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## PREFACE

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#### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Advanced turbine engines operating at high temperatures need lubricants that are functional over a broad temperature range, -50°C to 1000°C. The benefits of operating engines at a higher operating temperature include improved thermodynamic efficiency resulting in better engine power to weight ratio and improved fuel efficiencies. The primary barrier to successful high temperature engine development, however, is the limited capability of available lubricants to enhance the performance and durability of critical engine components. Liquid lubricants can't be used because of thermal and oxidative degradation at high temperatures above about 300°C. Therefore, suitable solid lubricants are needed that can function over a wide range of temperatures.

The maximum useful temperature for most common solid lubricants such as  $MoS_2$ ,  $WS_2$  etc., are limited to about 400°C under favorable conditions in air atmosphere [1]. In vacuum applications, however, these materials can be used at higher temperatures (~600°C).

The other common lubricant is graphite which requires the presence of water or hydrocarbons to develop good lubricating properties. Graphite lubricates at room temperature and above 425°C but not at intermediate temperatures. Low friction at room temperature is attributed to the beneficial effect of absorbed moisture. High friction at intermediate temperature is attributed to desorption of water and possibly other gases. Low friction above 425°C is attributed to interaction of graphite with oxides of the lubricated metal. Graphite itself begins to oxidize at about 400°C. The graphite fluoride,  $(CF_x)n$ , is a layer lattice compound of graphite and a good lubricant. However, the thermal decomposition limits its applications up to 480°C.

Over the years, some unconventional solid lubricants based on oxides and fluorides have been identified for high temperature applications [2,3]. These are: MoO<sub>3</sub>, TiO<sub>x</sub>, CoO, ZnO, ZrO<sub>2</sub>, LiF, CaF<sub>2</sub>, BaF<sub>2</sub>. Use of oxides and fluorides has been limited because of their lubricating ability within a narrow temperature range. Also, the friction coefficient of most of these oxides even at high temperatures is rather high, ~0.2-0.4.

The objective of this work was to develop solid lubricant coatings that can function over a broad temperature range in air atmosphere.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

A new class of materials belonging to complex metal chalcogenides have recently been identified for high temperature applications [4]. These complex chalcogenides can be represented by the following general formula:

 $M_a M_b{}^1 O_c S_d$ 

where M = different metals $M^1 = Molybdenum or Tungsten$ 

O = Oxygen S = Sulfur

Two compositions, in particular, have shown superior thermal, oxidative and tribological properties over a broad temperature range up to 650°C. These are: cesium oxytrithiotungstate and zinc oxytrithiomolybdate. The friction coefficients reported so far using these lubricants are in the range 0.15 - 0.37 depending on the temperature. Usually higher friction coefficient was found at lower temperature. These lubricants apparently degrade at temperatures greater than 650°C. These complexes may be synthesized in the form of coatings by using co-sputtering of suitable components and subsequent heat treatment.

UES, Inc. and Cleveland State University (CSU) proposed to develop a solid lubricant coating that can function over a broad temperature range. The approach was to develop adaptive lubricant coatings from materials that undergo chemical change with increasing temperature by reacting together and with the environment. Specifically, in Phase I, we proposed to study composite coatings made from cesium tungstate (Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>) and WS<sub>2</sub>. WS<sub>2</sub> provides low friction in air up to about 450°C. As the temperature increases, WS<sub>2</sub> may react with cesium tungstate in air to form cesium oxythiotungstate (Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub>) which exhibits low friction at high temperature (650°C). Addition of CaF<sub>2</sub> may increase its lubricating capability up to 850°C.

#### 3.0 PHASE I EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM

The Phase I experimental program consisted of establishing conditions for depositing composite films of  $WS_2$  and  $Cs_2WO_4$  using sputtering. X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) was used to analyze the composition and chemical states of the coating material before and after annealing at various temperatures. Friction and wear characteristics of these coatings at room and elevated temperatures were evaluated by using a pin-on-plate machine at CSU.

The questions addressed in Phase I include: (a) Can the low friction cesium oxythiotungstate form from a mixed WS<sub>2</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> film as the temperature increases?; (b) How do the composition, chemistry and microstructure of the coating influence the friction and wear behavior?

#### 3.1 EXPERIMENTAL PROCEDURE

#### 3.1.1 Preparation of Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub> Sputter Targets

<u>Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> target</u>: The Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> target was fabricated using standard sinter process at Superconductive Components Inc. (SCI) in Columbus, OH. Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> powders, which was produced by calcining a mixture of Cs<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub> and WO<sub>3</sub>, was first pressed uniaxially in a 2.5 inch die under a pressure of 10,000 lbs. The pressed part was then isostatically pressed at 5000 psi using Ar gas and was sintered for 6 hrs at temperatures between 625-675°C. The target was then machined to a diameter of 2" and thickness 0f 0.125" and bonded to a 2" diameter copper plate using silver epoxy under Ar atmosphere. The  $Cs_2WO_4$  target was found to be very hygroscopic and was stored in vacuum between each operation.

<u>Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub> target</u>: Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub> is not available commercially. Dr. James King of Desilube Inc., who has originally developed the material, has provided some powder for fabricating a sputter target. The Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub> powder was found to decompose on heating above 250°C. No densification was observed below this temperature. In order to fabricate a target with desired strength, about 10 wt% Ag powder was added to Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub> powder. The powder was then thoroughly mixed using an Agate-mortor and then pressed uniaxially using 10,000 lbs in a 2 inch die. The part was then isostatically pressed at 5,000 psi using Ar gas and was then machined to desired dimension (1.9x0.125"). The target was then bonded in a copper cup using silver epoxy under Ar atmosphere. Again, due to its hygroscopic nature, the target was always stored in vacuum.

WS<sub>2</sub> sputter targets are readily available as an in-stock item with a number of vendors.

#### **3.1.2 Coating Deposition**

#### Deposition of $Cs_2WO_4 + WS_2$ coating

Coatings were deposited by co-sputtering of  $Cs_2WO_4$  and  $WS_2$  using two sputter guns simultaneously.  $Cs_2WO_4$  was sputtered by using RF power, while  $WS_2$  was sputtered by using DC power. Pure argon at a flow rate of 25 SCCM was used for sputtering. Argon pressure was maintained at about 10 mTorr during the discharge. Polished Si wafers were used as substrates for XPS analysis. Inconel 718 substrates were used for friction tests. The following power settings were employed to generate samples for XPS analysis and friction tests:

Sample	116A	116 <b>B</b>	T402	T403
Cs <sub>2</sub> WO <sub>4</sub>	150 W	150 W	150 W	150 W
WS <sub>2</sub>	40 W	30 W	70 W	50 W

A -50 V DC bias was used on the substrate for all coatings. The coating thickness was about 0.5  $\mu$ m.

#### Deposition of Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub> Coatings

Coatings of above materials were deposited on Inconel 718 plates using RF sputtering. The substrates were biased to -100V during deposition. Also, bilayer coatings of WS<sub>2</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> were deposited.

### 3.2 Results of XPS analysis

We have used XPS analysis of two films of  $Cs_2WO_4 + WS_2$  on silicon for the determination of their composition and chemical nature. High-resolution scans of powder standards of these materials were analyzed to aid in these determinations. Figure 1(a) and (b) show the survey scans of samples T402 and T403A, respectively. All the elements that are expected to be present are detected together with carbon as an impurity.

From the powder standard, it was determined that W 4f spectra for WS<sub>2</sub> and for Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> show 4f<sub>7/2</sub> peaks at 33.2 eV and at 34.9 eV respectively (Figures 2 and 3). The S 2p peak binding energy for WS<sub>2</sub> is 162.8 eV (Figure 4). The S 2p peak binding energy for both samples T402 and T403A is in good agreement with that of the standard. There is no evidence of SO<sub>3</sub> or SO<sub>4</sub> ions which would have peaks in the range from 166 to 170 eV. The W 4f spectra for both films are well-fitted by two  $4f_{5/2}$ - $4f_{7/2}$  doublets (Figures 5 and 6). The lower binding energy doublet has a  $4f_{7/2}$  peak binding energy of 33.2 eV in agreement with that for WS<sub>2</sub>. The higher binding energy doublet has a  $4f_{7/2}$  peak binding energy of 35.6 eV, which is somewhat higher than that for Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>. This may be due to the presence of some WO<sub>3</sub>, which has a  $4f_{7/2}$  peak binding energy of 35.9 eV.

Table 1 shows the approximate atomic percent surface compositions of the two films. The measured tungsten levels in the standards are lower than expected from the known stoichiometries. This suggests that there may be an error in the sensitivity factor for the W  $4f_{7/2}$  peak. Nevertheless, the results do show that there is proportionately more sulfur and W-S tungsten on sample T402 than on T403B.

The samples T402 and T403B (same run as T403A) were annealed in air at 600°C for 2 hours. The survey XPS scans of these samples are shown in Figures 7(a) and (b). It can be seen that the sulfur peak is absent from both of these scans indicating that sulfur is lost upon annealing. The W 4f scans for both samples show only one  $4f_{5/2}-4f_{7/2}$  doublet due to WO<sub>4</sub> and /or WO<sub>3</sub>. Figure 8 shows the high resolution W 4f scan for the T402 sample. The other W 4f doublet detected previously in the as-deposited sample was for WS<sub>2</sub>. Also, the S 2p spectra of these annealed samples show no peak at ~163 eV due to metal sulfide.

From these XPS results it can be concluded that there has been a loss of sulfur due to annealing. The annealed films are composed of  $Cs_2WO_4$  and, possibly, some  $WO_3$ .

We have heat treated a sample (T403A) in vacuum ( $\sim 10^{-6}$ Torr) at 800°C for about 2 hours. In this case, the substrate was oxidized silicon. Figure 9 shows the survey scans of the sample T403A. All the elements that are expected to be present including sulfur are detected together with carbon as an impurity. The level of sulfur is about the same as that in the as-deposited sample indicating no decomposition of sulfur when heat-treated in vacuum. The S 2p peak binding energy, as shown in the high resolution scan of Figure 10, is similar to that for WS<sub>2</sub>. Figure 11 shows the high resolution scans of W 4f spectrum. In fitting the W 4f spectrum for the present sample, it was necessary to use

three  $4f_{7/2}-4f_{5/2}$  doublets. A comparison of this spectrum with those of WS<sub>2</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>, as shown in the previous report, reveals that peaks 1 and 2 are due to WS<sub>2</sub>, and peaks 3 and 4 are due to Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>. These four peaks also correspond to similar peaks on the asdeposited films. Additionally, in the present film, there is a higher binding energy component (peaks 5 and 6) that has not been observed previously. In order to determine whether these extra peaks correspond to Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub>, we have analyzed the powder sample of this material obtained from Dr. James King.

The sample for XPS analysis was prepared by distributing some of the powder on adhesive tape. The survey scan of the  $Cs_2WOS_3$  powder is shown in Figure 12. In addition to the expected elements, Na is detected as impurity in the sample. Also, there is more oxygen and less sulfur than would be predicted from the expected stoichiometry of this powder. The high-resolution scan of W 4f peak is shown in Figure 13. The W 4f spectrum could be fitted with two  $4f_{7/2}$ - $4f_{5/2}$  doublets. The higher energy doublet (peaks 3 and 4) correspond to the unknown higher binding energy component that was observed in the vacuum heat-treated film (Figure 11). The other W 4f doublet (peaks 1 and 2) are probably due to some  $Cs_2WO_4$  on the surface of the powder.

From these XPS results it can be concluded that there has been a solid phase reaction between  $WS_2$  and  $Cs_2WO_4$ , and the reaction products include  $Cs_2WOS_3$ .

#### **3.3** Friction Tests

Friction tests were performed at the Cleveland State University under the supervision of Dr. Earl Graham. Figure 14 shows the pin-on-plate wear tester used for these tests. It consists of a cabinet fitted with top plate (2), which is reciprocated using a variable speed drive system. The plates, 12 cm x 0.5 cm and 0.3 cm thick, were attached inside the cabinet. The required load was applied on the pin (1) by hanging the weights at the end of the horizontal bar (5) of the force post holding the pin. The pins had a flat end and were 2.6 cm long and 0.63 cm in diameter with a 45° tapered tip. The diameter of the tapered pins at the flat end was 0.25 cm. The contact area of the pins was 0.049  $cm^2$ . The reciprocating motion of the plate resulted in the pin rubbing against the surface of the plate. An average linear velocity of 12.7 cm s<sup>-1</sup> (corresponding to 90 rpm) over a 4 cm long wear track was used. One transducer (3) measured the friction force and the other (7) the pin and plate wear, in terms of the wear depth. This method of measuring wear accounts for both wear of the pin and plate. Separate studies were made in which the weight loss of both the pin and plate were measured. The results from these studies correlated very well with the wear as recorded by the transducer. The transducers were insulated from the metal holders with high temperature tape to insure stable operation when the plate was heated. The transducers were connected to a data acquisition unit which was capable of taking 100 data samples per second. Because of the reciprocating motion, the plate and the pin came to rest at the end of each cycle. The rod impacting on the friction force transducer vibrated vigorously towards the end of the cycles, resulting in erratic data. Therefore, a triggering arrangement was used to prevent the data acquisition near the end of the cycle. Data was inquired only when pin was sliding. The specimen was heated by resistance heating.

As mentioned earlier, coatings were deposited on Inconel 718 plates for the friction tests. Pins were made of cast iron. A load of 1.5 kg was used for these tests in air. Figures 15(a),(b) and (c) show the friction traces for the sample 168-0116A at room temperature (RT), 400°C and 600°C, respectively. The coefficient of friction at RT was about 0.2 for the first 7 minutes and then increased to about 0.5 afterwards. At 400°C, the coefficient of friction started at about 0.4 and then gradually reduced to about 0.2 after about 10 minutes. At 600°C, the coefficient of friction ranged between 0.3 and 0.4 for most of the time except the very beginning when it was somewhat higher.

Figures 16(a), (b) and (c) show the coefficient of friction for the sample 168-0116B at RT, 400°C and 600°C, respectively. The coefficient of friction at RT was lower than 0.2 for this sample; however, at 400°C it was higher,  $\sim$ 0.4. At 600°C, the coefficient of friction was lower,  $\sim$ 0.3, than that at 400°C.

Pure WS<sub>2</sub> films show a friction coefficient ~0.1-0.15 in air at temperatures below 460°C (Figure 17). The friction coefficient of Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> is not available in the literature. In order to properly interpret the data on friction coefficient of WS<sub>2</sub> + Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> at various temperatures, it is necessary to know the friction coefficient of Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> in that temperature range. Therefore, Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> coatings were deposited on Inconel 718 substrates for friction measurements. In addition, we have produced two multilayer films of Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> and Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> + WS<sub>2</sub> for friction measurements. Since sulfur escapes from WS<sub>2</sub> in a Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> + WS<sub>2</sub> film when the film is heated in air at temperatures above 450°C, a multilayer of the mixed film and Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> may prevent a rapid loss of sulfur thus forcing the reaction to form Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub> phase. The layer structure of these films is shown schematically in Figure 18. The total thickness of these films was about 1 µm. The thickness of the individual layers was not measured.

Friction coefficients of films shown schematically in Figure 18 and a single layer of  $Cs_2WO_4$ , all on Inconel 718 substrates were measured at temperatures in the range room temperature to 550°C in room air.

Figures 19a,b,c show the friction coefficient as a function of time for the sample 168-0419A at room temperature, 300°C and 550°C, respectively. Friction coefficients are less than 0.1 at room temperature and at 550°C, but slightly higher than 0.1 at 300°C. The details of the friction trace such as sudden steep rise of the friction coefficient and subsequent fall within the test duration (Figure 19c) are not clear at this time. Figures 20a,b,c show the traces of friction coefficient as a function of time for the sample 168-0419B at room temperature, 300°C and 550°C, respectively. In this case, the friction coefficient at 550°C is higher, ~0.2, as compared to that of the sample 168-0419A. The friction coefficients at lower temperatures are comparable to that of the other sample. More detail analysis is required to elucidate the features observed in the friction traces.

Figures 21a,b,c show the friction coefficient as a function of time for the single layer  $Cs_2WO_4$  at room temperature, 300°C and 530°C, respectively. The friction traces at

room temperature and 300°C are quite smooth and the friction coefficient is low,  $\sim 0.1$ -0.13. At 530°C, the friction coefficient started higher,  $\sim 0.3$ , and then slowly decreased to about 0.13 after 5 minutes. It appears that the friction coefficient may not have reached a steady state. Further investigations of this new material as a solid lubricant is worthwhile.

Figures 22a,b show the friction coefficient as a function of time for the single layer  $Cs_2WOS_3$  at 300°C and 530°C, respectively. The friction coefficient is about 0.3 at 300°C and about 0.25 at 530°C.

#### 4.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The purpose of the present work was to develop a solid lubricant coating that can function over a broad temperature range. The proposed approach was to develop adaptive lubricant coatings from materials that undergo chemical change with increasing temperature by reacting together and with the environment. Specifically, in Phase I, we have studied the feasibility of formation of high temperature lubricant material cesium oxythiotungstate (Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub>) on Inconel 718 surface from a composite coating of cesium tungstate (Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>) and tungsten sulfide (WS<sub>2</sub>) upon exposure at high temperature in air. The hope was that WS<sub>2</sub> would provide low friction up to about 400°C and then react with Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> to form Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub> that can provide lubrication up to about 600°C. The results obtained in Phase I clearly indicate that sulfur escaped from the composite coating upon exposure to temperature above 500°C in air instead of forming the desired higher temperature lubricating compound. However, exposure at higher temperature in vacuum resulted in the formation of the desired phase. Therefore, an adaptive lubricant could not be formed in laboratory air atmosphere as desired thus limiting the potential use of this research. However, there may still be some limited applications such as in space where the applications of  $MoS_2$  and  $WS_2$  are quite prevalent. A composite of one of these sulfides with Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> will promote the formation of cesium oxythiotungstate or molybdate at elevated temperature in space environment.

One interesting result of this research is that  $Cs_2WO_4$  coating demonstrated low friction up to 530°C similar to that of  $Cs_2WOS_3$ . This indicates that the low friction of  $Cs_2WOS_3$  at high temperatures may be due to  $Cs_2WO_4$  that may have formed as a result of decomposition. Further detailed analysis is needed to determine the usefulness of  $Cs_2WO_4$  as a lubricant for applications over a wide temperature range.

In conclusion, the feasibility of formation of an adaptive high temperature lubricant could not be demonstrated in Phase I in air ambient. However, the desired lubricant phase,  $Cs_2WOS_3$ , formed from a composite of  $WS_2$  and  $Cs_2WO_4$  in vacuum environment.

#### 5.0 POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS

High temperature lubricant coatings can be used in metal and ceramic bearings for high temperature applications. Ceramics are being considered for gas turbine engine

applications such as in seals and bearings, variable stator vanes, etc. Gas turbine engines can run at higher temperature and therefore more efficiently if suitable high temperature lubricants are available. The interest in this technology is widespread among all branches of government and industry: Air Force, Army, Navy, NASA, BMDO; and engine manufacturers General Electric, Pratt & Whitney, Allison, Garrett, Teledyne, Textron Lycoming, and Williams.

Solid lubricant coatings are extensively used in spacecraft. Launch vehicles and spacecraft have various release mechanisms that permit the spacecraft to separate from the launch vehicle. Spacecraft also have deployment mechanisms that allow subsystems (e.g., antenna dishes, solar panels), which are often folded during launch to conserve volume, to be opened in orbit. These release or deployment mechanisms require a lubricant to provide low friction (torque) for a low number of cycles. Lack of thermal control may require the lubricant to function in a wide temperature range.

Besides the turbine engine and space applications, advanced high temperature lubricants and systems are needed in the industries such as automotive, metalcutting/forming, high-vacuum equipment, and industrial machinery.

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Table 1

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Approximate Atom % Surface Compositions of Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> / WS<sub>2</sub> thin films and standards, as determined by XPS

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Sample	C	J	•	Cs	S	V	۷
		0-C, -OH,	0-W, 0-S,		S-W	0-W	S-W
T402	42.3	6.7	28.1	6.1	11.9	6.1	3.1
T403A	42.0	9.4	26.4	2.3	9.5	7.5	2.9
WS <sub>2</sub>	54.7	12.1	-		23.6		9.6
Cs <sub>2</sub> WO <sub>4</sub>	59.6		24.9	12.0		3.5	

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Survey XPS scan of sample T403A.



Figure 2 High resolution XPS scan of W 4f peaks from WS<sub>2</sub> powder standard.

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Figure 3

High resolution XPS scan of W 4f peaks from Cs<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub> powder standard.









High resolution XPS scan of W 4f peaks from sample T402.



Figure 6





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Survey XPS scan of sample T402 after heat treatment at 600°C for 2 hours.



Figure 7b Survey XPS scan of sample T403B after heat treatment at 600°C for 2 hours



Figure 8 High resolution XPS scan of W 4f peaks from sample T402 after heat treatment at 600°C for 2 hours.

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Survey XPS scan of vacuum annealed (800°C) film of WS<sub>2</sub> +  $Cs_2WO_4$ .



Figure 10 High resolution XPS scan of S 2p peak from the vacuum annealed  $WS_2 + Cs_2WO_4$  film.



Figure 11 High resolution XPS scan of W 4f peaks from annealed  $WS_2 + Cs_2WO_4$  film.



Figure 12 Survey XPS scan of powder sample of Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub>.



Figure 13 High resolution XPS scan of W 4f peaks from Cs<sub>2</sub>WOS<sub>3</sub>.



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Plot of friction coefficient as a function of time of sample 168-0116A at room temperature. Figure 15a



CS2W04+WS2 On Inconel 718

Plot of friction coefficient as a function of time of sample 168-0116A at 400°C. Figure 15b



CS2WO4+WS2 On Inconel 718

CS<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>+WS<sub>2</sub> on Inconel 718(at room temp.)



Plot of friction coefficient as a function of time of sample 168-0116B at room temperature Figure 16a



CS2W04+WS2 On Inconel 718

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CS2WO4+WS2 On Inconel 718







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168-0419 A



168-0419 B



b





Temperature [ Co ]



CS1W04+WS1





CS<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>+WS<sub>2</sub>



CS1W04+WS2



CS<sub>1</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>+WS<sub>2</sub>



CS2W04+WS2

Coefficient of Friction



CS<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>





C82WO4



CS<sub>2</sub>WO<sub>4</sub>



U.E.S. 79 (No I.ub)



U.E.S. 79 (No Lub)

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