion resistance

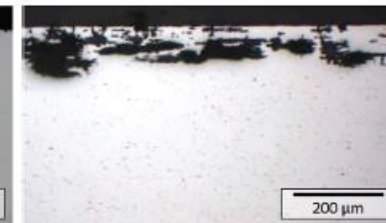
AA6082 T6, Wrought



**L-PBF Aheadd® CP1
4h - 400°C**



Extruded 6061 T6

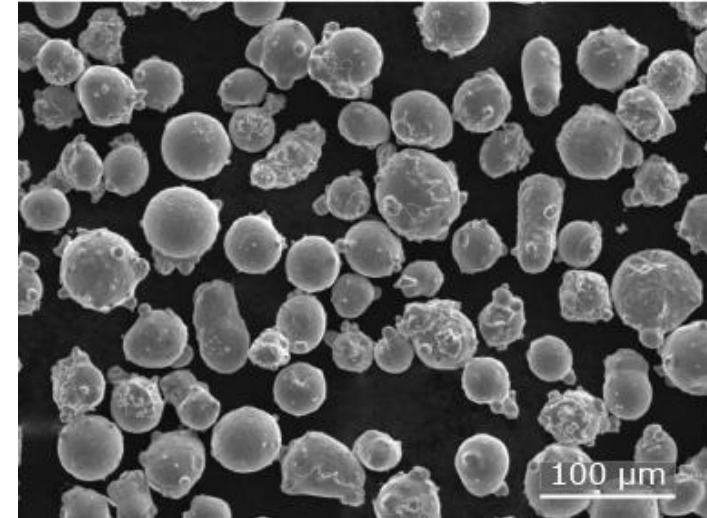


Corrosion test: 24h immersion, 30g/L NaCl + 10ml/L HCl, 30°C (ISO 11846B)

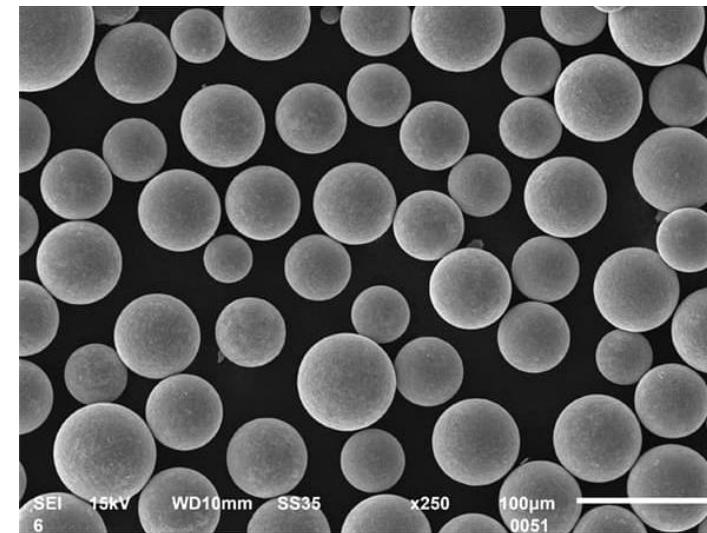
The ability to quickly produce and test new powders accelerates the development cycle for new materials

Powder Characteristics

- Particle Size Distribution
- Flowability
- Particle Shape
- Chemical Composition
- Moisture Content
- Oxygen Content
- Powder Ageing and Recycling



Metal powder with satellites



Spherical metal powder

Challenges & Solutions for AM-specific Materials

Challenges :

- ✦ Material consistency and quality control
- ✦ Compatibility with various metal AM processes
- ✦ Cost of developing and qualifying new materials

Solutions:

- ✦ Advances in metallurgy (including powder) and material characterization
- ✦ Standardization efforts and process optimization
- ✦ Real-time process monitoring

Thank you!