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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/EP92/01636</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 17 July 1992 (17.07.92)</p> <p>(30) Priority data: 9116332.9 29 July 1991 (29.07.91) GB</p> <p>(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): SIEMENS AKTIENGESELLSCHAFT [DE/DE]; Wittelsbacherplatz 2, D-8000 München 2 (DE). DIFFUSION ALLOYS LTD. [GB/GB]; Birchwood Industrial Estate, 160 Great North Road, Hatfield, Herts. AL9 5JW (GB).</p> <p>(72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only) : CZECH, Norbert [DE/DE]; Birkenallee 35, D-4270 Dorsten 11 (DE). KEMPFER, Adrian [GB/GB]; Oldbury House, 5 Redebourn Lane, Bury, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire PE17 1PB (GB).</p>	<p>(74) Agent: FUCHS, Franz-Josef; Post Office Box 22 13 17, D-8000 München 22 (DE).</p> <p>(81) Designated States: CA, CS, JP, KR, PL, RU, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IT, LU, MC, NL, SE).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report.</i></p>	
<p>(54) Title: REFURBISHING OF CORRODED SUPERALLOY OR HEAT RESISTANT STEEL PARTS AND PARTS SO REFURBISHED</p> <p>(57) Abstract</p> <p>The invention relates to the refurbishing of a corroded superalloy or heat resistant steel part, in particular a gas turbine component like a gas turbine blade, having a surface with products of corrosion. According to the invention, the surface is cleaned, in particular by mechanical or chemical means, and an aluminide coating is applied to the cleaned surface. Subsequently, the aluminide coating is removed, whereby all products of corrosion which have still remained in the part to be refurbished are removed as well.</p>		

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1 Refurbishing of Corroded Superalloy or Heat Resistant
Steel Parts and Parts so Refurbished

5 This invention relates to the refurbishing of superalloy
or heat resistant steel parts which have been corroded by
hot gases. Such parts include blades from stationary gas
turbines as well as from marine - and aeroengines as well
as exhaust valves in diesel engines and similar parts.

10 Parts subjected in operation to hot gases are usually made
of base materials like superalloys or heat resistant
steels, to which base materials protective coatings may be
applied. Typical of such parts are the blades and vanes of
stationary gas turbines made from superalloys which general-
15 ly operate at a temperature up to 1000° C, in particular
within a temperature range between 650° C and 900° C.

The term superalloy is well known in the art and is used
to describe an alloy developed for service at elevated
20 temperatures where severe mechanical stressing is
encountered and where surface stability frequently is
required.

All these superalloys usually consist of various formula-
25 tions made from the following elements, namely iron,
nickel, cobalt and chromium as well as lesser amounts of
tungsten, molybdenum, tantalum, niobium, titanium and alu-
minium. Nickel-chromium, iron-chromium and cobalt-chromium
alloys containing minor quantities of the other elements
30 are representatives of such superalloys. For example, such
superalloys may contain, by weight, approximately
12 - 35 % chromium and up to 80 % nickel together with
additives in minor amounts such as titanium, tungsten,
tantalum and aluminium. Representative alloys of this type
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1 are those identified as In 738 Lc and In 939 as well as
Udimet 500. These designations are known in the art.

5 Such parts as those referred to above may also be made of
heat resistant steel. By heat resistant steel is meant an
alloy based on iron with alloying elements present to
improve the anti-scaling resistance of the alloy surface
to high temperature oxidation. These alloying elements
generally include chromium, aluminium, silicon and nickel.

10 Parts made of such a superalloy or of heat resistant steel
may be provided with protective coatings such as diffused
chromium by chromising or diffused aluminium by alumini-
zing or with overlay coatings of any desired composition
15 deposited by plasma spraying or physical vapour
deposition, for instance.

Even such parts with protective coatings are subject to
corrosion on their exposed surfaces and may have to be
20 refurbished in order to keep them useful for a sufficient-
ly long service life.

Thus, turbine blades generally have to be refurbished
after certain periods during their service life, which may
25 be up to 100,000 hours.

Corrosion on gas turbine components and the like at high
temperatures results from contaminants in the fuel and/or
air; furthermore, oxidation may also occur at high tempe-
30 ratures. Depending on the conditions of operation, an
oxide layer of varying thickness may form on the surface
of the part, e.g., the turbine blade. Also, and very
significantly, sulphur can penetrate into the base
material, especially along the grain boundaries, to form

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1 sulphides deep in the material. Also, internal oxides and
nitrides may form within the metal near the surface.

Refurbishing or reconditioning involves the removal of
5 all corrosion products derived from the base material
and/or the coating, optionally followed by the application
of a new protective coating on the newly exposed surface
of the blade.

10 With regard to the types of corrosion described above, it
is necessary when removing all the corrosion products to
remove all the deep inclusions, such as sulphides, because
if these inclusions were allowed to remain, there would be
a risk that during subsequent heat treatment and further
15 operation they might diffuse into the base material -
especially in the case of thin-walled components - and
thus endanger its mechanical integrity. Also, there is a
danger that the application of a new coating might be
disturbed or made impossible.

20

In the present practice relating to a turbine blade or the
like made of superalloy or heat resistant steel and optional-
ly provided with a protective coating the surface of the cor-
roded part is removed or stripped by a combination of mecha-
25 nical treatment (e.g. abrasive blasting) and chemical treat-
ment (e.g. etching with acids or other suitable agents).

More recently, a high temperature treatment with
fluoride chemicals which generate hydrogen fluoride as the
active species has proved useful. In this treatment,
30 aluminium and titanium oxides and nitrides which are
otherwise highly resistant are converted into gaseous
fluorides which in their turn are easily removed. This
treatment is in particular widely used in the preparation
of components for repair welding and brazing.

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1 There are, however, problems associated with the use of
fluorine compounds. The first problem is environmental
both within the workplace and elsewhere. The second
problem is that the treatment has the disadvantage that it
5 has no effect on sulphur occlusions, so that the grain
boundary sulphides mentioned above cannot be removed by
such treatment. Accordingly, it is necessary to grind the
affected areas by hand which can lead to uncontrolled
removal of material.

10

In an article entitled "Refurbishment Procedures for
Stationary Gas Turbine Blades" by Bürgel et al (Bürgel,
Koromzay, Redecker: "Refurbishment Procedures for
Stationary Gas Turbine Blades" from proceedings of a
15 conference on "Life Assessment and Repair", edited by
Viswanathan and Allen, Phoenix, Arizona, 17 - 19 April,
1990) reference is made to an aluminizing treatment of
as-received service-exposed blades prior to stripping in
order to make stripping of the coating easier by chemical
20 means. The aluminium coating is applied by a pack cemen-
tation process, as normally used to apply aluminium
diffusion coatings. This procedure is said to imply a
high temperature treatment which leads to an enhanced
inward diffusion of elements of the residual coating.
25 It is also said that almost the whole wall thickness of
the cooled blades is influenced at the leading edge and
that microstructure deteriorations which are definitè-
ly not due to service exposure of the blades occur. The
treatment is said to be a negative example of what can
30 happen during stripping.

Accordingly, it is the primary object of the invention
that the corroded surface of the component may be removed
effectively by deposition of an aluminide coating on the

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1 component, the depth of the coating being such as to
enclose all the products of corrosion, and removal of the
aluminide coating, whereby the products of corrosion are
removed as well.

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The inventive process for the refurbishing of a corroded
superalloy or heat resistant steel part having a surface
with products of corrosion comprises cleaning the surface,
applying an aluminide coating on said surface and removing
10 said aluminide coating together with the products of
corrosion.

By this method, substantially all the products of
corrosion, including grain boundary sulphides, can be
15 removed.

It has been found by contrast to the teaching of the
document by Bürgel et al cited above that the
aluminization of the surface of a part which has become
20 corroded by hot gases can be carried out to give the
advantages described above if the surface is cleaned
before aluminizing and the aluminizing is carried
out as explained herein.

25 After removal of the aluminide coating the part may be
recoated with a protective coating, for example by
diffusion, in particular by chromising, plasma spraying
or physical vapour deposition.

30 In another aspect of the invention there is provided a
corroded superalloy or heat resistant steel part having a
surface with products of corrosion, which surface has been
cleaned and to which surface an aluminide coating has been
applied, the aluminide coating being of such a depth as to

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1 enclose all the products of corrosion, whereby they are
removed totally when the aluminide coating is removed.

5 In a further aspect of the invention there is provided a
process for the production of a refurbished superalloy or
heat resistant steel part having a surface which has been
corroded by hot gases, whereby products of corrosion have
been formed at the surface, which comprises cleaning the
10 surface and applying an aluminide coating thereto which
aluminide coating has a depth sufficient to enclose the
products of corrosion, and removing the aluminide coating,
optionally with subsequent application of a protective
coating.

15 The aluminide coating which is applied to the cleaned
part should advantageously be of such a depth as to
enclose the corrosion products, in particular the
deep corrosion products such as grain boundary sulphides.
The aluminide coating is preferably of a thickness greater
20 than 150 μm and in particular within the range of
200 - 400 μm , although it may be thicker.

As indicated, the surface of the corroded part to be
aluminized is to be cleaned before it is aluminized. This
25 cleaning is to remove a substantial part of the corroded
surface, in particular including a substantial fraction of
the products of corrosion at the surface, before it is
aluminized. This cleaning can be accomplished by chemical
means such as aqueous acid pickling. However, the pre-
30 ferred method of cleaning is by physical means, such as
by using compressed air to blast the corroded surface
of the nickel alloy with small particles of a hard ceramic
such as aluminium oxide. These particles, by hitting and

1 abrading the surface, can remove the majority of the
products of corrosion. This cleaning is therefore
essentially a procedure by which the surface corrosion
products which are products of corrosion constituting part
5 of the surface are substantially removed prior to the
aluminizing treatment. These surface corrosion products
comprise mainly bulky oxides which may easily be removed
by mechanical treatment of the type referred to.

10 The aluminization of the superalloy or heat resistant
steel part which has been cleaned may be carried out in a
number of ways.

In a first method, the part to be aluminized is immersed
15 in an aluminizing pack that may contain an aluminium
source, a moderator (which is optional), an energizer and
a diluent. The pack and the part to be aluminized are
contained within a partially sealed retort which is heated
in a furnace. This method is referred to as "pack
20 aluminizing".

In a second method, the part to be aluminized and the
aluminizing preparation are contained within a partially
sealed retort but not in immediate contact with each other.
25 This method of aluminizing is sometimes referred to as
"out of pack" aluminizing.

In a third method, the aluminium source or generator is
outside the retort and an aluminium compound, normally an
30 aluminium halide, is passed into the heated retort,
containing the part to be aluminized. This method is
sometimes referred to as "gas phase aluminizing".

The source for the aluminium which is to be deposited
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1 on the surface of the superalloy can be a metallic powder
or flaky preparation or a volatile chemical compound such
as an aluminium halide or a chemical compound that on de-
composition produces an aluminium halide. It is important
5 during the coating operation that the aluminium, together
with all other ingredients and the components contained
within the aluminizing pack, is protected from attack by
atmospheric oxygen with an inert atmosphere that may be
produced by ammonium salts contained in the pack which
10 decompose as the temperature is elevated. Alternatively,
such protection can be produced by passing hydrogen or a
hydrogen-containing gas mixture into the retort.

In general, a process of pack aluminizing as referred to
15 above can be carried out by using two different methods.
In the first method, the pack contains the aluminium
source, a diluent refractory such as alumina or titania
and a chemical energizer such as ammonium fluoride or
ammonium chloride. The aluminizing temperature is general-
20 ly in the range between 700° C and 900° C and the coating
referred to as the aluminide coating is formed by a
diffusion of aluminium. Such aluminide coating has two
zones, one of which is below the original surface of the
superalloy and is referred to as the "diffusion zone", and
25 one of which is above the original surface and is referred
to as the "additive zone". On parts containing nickel as a
primary compound, the additive zone is a compound general-
ly of the formula Ni_2Al_3 . In the type of aluminizing just
referred to, the depth of diffusion of aluminium into the
30 substrate is restricted by the relatively low temperature
used. Therefore, the coating consists predominately of the
additive zone (i.e. Ni_2Al_3).

Aluminizing packs of the type described above are referred
35

1 to as "high activity packs".

It has been found that in using packs of this type to
achieve coatings of a suitable depth (i.e. > 150 μm), it
5 is necessary to carry out a subsequent high temperature
re-diffusion process, which may be undesirable for
operational reasons. The re-diffusion process must be
carried out in an inert atmosphere or vacuum furnace at
around 1050 - 1100° C, which increases the overall cost
10 and time for the operation. Attempts to produce thicker
aluminide coatings using high activity packs at tempera-
tures higher than 900° C produce layers that are
non-uniform over the surface of the coated parts.

15 In a variation of the above pack aluminizing method, a
moderator is added to the pack in the form of a metal
powder such as chromium, nickel or iron. The moderator
reduces the vapour pressure of the aluminium halide in the
pack at the temperature of aluminizing and hence allows
20 higher temperatures to be used to achieve deeper aluminide
coatings.

In this way an aluminide coating having a thickness of
more than 150 μm may be prepared.

25 No re-diffusion process is needed by using a pack of a
composition described below and termed "low activity
pack". Furthermore aluminide coatings produced with low
activity packs generally show an increased uniformity in
30 comparison with aluminide coatings produced with high
activity packs. It is therefore preferred according to the
invention to use low activity packs.

Aluminizing packs of the low activity type have the
35 following compositions.

1 Aluminium Source

Concentration of aluminium 1 - 25 % by weight
preferably 2 - 15 % by weight

5

For aluminization, an aluminium halide is preferably generated in situ within the retort and in the pack surrounding the component being aluminized. However, it is recognised that the aluminizing compound (aluminium
10 halide) can be generated in a section of the retort that is separate from the component being aluminized or, in fact, passed into the heated retort from an outside generator.

15 Moderator

This can be a metal powder addition to the aluminizing pack such as chromium, nickel or iron, of concentrations between 1 - 20 % by weight, the preferred addition being
20 chromium in the concentration range 2 - 10 % by weight.

Energizer

The energizer used for the aluminizing process is
25 generally a compound that contains a halide element such as sodium chloride or ammonium fluoride. The preferred halide compound in the process of the invention is an ammonium salt such as ammonium chloride in the concentration range 0.05 - 10 % by weight, the preferred
30 range being 0.1 - 5 % by weight.

Diluent

A diluent is generally a refractory oxide powder that
35 makes up the balance of the ingredients in the aluminizing

1 pack and can be a compound such as Al_2O_3 (alumina), TiO_2
(titania), MgO or Cr_2O_3 . The preferred refractory diluent
used in the pack according to the invention is alumina.

5 The aluminization is advantageously carried out at
temperatures and within time intervals which are matched
to requirements to achieve aluminide coatings which
enclose the corrosion products to be removed to a suffi-
10 cient degree, keeping in mind that such enclosure is at
least partly accomplished by diffusion of aluminium
within the corroded base material.

In general, the aluminization is carried out at
temperatures between $1050^\circ C$ and $1200^\circ C$, in particular
15 between $1080^\circ C$ and $1150^\circ C$; the same temperature ranges
are to be applied in a re-diffusion treatment following an
aluminization by a high activity pack. However, the tempe-
rature should always be kept well below the solution
temperature of the base material alloy.

20 An aluminization and/or a re-diffusion process is ad-
vantageously accomplished within a time interval between
6 hours and 24 hours, in particular between 10 hours and
16 hours. However, the duration of such time interval is
25 to be counted from reaching the desired temperature,
since a heating interval preceding an aluminization
process may well amount up to several hours.

Both the operating temperature and the time interval are
30 critical parameters for the processes just referred to;
however, the most critical parameter is the temperature,
as indicated above.

With regard to the aluminization processes just described,
35 the invention is not intended to be limited to the details

1 shown. In particular, the aluminization process may
advantageously be modified to be carried out with minor
amounts of other elements added to the aluminium to be de-
5 deposited. Such elements are silicon and chromium, for
example, as they may, by a so-called "co-diffusion process",
enhance the diffusion of aluminium in the base material
and thus improve the enclosure of corrosion products.
In any case, the choice of additional elements to be
co-diffused with aluminium should be done with regard to
10 the interaction between these elements and the base
material which is to be aluminized. Normally, additions
of other elements will be limited to amounts of several
weight percents. The addition of these elements may in
particular be accomplished by using an appropriate
15 aluminium alloy in an aluminizing pack instead of sub-
stantially pure aluminium.

After the component has been aluminized the aluminide
coating may then be removed by a suitable treatment, for
20 example with acid, whereby all the corrosion products are
simultaneously removed. The cleaned refurbished component
can then have a protective coating applied thereto, for
example by chromising.

25 The following Examples illustrate the invention:
(In all these examples the parts to be aluminized are
embedded in the pack, in the retort, which is partially
sealed and placed in the furnace).

30 The compositions of In 738 Lc, Udimet 500 and In 939
(referred to above) are given below:

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1 CHEMICAL COMPOSITIONS

	In 738 Lc	U 500	In 939
	%	%	%
C	0.1	0.08	
5 Cr	16.0	19.0	22.5
Co	8.5	18.0	19.0
Mo	1.75	4.0	
W	2.6		2.0
	In 738 Lc	U 500	In 939
10	%	%	%
Nb	0,9		1.0
Ti	3.4	2.9	3.7
Al	3.4	2.9	1.9
Ta	1.75		1.4
15 Fe		4.0 max	
B		0.006	
Zr		0.05	
Ni	Balance	Balance	Balance

20

Example 1

A section of a turbine blade, made from the nickel-based alloy In 738 Lc, coated by chromising, with a maximum
 25 depth of corrosive attack of 220 μm , which had been cleaned by ceramic blasting, was subjected to the following aluminizing process.

Aluminizing compound: 3.0 % aluminium; 3.0 %
 chromium; 0,5 % ammonium
 30 chloride; balance alumina

Aluminizing temperature: 1110° C for 10 hours

Resulting aluminium penetration depth: 240 - 260 μm

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1 Example 2

5 A section of a turbine blade made from the nickel-based alloy Udimet 500, coating by chromising, with a maximum depth of corrosive attack of 180 μm , which had been roughly cleaned as in Example 1, was subjected to the following aluminizing process.

Aluminizing compound: as example (1)

Aluminizing temperature: 1080° C for 10 hours

10 Resulting aluminium penetration depth: 190 - 220 μm

Example 3

15 A section of a turbine blade made from the nickel-based alloy In 738 Lc, with a maximum depth of corrosive attack of 210 μm , and which had been roughly cleaned as in Example 1, was subjected to the following aluminizing process.

20 Aluminizing compound: 7.5 % aluminium; 5.0 % chromium;
1.0 % ammonium chloride;
balance alumina

Aluminizing temperature: 1110° C for 16 hours

Resulting aluminium penetration depth: 240 μm

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Example 4

30 A section of a turbine blade made from the nickel-based alloy In 738 Lc, with a maximum depth of corrosive attack of 180 μm , was subjected to the following aluminizing process.

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- 1 Aluminizing compound: 10.0 % aluminium; 3.0 % chromium;
0.5 % ammonium chloride;
balance alumina
Aluminizing temperature: 1080° C for 16 hours
5 Resulting aluminium penetration depth: 200 µm

Example 5

- 10 A section of a turbine blade which had a corroded surface layer to a depth of 200 µm, made from the nickel-based alloy In 738 Lc to which had originally been applied a protective surface layer by low pressure plasma spraying having the composition as follows: 25 % Cr, 12 % Al,
15 0.7 % Y, 2.5 % Ta was cleaned by ceramic blasting and was subjected to the following aluminizing process.

- Aluminizing compound: 3.0 % aluminium, 3.0 % chromium,
0.5 % ammonium chloride,
20 balance alumina
Aluminizing temperature: 1110° C for 15 hours
Resulting aluminium penetration depth: 220 - 230 µm

Example 6

- 25 A section of a turbine blade which had a corroded surface layer to a depth of 200 µm, made from the nickel based alloy In 738 Lc to which had originally been applied a protective surface layer by air plasma spraying having the
30 composition as follows: 16 % Cr, 4 % Si, 2 % Mo, 3 % B, remainder Ni was cleaned by ceramic blasting and was subjected to the following aluminizing process.

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1 Aluminizing compound: 3.0 % aluminium, 3.0 % chromium,
0.5 % ammonium chloride,
balance alumina

5 Aluminizing temperature: 1090° C for 15 hours
Resulting aluminium penetration depth: 230 - 250 µm

The aluminide coating applied according to Examples 1 - 6
can be removed by one or both of the following techniques.

10

a) Aqueous acid pickling:

The aluminide coating is removed by immersing the
aluminized component in a solution of a hot mineral acid
(such as 20 % hydrochloric acid in water) and holding
15 until the dissolution of the aluminide coating is
complete. Aqueous acid pickling is only appropriate with
parts whose base material is not substantially attacked by
the mineral acid compound during the time interval
necessary to remove the aluminide coating.

20

b) Ceramic blasting:

The aluminide coating is removed by using compressed air
to blast it with small particles of a hard ceramic mate-
rial such as aluminium oxide. The aluminide coating is
25 somewhat friable and readily fractures away from the
surface of nickel and iron alloys which are frequent-
ly used as base materials when subjected to this treat-
ment.

30 Either of the two methods described above can be used to
remove the aluminide coating from the surface of a nickel
or iron alloy but, in practice, a combination of the two
techniques is preferred. Indeed, in removing the coating
from the products of the Examples, such a combination was
35 used, the sequence being ceramic blasting followed by acid

1 pickling. If desired, a combination of both methods may
involve multiple application of at least one of them.

5 The reconditioned blade from which the aluminium coating
had been removed was subsequently subjected to a pack
chromising procedure to provide a protective coating
comprising a diffusion chromium layer.

10 The effectiveness of the procedure according to the
invention on blade sections of chromized Ni base alloy
In 738 Lc which have had 30,000 operating hours is shown
in Figs. 1 - 3, which are photomicrographs.

15 The blade section before treatment is shown in Fig. 1.
The protective coating has been completely consumed by
corrosion. The blade material shows corrosion up to a
depth of 300 μm . The sulphide particles are visible deep
in the blade section at the grain boundaries as indicated.

20 The blade section is then cleaned according to the
invention. This removes all the products of corrosion, in-
cluding bulky oxides, from the surface of the blade
section.

25 Fig. 2 shows the blade section after aluminization
The aluminide coating has encapsulated the particles pro-
duced by corrosion including the sulphide particles.

30 Fig. 3 shows the blade section after removal of the
aluminide layer. This was carried out by blasting with
ceramic (alumina) particles followed by acid pickling. The
clean surface produced is readily apparent. No sulphide
particles are to be seen.

1 . Claims

- 5 1. A process for the refurbishing of a corroded superalloy or heat resistant steel part having a surface with products of corrosion, which comprises cleaning the surface, applying an aluminide coating to said surface and removing said aluminide coating together with the products of corrosion.
- 10 2. A process as claimed in claim 1 in which the aluminide coating is of such a depth that it encloses the products of corrosion.
- 15 3. A process as claimed in claim 2 in which the products of corrosion include the deep corrosion products.
4. A process as claimed in claim 3 in which the deep corrosion products include grain boundary sulphides.
- 20 5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4 in which the aluminide coating has a thickness greater than 150 μm .
- 25 6. A process as claimed in claim 5 in which the aluminide coating has a thickness within the range of 200 - 400 μm .
7. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 6 in which the cleaning substantially removes surface corrosion products.
- 30 8. A process as claimed in claim 7 in which said surface corrosion products consist mainly of bulky oxides.
- 35 9. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 in which the cleaning is effected by chemical means and/or

1 mechanical means.

10. A process as claimed in claim 9 in which the cleaning
is effected by blasting with ceramic particles.

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11. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 10 in which
the aluminide coating is applied by pack aluminizing.

12. A process as claimed in claim 11 in which a low
10 activity pack is used to apply the aluminide coating.

13. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 12 in which
the aluminide coating is removed by mechanical and/or
chemical means.

15

14. A process as claimed in claim 13 in which the
aluminide coating is removed by ceramic blasting and/or
acid pickling.

20 15. A process as claimed in claims 13 or 14 in which
mechanical and/or chemical means are used more than once.

16. A process as claimed in any of the preceding claims in
which a protective coating is applied to the surface after
25 removal of the aluminide coating.

17. A process as claimed in claim 16 in which the
protective coating applied to the surface from which the
aluminide coating has been removed is applied by
30 diffusion, plasma spraying or physical vapour deposition.

18. A process as claimed in claim 17 in which the
protective coating is applied by chromising.

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- 1 19. A refurbished corroded superalloy or heat resistant steel part when produced by a process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 18.
- 5 20. A corroded superalloy or heat resistant steel part having a surface with products of corrosion, which surface has been cleaned and to which an aluminide coating has been applied, whereby substantially all products of corrosion are removed as the aluminide coating is removed.
- 10 21. A corroded superalloy or heat resistant steel part as claimed in claim 20, whose aluminium coating is of such a depth as to enclose substantially all products of corrosion.
- 15 22. A process for the production of a refurbished corroded superalloy or heat resistant steel part having a surface which has been corroded by hot gases whereby products of corrosion have been formed at the surface, which comprises cleaning the surface, applying an aluminide coating there-
20 to and removing the aluminide coating, optionally with subsequent application of a protective coating.
- 25 23. A process as claimed in claim 22, wherein the aluminium coating has a depth sufficient to enclose substantially all products of corrosion.
- 30
- 35

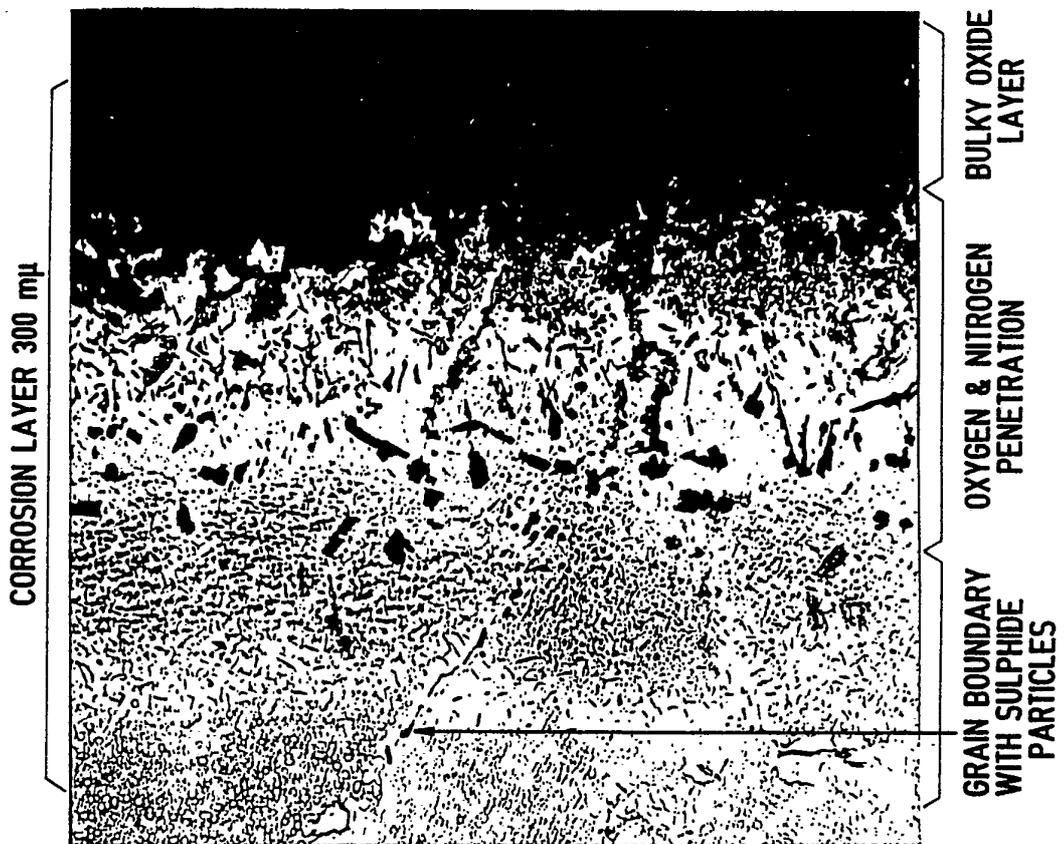


FIG 1

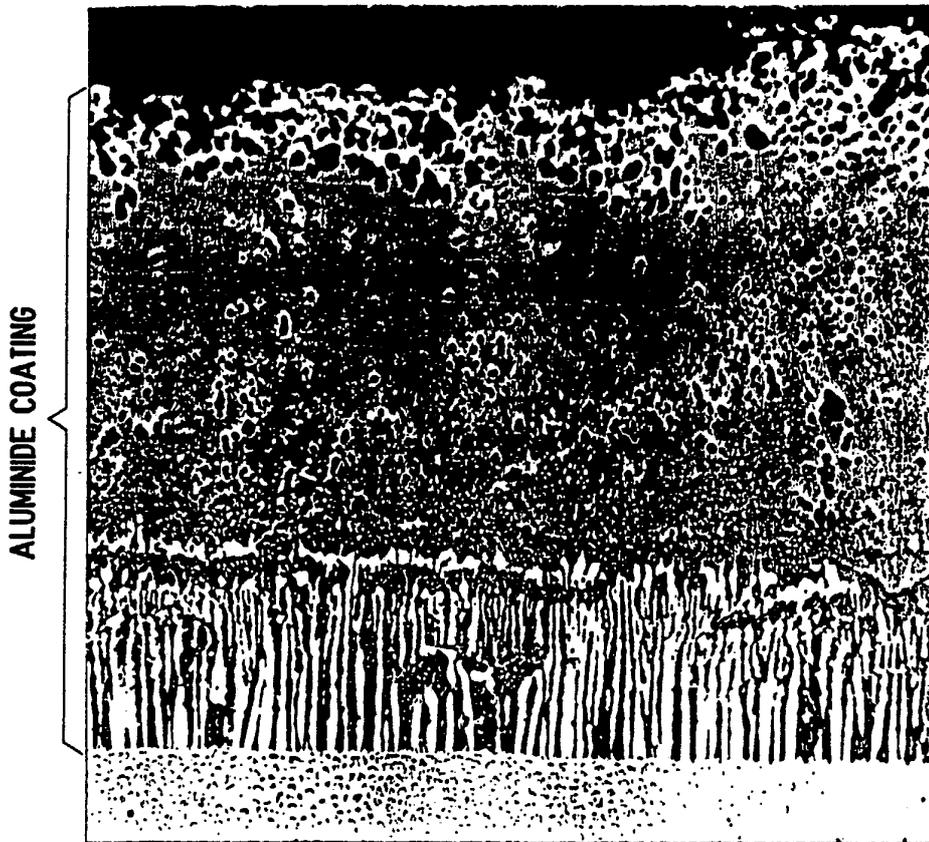
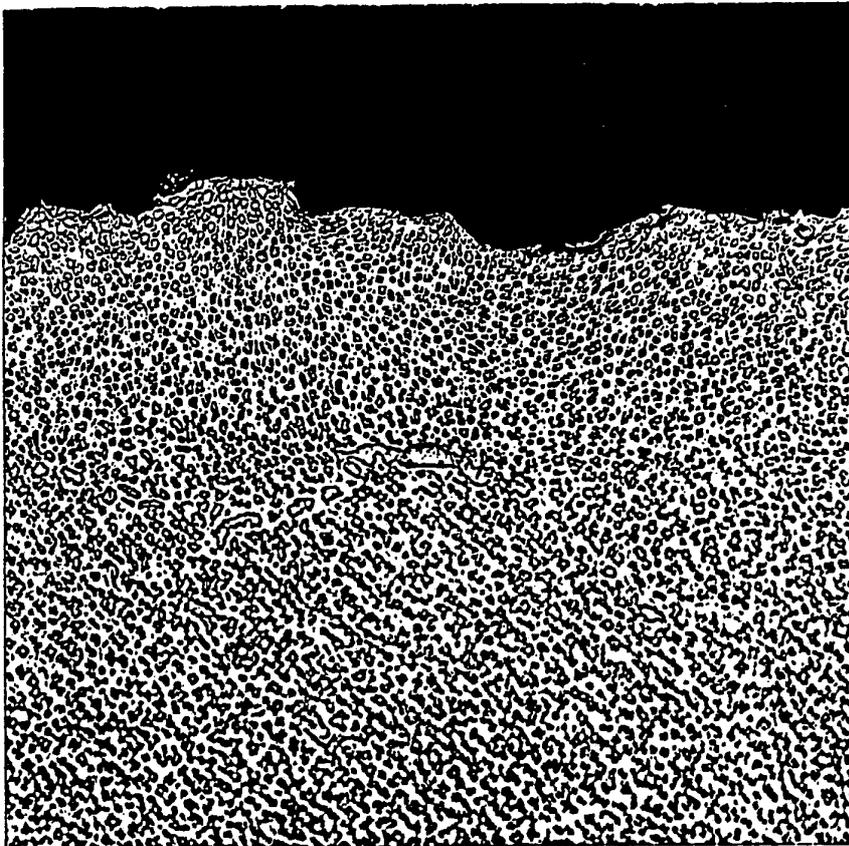


FIG 2

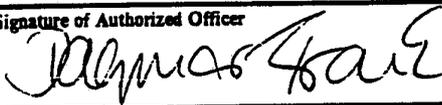
FIG 3



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/EP 92/01636

International Application No

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC Int.Cl. 5 C23G5/00		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
Int.Cl. 5	C23G ; C23F ; C23C	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹		
Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
A	US,A,4 339 282 (HENRY LADA) 13 July 1982 see column 1, line 52 - column 2, line 12; claim 1 ---	1, 11, 13, 14
A	LIFE ASSESSMENT AND REPAIR 17 April 1990, pages 323 - 333 BÜRGEL 'refurbishment procedures for stationary gas turbine blades' cited in the application see page 325, paragraph 4 ---	1
A	FR,A,2 021 543 (UNITED AIRCRAFT CORPORATION) 24 July 1970 -----	
<p>¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
10 NOVEMBER 1992	01. 12. 92	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Officer	
EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE		

**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
ON INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION NO. EP 9201636
SA 62781**

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information. 10/11/92

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