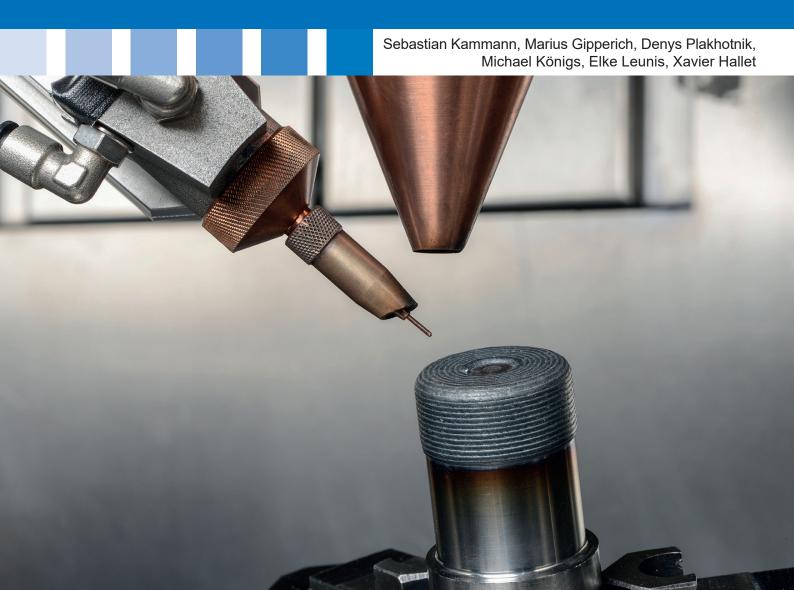
Development of a CAM-based additive laser cladding process for adaptive manufacturing of multi-material systems for high-performance components

Results of the collaborative project M-ERA.NET-MatLaMeD



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Sebastian Kammann (Ed.) Fraunhofer Institute for Production Technology IPT, Aachen

The German part of this research and development project was funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) in the "Innovations for Production, Services and Work of Tomorrow" program with the funding numbers 02P17E000, 02P17E001 and 02P17E002 and managed by the Project Management Agency Karlsruhe (PTKA). The Belgian partners were funded by the Agentschap Innoveren & Ondernemen and Wallonie service public SPW.

The authors are responsible for the content of this publication.

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Shaker Verlag Düren 2021

Bibliographic information published by the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek

The Deutsche Nationalbibliothek lists this publication in the Deutsche Nationalbibliografie; detailed bibliographic data are available in the Internet at http://dnb.d-nb.de.

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Printed in Germany.

ISBN 978-3-8440-7872-5

Shaker Verlag GmbH • Am Langen Graben 15a • 52353 Düren Phone: 0049/2421/99011-0 • Telefax: 0049/2421/99011-9 Internet: www.shaker.de • e-mail: info@shaker.de

Preface

Additive manufacturing processes, such as laser cladding, are used to produce products additively or to optimize them locally. Until now, laser cladding has focused a laser beam on the component surface and at the same time supplied a filler material - either as a powder or as a wire. This process is very interesting for tool and mold making, as it is ideal for applying flexible protective layers, repairing damaged areas or changing the geometry of tools shortly before production starts. But so far, up to 70 percent of the powder has been lost unused in powder-based laser cladding. This is uneconomical, especially with expensive powders. Wire, on the other hand, enables 100 percent material utilization. However, today's wires made from special alloys are only available to a limited extent or do not meet the desired criteria for a coating material.

The aim of the MatLaMeD research project was therefore to develop a hybrid process variant of laser cladding. Here, wire and at the same time the smallest quantities of powder were fed locally in order to provide application-optimized or novel material systems during the additive manufacturing of high-performance components e.g. with toughness and hardness enhancement. At the same time, special software was developed that enables the user to individually plan the process control depending on the desired material properties and to set the hybrid process exactly. For later use in industry, a manufacturing process for wire was further developed, with which high-performance, high-alloy special wires can be made available inexpensively on a large scale.

In order to achieve these goals, basic process studies on hybrid laser cladding using powder and wire were carried out and material-related process strategies were developed. These results served as the basis for corresponding algorithms that were integrated into CAM software. Finally, wire drawing tools with the hybrid laser cladding process were developed for wire drawing of high-alloy wire materials.

The interdisciplinary collaboration within the project across national borders with Belgian partners not only created an innovative additive manufacturing process and new material systems. It also strengthened the European competitiveness in economically important sectors, such as tool and mold making, through its knowledge advantage in the fields of laser material processing and materials science.

The German partners in this M-ERA.NET joint project with Belgian partners were funded in the program "Innovations for the production, services and work of tomorrow" of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to this trend-setting research and development work with their knowledge, commitment and experience.

Project Management Agency Karlsruhe (PTKA) Production, Service and Work Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

Stefan Scherr September 2020



MANAGED BY PTKA Project Management Agency Karlsruhe

Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

| Duration: | 1 st August 2018 – 31 st July 2020 |
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