



# Chromium and Cadmium Replacement Options for Advanced Aircraft

**Keith Legg**

**HCAT Program Review, KSC, Nov 2003**

# Report Documentation Page

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# Chrome replacement

# Summary of best options

<b>Technology</b>	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Limitations</b>
<b>Thermal spray (HVOF)</b>	<b>Landing gear, hydraulics, flap tracks</b>	<b>&gt;0.001" thick Not IDs</b>
<b>Electroless Ni (Ni-P, Ni-B)</b>	<b>IDs, other NLOS, TDC alt.</b>	<b>Adhesion, build-up, heat treat</b>
<b>Nano Co-P electroplate</b>	<b>IDs, TDC alt., carrier LG?</b>	<b>Heat treat</b>
<b>PVD</b>	<b>Gun barrel IDs, small components</b>	<b>Cost &lt;0.001" thickness</b>
<b>Plasma spray</b>	<b>IDs &gt;3" (&gt; 1.5" with new gun)</b>	<b>ID &gt;1.5" &gt;0.001" thick</b>

# Niche options

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- ❑ **Ion (Plasma) Nitride**
  - **500°C vacuum heat treat**
  - **Add oxide for corrosion resistance**
- ❑ **Electrocomposites**
  - **Electroplated Ni or Co with hard particles**
- ❑ **Laser cladding**
  - **Weld surfacing (also laser glazing, LSI, etc.)**
- ❑ **Electrospark deposition (alloying)**
  - **Localized repair and build-up**
- ❑ **Explosive cladding**
  - **Wide area bonding – IDs, gun tubes, etc.**



## Data available

**Large quantity of detailed performance data available from HCAT, including rig and flight tests; also commercial flight experience**

# HVOF – available data

work2gether Home Logout Help

rowanweb (Keith Legg)  
Projects and partners  
HCAT  
HARD CHROME ALTERNATIVES TEAM Hard Chrome Alternatives Team  
Reports

Type	Name	Size	Modified	Version
<input type="checkbox"/>	DARPA pre-HCAT project <i>The HCAT program grew out of this evaluation of chrome replacement options. Report includes HVOF, PVD, Laser Cladding, and methods for reducing chrome tank emissions.</i>	2 Ob.	2003/08/01 17:35	
<input type="checkbox"/>	JSF Reports - Rowan <i>Rowan Technology Group Reports for the Joint Strike Fighter IPT</i>	5 Ob.	2003/09/08 14:23	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Landing Gear Reports <i>HCAT and Canadian HCAT reports, including Joint Test Reports, Cost and Performance Reports, Final Program Reports</i>	3 Ob.	2003/11/06 15:52	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Propeller Hub Reports <i>Joint Test Report, Cost and Performance Report, Final Report</i>	1 Ob.	2003/11/14 12:26	

Select all | Unselect all Objects: 4 (1...4) of 4 Page size 100 Page 1 of 1

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Select all   Unselect all				

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# Reports available

## HCAT

- ❑ **Landing Gear**
  - **Joint Test Report**
  - **Cost and Performance Report**
  - **Final Report (NRL report)**
- ❑ **Propeller Hubs**
  - **Joint Test Report**
  - **Cost and Performance Report**
  - **Final Report (NRL report)**
- ❑ **JSF Reports**
  - **HVOF as a Cr replacement**
  - **ID Cr alternatives**
  - **Repair options for Cr and Cd**
- ❑ **Original DARPA Cr options report**

## C-HCAT (Landing Gear folder)

- ❑ **Heroux Devtek**
  - **Fluid compatibility**
  - **Grinding**
  - **NDI**
  - **Stripping**
- ❑ **DND**
  - **Coupon testing**
- ❑ **Messier-Dowty**
  - **F-18 landing gear and drag brace rig tests (available shortly)**
- ❑ **Goodrich (available later)**
  - **Dash-8 rig test**
  - **Bend tests**

**Note: C-HCAT is all WC-CoCr**



# Applications - military

## Qualified

- ❑ **Landing gear components approved for HVOF coating at Hill AFB**
  - A-10 MLG Piston
  - A-10 NLG Piston
  - B-1 MLG Axle
  - C-130 MLG Piston
  - C-141 MLG Bogie Beam
  - C-141 Outer Cylinder
  - C-5 MLG Roll Pin
  - C-5 MLG Ball Screw
  - C-5 MLG Outer Pitch
  - F-15 Drive Keys
  - KC-135 MLG Axles
- ❑ **Messier-Dowty**
  - CF-18 steering covers, piston heads, MLG hexagon repair
- ❑ **F-22 (Raptor)**
  - F-119 engine, convergent nozzle actuators

## Rig and flight test

- ❑ **NADEP-CP, H-S, WR-ALC**
  - EA-6B landing gear (flight)
  - P-3 bomb bay door actuators (flight)
  - E-2C, C-2, P-3, and C-130: prop tailshaft, low pitch stop lever sleeve, rocker land (rig)
- ❑ **Lockheed**
  - P-3 landing gear (rig)
- ❑ **Messier-Dowty**
  - F-18 landing gear (rig)
- ❑ **TF-33 engine, (P&W)**
  - Accelerated Mission Test (AMT)
- ❑ **NAVAIR PAX, Greene Tweed**
  - Hydraulic actuator rig tests

**F-35 – Goodrich  
WC-CoCr baselined for  
piston and axle journals**

# Applications - commercial

## □ Commercial – OEM

- Boeing - >100 spot HVOF uses
- B767-400 HVOF on landing gear (production)
- Airbus 380 spec'd for HVOF WC-CoCr (Goodrich)
- GEAE uses for GTE shafts
- Bombardier flap tracks
- Messier-Dowty installing HVOF for landing gear

## □ Commercial – MRO

- Boeing permits HVOF for repair to 0.010"
- Delta using HVOF landing gear repair in own maintenance shop
  - Similar moves at United and American
- Flap and slat tracks, various aircraft



# Advantages and limitations

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## Advantages

- ❑ **Much better wear resistance**
- ❑ **Lower seal wear (with proper superfinish)**
- ❑ **Takes a good finish (superfinish)**
- ❑ **Little or no fatigue debit**
- ❑ **Dry process, no embrittlement**
- ❑ **Easily stripped**
- ❑ **Widely available**

## Limitations

- ❑ **Spalls at high cyclic bending load (close to yield)**
- ❑ **Spalls with high point or line load**
- ❑ **Coating can corrode (different mechanism)**
- ❑ **Cannot coat IDs**
- ❑ **Substrate heating (must control process)**
- ❑ **Must be done in booth (noise and dust, robotic)**

# Developments needed

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- ❑ **More ductile HVOF coating**
  - **Primarily needed for MRO (thick coatings)**
    - Existing material fine for OEM use
  - **Avoid spalling at high load**
  - **Will almost certainly have worse wear (softer)**
    - But still better than EHC
  - **Use only where high bending or contact stresses**
  - **May be a layered coating with ductile build and brittle overlay**
    - Increased wear rate on breakthrough
- ❑ **Same grinding wheel for steel and HVOF**
  - **Is being done commercially**
  - **Hill AFB tests under way – looks readily doable**

# Summary of HVOF implementation issues

## □ Integrity at high stress

- Issue only for thick overhaul coatings on carrier-based aircraft
- Sensitive to cyclic contact stress
  - Not seen in rig tests but should be watched

## □ Masking

- Can be very personnel-intensive
- Cannot use tapes
- Hard masking needed – have to build up mask inventory

## □ Grinding

- Need  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  wheel for metal but diamond wheel for HVOF carbides
- Machine resetting or different grinding procedures (feeds, speeds, lubricants)
- Recent testing looks good

## □ Corrosion

- EHC does not corrode – substrate corrodes and undercuts coating
- HVOF matrix (Co) can corrode, causing roughening, leakage, but not undercutting
  - Slow increases in leakage rather than catastrophic flaking
  - Seen with one operator's actuators in Europe – probably due to specific fluids or de-icers used only there

## □ Embrittlement relief

- Hydrogen appears to diffuse slower through HVOF – may need longer H bake after Nital etch



## Electroless Ni

**Electroless Ni, being a Ni material, is next against the wall and is on the JSF Restricted Materials List.**

**Consider as an intermediate coating – a lot better than chrome, but likely to need replacement itself pretty soon.**

# Applications

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- ❑ **Wide variety of industrial applications**
- ❑ **Aircraft**
  - **GTE components – P&W uses Ni-B various parts**
    - **Compressor blades (erosion, corrosion)**
  - **Shaft rebuilding**
  - **Flap tracks**
  - **Bearing journals**

# Advantages and limitations

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- ❑ **Advantages**
- ❑ **No electrodes**
- ❑ **No edge build-up**
- ❑ **Thin or thick**
- ❑ **A variety of EN composites available**
  - **SiC**
  - **Diamond**
  - **Teflon**
- ❑ **Limitations**
- ❑ **Adhesion always a concern**
- ❑ **Requires 300-400°C heat treat for max hardness**
- ❑ **Hydrogen evolved during deposition**
  - **Does not seem to cause embrittlement**
- ❑ **Bath must be dumped periodically**



# Data available

- ❑ **Like EHC electroless Ni has been around for so long that little data is available**
  - **Especially need comparison to EHC**
- ❑ **Some data available from vendors**
  - **Concern over reliability, accuracy**
- ❑ **Beware – most data will be for heat treated state, but most airframe usage will be as-deposited**
  - **Wear not as good, corrosion better**
- ❑ **Studies of a number of electroless and electroplated Ni coatings being done by AFRL**
  - **Work ongoing**
  - **Typical hardness 700 – 850 HV**
  - **Good barrier corrosion, but no protection if breached (as with Cr)**
  - **<http://www.materialoptions.com/w2g/cgi/kmcgi.exe?O=DIR0000000H8I&V=0>**
  - **[joseph.kolek@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:joseph.kolek@wpafb.af.mil)**

# Implementation issues

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- ❑ **Reliable adhesion is biggest production issue cited by aerospace users**
- ❑ **Requirement for heat treating for maximum hardness means that for many applications must be used as-deposited**
  - **Significantly lower wear resistance**
  - **Data needed for as-deposited and heat treated state**



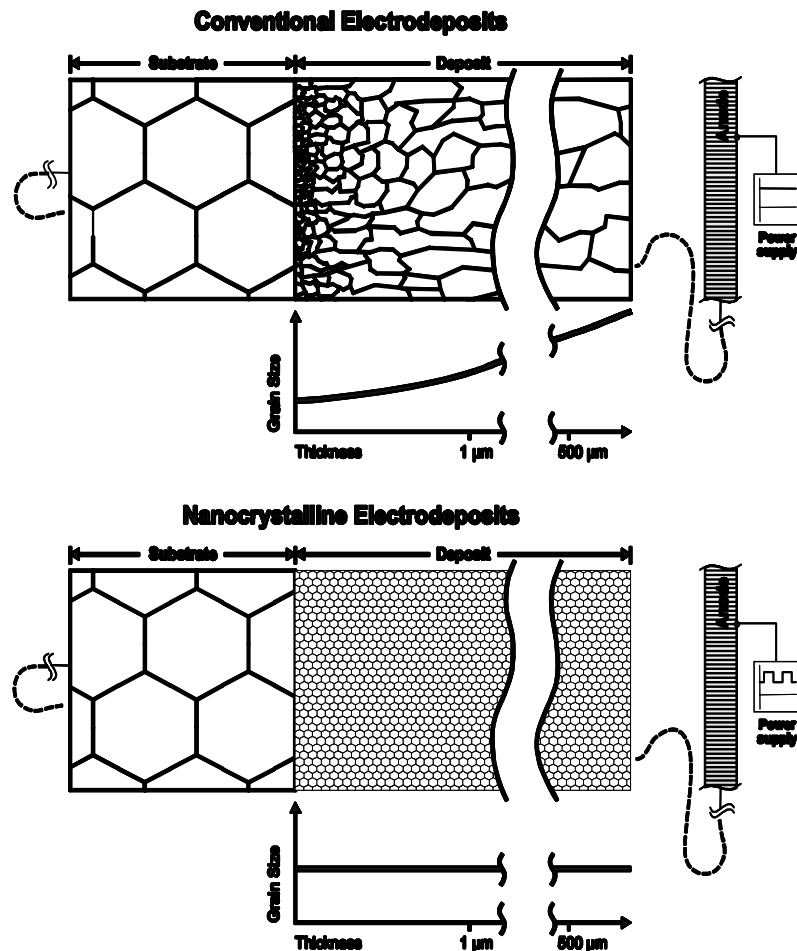
## Nanophase Co-P

**New coating developed by Integran of Toronto,  
Canada**

**SERDP Project #1152, almost completed**

**[http://www.materialoptions.com/w2g/cgi/kmcgi.exe?  
O=GRP000000H8F&V=0](http://www.materialoptions.com/w2g/cgi/kmcgi.exe?O=GRP000000H8F&V=0)**

# Description



**Pulse Plating** favors nucleation of new grains over growth of existing grains, resulting in an ultra-fine grain structure throughout the entire thickness of the coating, right from the substrate interface.

## Typical deposition conditions

2ms pulses

125Hz, 25% duty cycle

2 – 3V, 150mA/cm<sup>2</sup>

# Advantages and limitations

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## Advantages

- ❑ **Drop-in**
  - **Wherever EHC can go Co-P can go**
- ❑ **Better corrosion than EHC**
- ❑ **Little or no embrittlement**
  - **May work for field repair**
- ❑ **Looks usable to replace EHC, TDC, brush Cr**

## Limitations

- ❑ **ESOH**
  - **OSHA pel for Co (8hr TWA) = 0.1 mg(Co)/m<sup>3</sup>**
  - **OSHA pel for metallic Cr (8hr TWA) = 1 mg(Cr)/m<sup>3</sup>**
  - **Co not known carcinogen**
  - **No regs at this time**
- ❑ **Heat treat for best hardness**
- ❑ **Requires pulse power supplies**
  - **Capital cost**



## Data available

**Info at**

**<http://www.materialoptions.com/w2g/cgi/kmcgi.exe?O=GRP0000000H8F&V=0>**

# nCo-P structure

**Nano Co-P alloy** coatings developed under SERDP project PP-1152 as an environmentally-benign replacement for hard Cr coatings for NLOS applications.

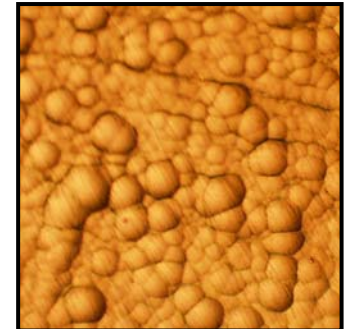
## Synthesis of Nanocrystalline Co-P Alloys

- Electrodeposition parameters modified to yield deposits with average grain sizes below 100nm
- Pulsed Current Deposition
- Plating Efficiency >90%
- Deposition rate 2-8 mills/hr
- Consumable & nonconsumable anode

## Coating Thickness and Integrity of Nano Co 2-3wt%P

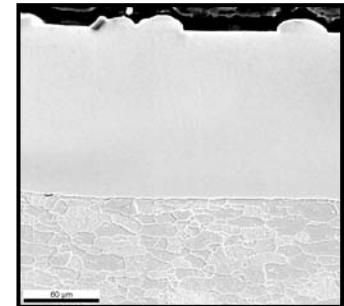
### Surface Morphology

- ▷ Nodular, cauliflower morphology
- ▷ No pits, cracks, pores



### Cross-Section

- ▷ Thickness ~135µm
- ▷ No pits, cracks, pores



# Implementation issues

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- ❑ **ESTCP program approved between HCAT, Lockheed, Curtiss-Wright, Smiths Aero, NADEP JAX, OO-ALC to validate for ID EHC and for TDC replacement**
  - **Will begin January 04**
  - **Primary issues:**
    - **Can it work as a TDC alternative?**
    - **Heat treat requirements to meet TDC requirements**
    - **Embrittlement – is it really non-embrittling?**
    - **Long term bath and process stability in depot environment (processing many different items)**



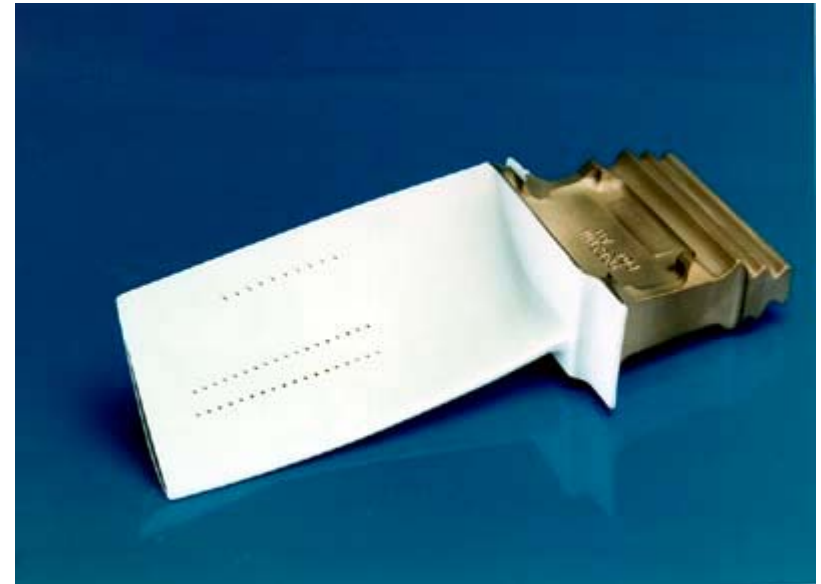


## Physical Vapor Deposition (PVD)

**PVD involves deposition from a solid material source – evaporation, sputtering, arc**

# Applications

- ❑ **Limited applications in aerospace**
- ❑ **Major application is TBCs**
  - E-beam evaporated  $ZrO_2$
- ❑ **Wear resistance**
  - TiN
  - Bearing races and retainers
- ❑ **Blade erosion**
  - MDS Prad coating
- ❑ **Fretting**
  - AlCu
- ❑ **Low friction**
  - Variations of  $MoS_2$



# Advantages and limitations

## Advantages

- ❑ **Very hard, wear resistant**
- ❑ **Reproducible, high quality**
- ❑ **Smooth**
  - **No finishing needed**
- ❑ **Probably good TDC alternative**
- ❑ **Many vendors**
  - **Esp. for TiN, DLC**

## Limitations

- ❑ **Cost**
- ❑ **Thin (typically  $3\mu\text{m}$  –  $0.0001''$ )**
  - **Cannot be used for rebuild**
- ❑ **Lack of specs**
- ❑ **Vacuum requirements**
  - **Size limitations**
  - **Substrate temperature typically  $>250^{\circ}\text{C}$** 
    - **Less reliable at low T**
  - **High cleanliness**
  - **Line of sight**

# Data available

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- ❑ **Large amounts of data available for many PVD coatings**
  - **Most in R&D journals**
  - **Little or no publicly available data for aerospace production use**

# Implementation issues

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- ❑ **Best applications for thin wear- or RCF-resistant items for max life (difficult to strip)**
  - **Items that will not be refurbished**
  - **Pins, gears, bearings**
  - **Niche applications**
- ❑ **Need data on wear and seal performance**
- ❑ **Easy to make components into cutting tools, esp with gears**
- ❑ **ID hard coatings under development**
  - **Marshall Labs, Paradigm Shift Techs**



## **Plasma spray**

**Plasma spray guns can be small and the stand-off distance (gun-substrate) is much less than with HVOF**

# Applications

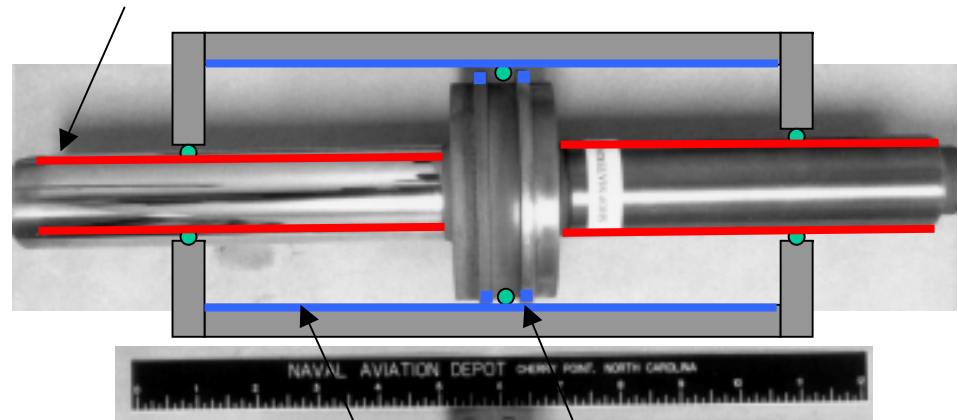
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- ❑ **Already specified for various repairs and build up in GTEs and airframes**
  - **Often used for same-material dimensional restoration**
- ❑ **In general new applications use HVOF rather than plasma spray**
  - **Plasma spray cheaper but quality lower**
- ❑ **Good method for coating IDs**
  - **Most guns only capable of coating >3" ID**
  - **New Sulzer Metco F-300 gun >1.6"**
  - **Makes most sense when already use HVOF for OD, so can do ID and OD with same spray booth, robot, etc.**

# CH-53 helicopter blade damper

- ❑ **Approved for repair**
- ❑ **T400 plasma spray on ID**
- ❑ **Typical actuator coatings:**
  - **Rod – HVOF/D-gun WC-Co, WC-CoCr, WC-CrNi**
  - **Piston – HVOF/D-gun WC-Co, T400**
  - **ID – plasma spray T400**

**HVOF/D-gun  
WC-Co (rod)**



**Plasma spray  
Triballoy 400  
(ID, piston)**



# Advantages and limitations

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## Advantages

- ❑ **Similar to HVOF**
- ❑ **Able to coat inside IDs down to 3" ID for most guns, 1.6" for Sulzer F-300 gun**

## Limitations

- ❑ **Adhesion not as good as HVOF**
  - **3-7 ksi vs >10 ksi**
- ❑ **Lower porosity than HVOF**
  - **10% vs 1 - 2%**
  - **Can allow leak-by in gas-over-fluid systems**
- ❑ **Requires grind, superfinish**
  - **More difficult for ID than OD**



## Data available

**Nowhere near the amount of data available for HVOF. ID coating data available from HCAT ID plasma spray program.**

**[http://www.materialoptions.com/w2g/cgi/kmcgi.exe?  
O=GRP000000GOW&V=0](http://www.materialoptions.com/w2g/cgi/kmcgi.exe?O=GRP000000GOW&V=0)**

# Implementation issues

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- ❑ **May need to be sealed for some hydraulic applications**
- ❑ **Surface finish not well defined – likely to need superfinish**
- ❑ **Design of air sweep to take heat and overspray from ID**
- ❑ **Plunge-grinding specs for OEM pistons**
  - **Coat piston, then plunge-grind seal groove**

# Conclusions on Cr replacement options

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- **HVOF is the method of choice for most ODs**
  - **WC-CoCr** wherever possible for better corrosion resistance
  - **Where stress is too high we will need a more ductile coating**
    - **Maybe nCo-P, electro- or electroless Ni, or similar, trading wear life for coating integrity**
- **For IDs standard HVOF not viable**
  - **Electro- and electroless plating**
    - **Widest applications, including thin dense and flash Cr replacement**
  - **ID plasma spray**
    - **Most cost-effective when using HVOF or other thermal spray for OD**
  - **PVD**
    - **Niche applications because of cost and complexity**
      - ◆ **Could be broadened with reliable vendors, data, specs, especially for TDC replacement**



# Cadmium replacement options

# Usage

## Steel Components

- ❑ The “cure-all” corrosion coating
- ❑ Good salt spray and scribed corrosion protection
- ❑ No hydrogen embrittlement or stress corrosion cracking
- ❑ ODs and IDs
- ❑ Plate steel to protect Al



## Fasteners

- ❑ Correct lubricity (avoid changes to torque-tension specs)
- ❑ No hydrogen embrittlement
- ❑ Retain thread profile

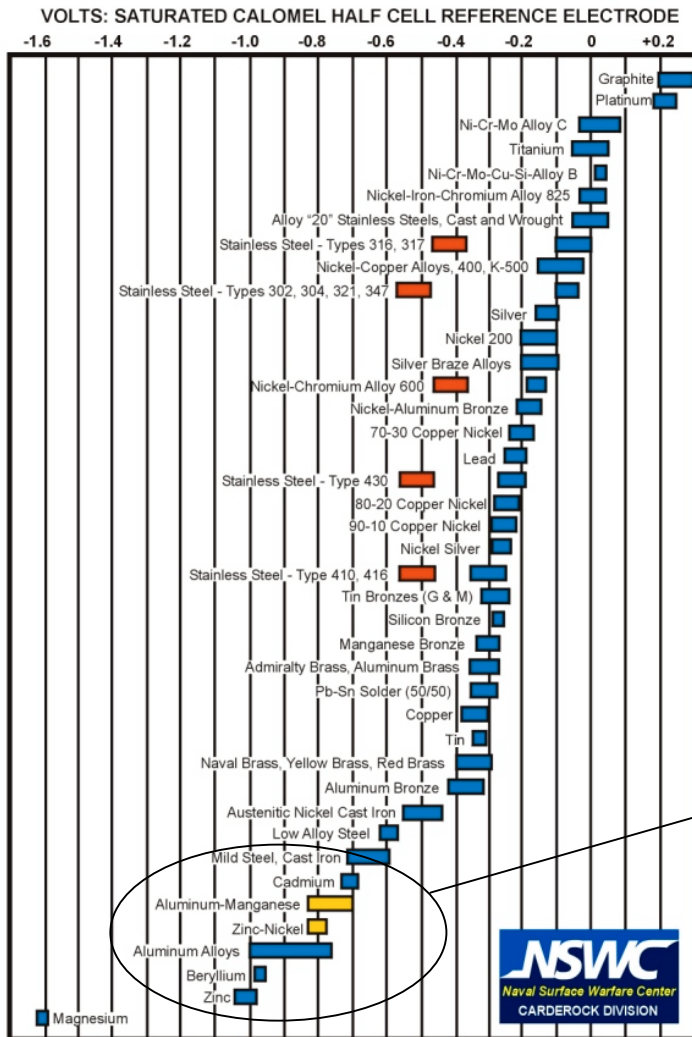


## Connectors

- ❑ For electrical equipment
- ❑ Low contact resistance
- ❑ Non-insulating corrosion products
- ❑ Solderable a plus

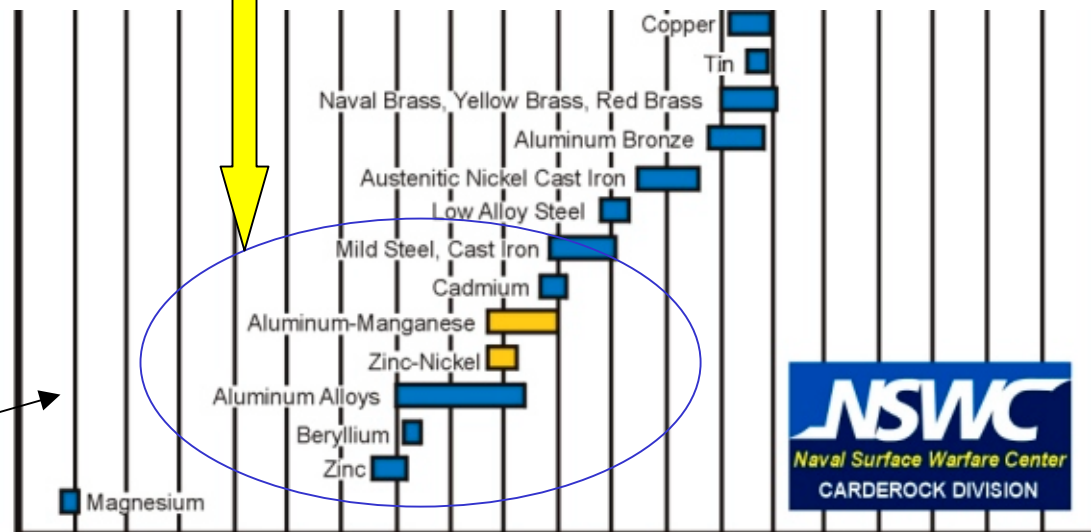


# Galvanic series

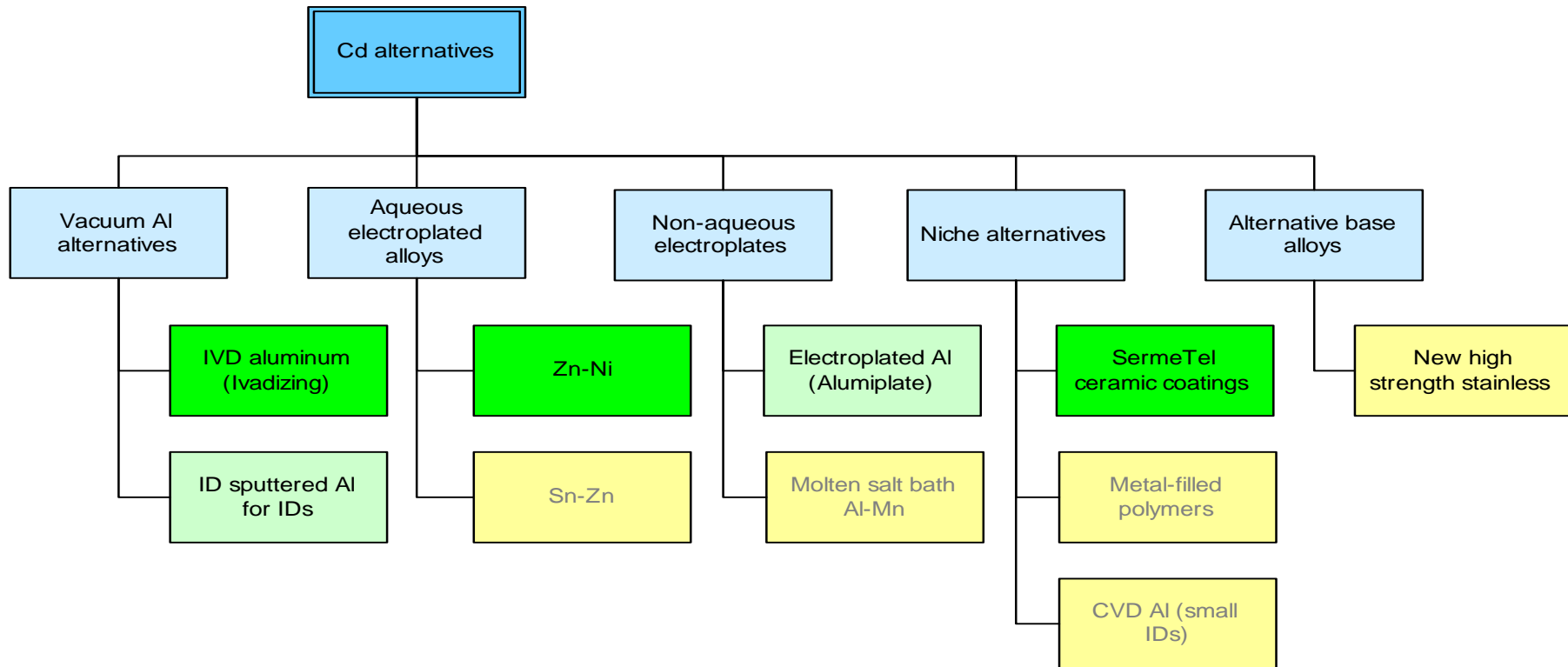


- Al and Al alloys
- Zn-Ni
- Al-Mn
- Zn
- Be!!

**Mother Nature left us short on options!**



# Summary of Cd alternative options



**Al is the only “global” replacement  
Almost everything needs chromate conversion**

**In use**

**In test**

**In development**



# JSF Cd Alternatives Report

- ❑ Requirements
- ❑ Alternatives
  - Zn-Ni, Sn-Zn electroplates
  - Alumiplate
  - Al-Mn molten salt bath
  - IVD and CVD Al
  - Sputtered Al
  - Thermal spray
  - SermeTels
  - Filled polymers
  - High strength stainless steel

<http://www.materialoptions.com/w2g/cgi/kmcgi.exe?O=DIR0000000GK>

*LINKING GLOBAL TECHNOLOGIES WITH MARKETS*

Courtesy U.S. Navy.  
Photo by Photographer's Mate 2nd Class Steven McCoy

## Cadmium Replacement Alternatives for the Joint Strike Fighter

**Report to:**  
William Green  
Geo-Centers

Rowan Project #: 3105JSF3

Contract Number: N00173-98-D-2006, D.O. 0002  
Subcontract Number: GC-3363-99-004  
P.O. Number: 28578MK

Report Number: Final  
Date: December 18, 2000

Author: Keith Legg [klegg@rowantechnology.com](mailto:klegg@rowantechnology.com)

This document is approved by Kathy Crawford for Distribution Statement A - Unlimited Distribution under JSF Case Number JSF01-0138 as of 23 Aug 01

**ROWAN TECHNOLOGY GROUP**  
1590 S. Milwaukee Ave., Suite 205, Libertyville, IL 60048, U.S.A. +1-47-693-9420 • Fax: 847-693-9682  
E-mail: [rowan@rowantechnology.com](mailto:rowan@rowantechnology.com) • [www.rowantechnology.com](http://www.rowantechnology.com)

# Joint Test Report

- **Cd alternatives report for low strength steels (<220 ksi)**
  - **Boeing, JGPP**
  - **Sn-Zn**
  - **Acid Zn-Ni (Boeing)**
  - **Alkaline Zn-Ni**
  - **IVD Al**

<http://www.jgpp.com/projects/cadmium/jtr.html>

<http://www.materialoptions.com/w2g/cgi/kmcgi.exe?O=DIR000000016D&V=0>

Engineering and Technical Services  
for Joint Group on Pollution  
Prevention (JG-PP) Projects

Joint Test Report  
BD-R-1-1

for Validation of  
Alternatives to Electrodeposited  
Cadmium for Corrosion Protection and Threaded  
Part Lubricity Applications

October 1, 2002

Distribution Statement "A" applies.  
Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

Contract No. DAAE30-98-C-1050  
Task No. N.272  
CDRL A006

Prepared by:  
National Defense Center for Environmental Excellence (NDCEE)

Submitted by:  
Concurrent Technologies Corporation (CTC)  
100 CTC Drive  
Johnstown, PA 15904



## **IVD AI**

**Vacuum PVD process**

**Fully qualified and quite widely used by OEMs  
and depots**

**Spec MIL-C-83488 for Al coating does not define  
deposition method**

# Applications

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## □ Military

- **F-4**
- **F-14**
- **F-15**
- **F-16**
- **F-18**
- **AV-8B**
- **A-12**
- **V-22**
- **Apache**

## □ Commercial

- **Boeing 737, 747, 757, 767**
- **McDonnell-Douglas DC9, 10, MD-80, 90, 11**
- **Bombardier Dash 7, 8**
- **Airbus A300, A310**

# Advantages and limitations

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## Advantages

- ❑ **Qualified commercial process**
  - **Commercial coating shops**
  - **IVD-coated fasteners available commercially**
- ❑ **Clean and safe**
- ❑ **Good performance**
- ❑ **No H embrittlement**

## Limitations

- ❑ **Vacuum process**
  - **Expensive**
  - **Awkward**
- ❑ **Poor quality coating as-deposited**
  - **Peen and chromate**
- ❑ **Poor throwing power**
- ❑ **Soft and easily damaged**
  - **Cannot easily be repaired**
- ❑ **Dissolves in alkaline cleaners**
  - **MRO users may have to change cleaning process**



## Data available

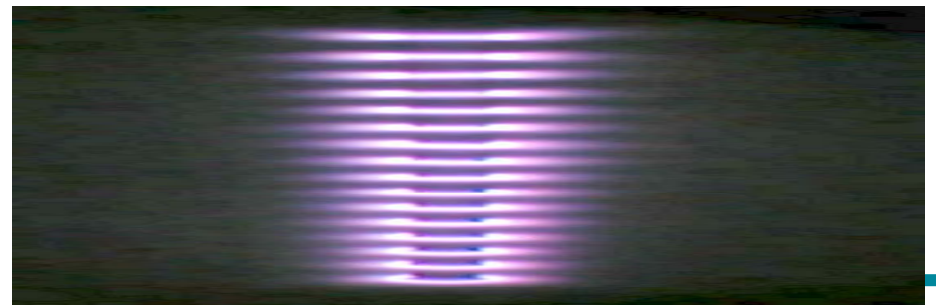
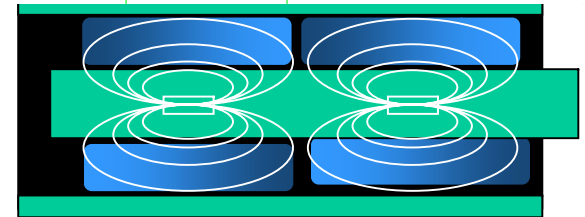
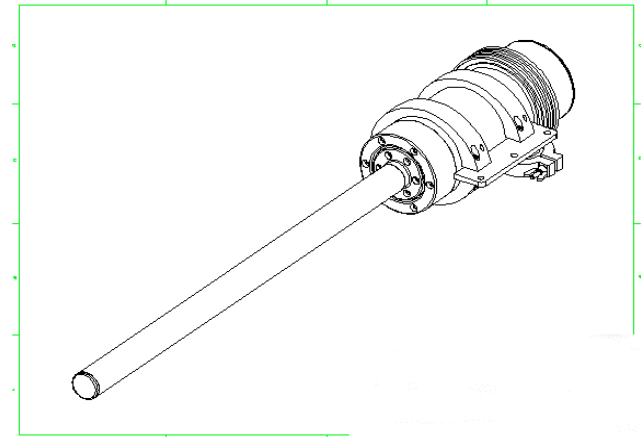
**Data available from Boeing, JGPP report**

**<http://www.jgpp.com/projects/cadmium/jtr.html>**

**<http://www.materialoptions.com/w2g/cgi/kmcgi.exe?O=DIR0000000I6D&V=0>**

# PVD Al for IDs – sputtered Al

- ❑ **Marshall Labs Plug and Coat**
  - Works inside IVD chamber
- ❑ **Makes it possible to coat OD and ID simultaneously Plug & Coat**
  - Add-on to existing IVD chamber
- ❑ **Status**
  - Being installed at Hill AFB
  - Commercially available
  - Meets MIL Spec.
- ❑ **Note: All Al coatings require use of proper aqueous cleaners (avoid alkaline cleaners)**



# Developments needed

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- ❑ **Some additional environmental embrittlement data needed**
- ❑ **Plug and Coat miniaturization needed for smaller IDs**
  - **Under way at Marshall Labs**
- ❑ **Porosity and need for peening always an issue**
  - **Various approaches for better coating quality**
    - **Higher plasma density**
    - **Sputtering instead of IVD**
    - **Pulse biasing**





# Electroplated Al (Alumiplate™)

**Alumiplate, Minneapolis**  
**Deposited from organic solution**

# Alumiplate description

- ❑ **Organic electroplate**
  - **Requires enclosed tank and plating line in inert environment**
    - Similar to vacuum processing but less
  - **Al salts in toluene solution**
  - **Reasonable throwing power**
    - Needs conformal or secondary electrodes for complex shapes, IDs
  - **Frequently uses Ni strike for adhesion**
  - **Recent development uses grit blasting and activation with no Ni strike**
    - Equivalent adhesion
  - **Metallic strike needed for insulators such as composites**
  - **Coating thickness 0.0001 – 0.001"**
    - Usually 0.0003 – 0.0005"
  - **Conversion coat (traditionally chromate) for best corrosion performance (as with all other Cd alternative)**



# Advantages and limitations

## Advantages

- ❑ **“Drop-in” replacement**
- ❑ **Able to coat complex shapes**
- ❑ **Higher quality coating than as-deposited IVD AL**
- ❑ **Suitable for components, connectors, fasteners (with dry lube)**
- ❑ **Directly compatible with Al skins**
- ❑ **Can be anodized for better wear and abrasion**

## Limitations

- ❑ **Size limited**
  - **Landing gear about 3’ long**
  - **Limited by current bath size**
  - **Appears scalable**
- ❑ **Requires dry lube for threads to prevent galling**
- ❑ **Sole source is Alumiplate, Minneapolis**
  - **Willing to license, but no current licensees**
  - **Not yet available in Europe**
- ❑ **High capital cost**
- ❑ **Toluene bath not suitable for DoD depot use**
- ❑ **Cannot brush plate Al repair**
  - **Can brush plate Sn-Zn to repair Al**



## Data available

**A great deal of data becoming available as a result of ongoing JSF and Army testing. Rowan is currently putting together a report on the technology – available by year's end**

# Electrical connectors

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- ❑ **Meets all tests for qualification on connector shells (MIL-DTL-38999K testing)**
  - **Al and C-fiber/PEEK composite**
  - **Corrosion, conductivity stability in salt fog**
  - **Mate/unmate testing (wear, torque, conductivity)**
  - **No insulating corrosion products**
- ❑ **Amphenol has now assigned part numbers for commonly-used AlumiPlated aerospace connectors**

# Other issues

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## □ Repairability

- **Al can be repaired by brush plating Sn-Zn after suitable activation (Boeing)**
- **Can also be repaired with brush-on SermaTel**

## □ Anodizing

- **Can be anodized, leaving Al layer beneath anodize layer**
- **Will improve wear and abrasion, but hard coating on soft underlay not a good high load wear surface**

## □ Any form of Al avoids Cd embrittlement

- **Very bad form of embrittlement**
- **Can occur when aborted takeoff heats brake discs and nearby landing gear components**

# Developments needed

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- ❑ **Non-toluene solution needed for depot use**
  - **Present chemistry cannot be used in depots**
- ❑ **Additional sources for plating service**
- ❑ **Additional embrittlement testing**
- ❑ **Well-defined brush plate or other repair**
  - **Both for OEM and MRO use**

# Other ways to deposit Al

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## ❑ Arc or flame spray

- **Used on some Bombardier aircraft**
- **Thick coating (0.001 – 0.003")**
- **Rough**
- **Al-Zn arc spray used on support equipment, radar towers, bombs**

## ❑ CVD

- **Generally high temperature**
- **Used for cooling passages in hot section blades**
- **AFRL SERDP project approved for FY 04**

## ❑ Slurry Al – developed by Liburdi Engineering

- **High temperature heat treat**
- **For hot section turbine blades (oxidation resistance)**





**SermeTel®**

**Metal-filled ceramics from SermaTech**

# SermeTel

- ❑ Al flakes in ceramic matrix
- ❑ Brush or spray on
- ❑ Older formulations contain Cr<sup>6+</sup>
- ❑ Heat treat 375-700°F
  - Hard, glassy coating
- ❑ Grit blast to uncover Al

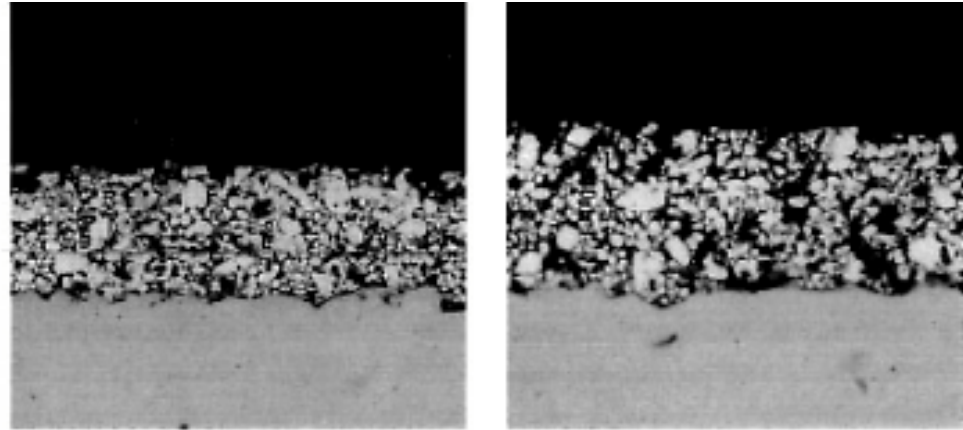


Figure 17. SermeTel aluminum-ceramic coating cross sections 500x. Left chromate-containing coating; right chromium-free coating.

# Applications

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- ❑ **Used in turbine engines**
  - **Cases and discs**
- ❑ **Landing gear in some older aircraft (commercial)**
- ❑ **F-22**
  - **Extensive use of SermeTel coatings on landing gear and other systems**
  - **See Baltimore meeting on Materials Substitution for P2 in Advanced Aircraft (2002)**

# Advantages and limitations

## Advantages

- ❑ **Simple spray or paint**
  - Can be used for repair
- ❑ **Hard coating**
  - Abrasion resistant

## Limitations

- ❑ **Sole source**
  - Licensing to major users only (e.g. Goodrich)
  - Others (inc. depots) must send to SermaTech
  - Very high cost
- ❑ **Requires heat treat**
  - Can be low enough T for HSS
- ❑ **Embrittlement from acids in formulation**
  - When using 984/985 HE on A100 for F-22
  - New formulation, not yet tested or approved
- ❑ **Contains chromates**
  - New non-chromate formulations now available

**Note: There are now some other similar coatings on the market**



**Data available**

**Little publicly available data**



# Zn-Ni electroplate

# Applications

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- ❑ **Boeing uses acid Zn-Ni**
  - **Restricted to UTS < 220 ksi because of embrittlement issues**
- ❑ **Oklahoma City ALC**
  - **Replaced Cd and TiCd with brush Cd, Zn-Ni and IVD in 1991**

# Advantages and limitations

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## Advantages

- ❑ **Aqueous electroplate**
  - **Easier application in open tanks**
- ❑ **Qualified process**
- ❑ **Tank and brush plate**

## Limitations

- ❑ **Alloy chemistry**
  - **Difficult to ensure reproducibility and uniformity, especially on complex shapes**
- ❑ **Embrittlement**





## Data available

**Data available from Boeing, JGPP report**

**<http://www.jgpp.com/projects/cadmium/jtr.html>**

**<http://www.materialoptions.com/w2g/cgi/kmcgi.exe?O=DIR0000000I6D&V=0>**

# Developments needed

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- ❑ **Extension to high strength steels**
  - **New JTP for HSS under way – Boeing, JGPP**
- ❑ **Brush plating**
  - **Is Zn-Ni a good repair for IVD or electroplated Al?**



## High strength stainless steel

**S-53 – new steel developed by QuesTek  
Innovations LLC**

# Advantages and limitations

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## Advantages

- ❑ **No coating to come off**
- ❑ **Eliminates corrosion**
  - **Primary cause of landing gear overhaul and parts condemnation**
- ❑ **Avoids SCC**
  - **Primary mechanism for major landing gear failure**

## Limitations

- ❑ **Cannot be used uncoated against Al**
- ❑ **More expensive than 300M**
  - **A bit less than cost of A100**

# Developments needed

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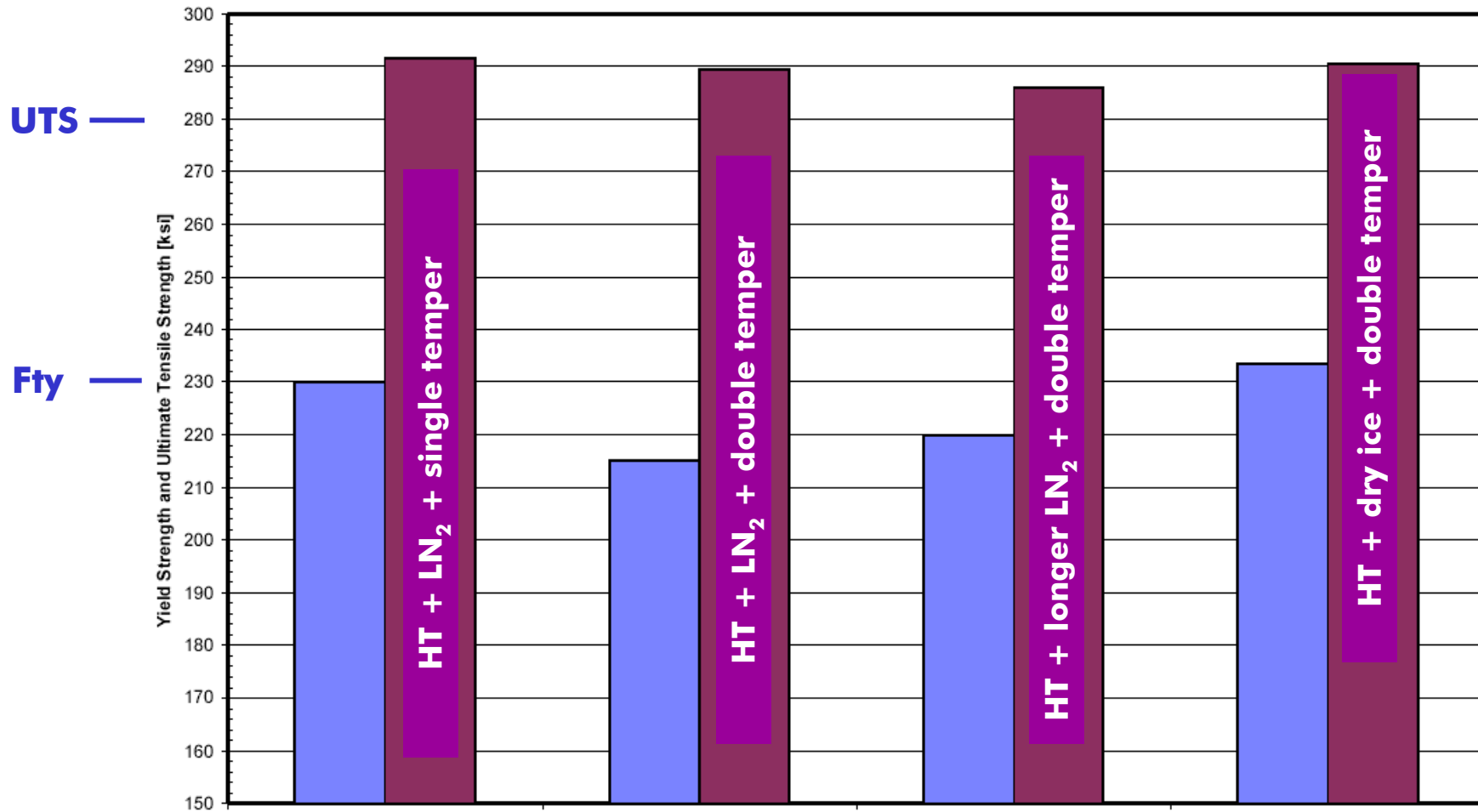
- ❑ **Full validation of properties and performance**
- ❑ **Development of materials database**
- ❑ **Licensing to steel producers so commercially available**
  - **QuesTek's intent is licensing to several steel companies (QuesTek is a steel developer, not a producer)**



## Data available

**Extensive data will become available  
over next 2 years from ESTCP program**

# HSSS properties



# Current status

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- ❑ **Appears to be mechanically equivalent to 300M but much better fracture strength and SCC**
- ❑ **Being tested and validated at Hill AFB**
- ❑ **Work to be complete in 3005**
- ❑ **Will obtain data needed for qualification**
  - **Not MIL Handbook 5 (requires 10 heats at \$300,000/heat)**
  - **Will do three heats to 20,000 lb**
    - **Then use AIM method (Accelerated Insertion of Materials) to interpolate between and extend lab data using modeling data**



# Conclusion on Cd alternatives

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- ❑ **Al is the best overall option, but deposition methods are not straight “drop-in”**
  - **Electroplated Al looking increasingly good for OEMs**
  - **If adopted broadly, what about depot repair?**
    - **Non-toluene electroplate? IVD + sputtering?**
- ❑ **High strength stainless exciting new development**
  - **Will be 2 or 3 years before it is fully qualified at Ogden**
  - **Even then, no MIL Handbook 5 numbers**
  - **Modeling will tell us more about this steel than we know about most others**

