

Cold Sintering of γ -Alumina using Functionalised Boehmite

A novel cold assisted sintering process using a combination of functionalised boehmite and γ -alumina particles is demonstrated. Functionalised boehmite and γ -alumina composites were initially densified using a cold sintering process at $<300^\circ\text{C}$ followed by heat-treatment at $1400\text{--}1450^\circ\text{C}$ ($\sim 200\text{--}300^\circ\text{C}$ lower than conventionally sintered γ -alumina). Highest relative densities (98%) were achieved using meso-scale γ -alumina ($d_{50} = 720\text{ nm}$) in a 50:50 wt% mixture with boehmite, functionalised in 2M acetic acid. The high densities at low temperature were attributed to easy propagation of the transformation to γ phase within the dense boehmite matrix, accompanied by enhanced nucleation on the surface of the alumina particles. Critical aspects of the transformation sequence from functionalised boehmite to γ alumina were characterised using Raman and Fourier Transform InfraRed spectroscopy. Preliminary hardness measurement were comparable with conventional alumina sintered at $\sim 1650^\circ\text{C}$.

Professional Status of the Speaker

Interest in submitting a paper in a special issue of

No interest

Invitation letter for visa

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