Binder Development for Metal Injection Moulding: A CSIR Perspective

Ronald Machaka\textsuperscript{1,2}, Mandy Seerane\textsuperscript{1,2}, and Hilda K. Chikwanda\textsuperscript{1,2}

1Powder Metallurgy Technologies, Light Metals, Materials Science and Manufacturing, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, P.O. Box 395, Pretoria 0001, South Africa,

2Titanium Centre of Competence, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, P.O. Box 395, Pretoria 0001, South Africa

Abstract

The paper reviews the CSIR’s progress and challenges concerning the development of a wax-based binder system suitable for metal injection moulding (MIM). It reports on a consolidation study wherein different widely used wax-based feedstock formulations were developed for Ti6Al4V, Al2124, SUS316L powders as conducted at CSIR. The results are discussed in terms of the binder systems choices; the characterization of polymeric and metal powder materials, and their effects on the processing parameters on the properties of metal injection-moulded specimens, and the contribution of sintering parameters onto the density and quality characteristics of the final part. The optimization of process parameters is briefly discussed in this review.