

Special Issue

Precipitating Strengthening, Heat Treatment and Deep Cryogenic Treatment of Steel

Message from the Guest Editors

Precipitation strengthening is one of several mechanisms leading to higher strength in metals. This powerful phase transformation is used in steels to control their properties. Precipitation strengthening is normally induced by heat treatment where diverse thermal processes can be applied. The chapter on heat treatment deals with deep cryogenic treatment, which benefits mainly steel materials after quenching and tempering. Refinement of the kinetic description of precipitation, identification of effects of microstructural features, and environmental impacts on precipitation kinetics, the effect of precipitate morphology on the activation energy of defect nucleation, and confirmation of theories of structural changes during deep cryogenic treatment are just a handful of themes to be addressed. In this Special Issue, we aim to contribute to the entire theory of precipitation in steels to advance the knowledge of heat treatment and deep cryogenic treatment processes. The comprehensive view of the relationships among the treatment process, characterization of fine microstructure, and the final properties of the workpiece should provide another piece in the puzzle.

Guest Editors

Dr. Zbyšek Nový

COMTES FHT a.s., 334 41 Dobruška, Czech Republic

Mr. Jaromír Dlouhý

COMTES FHT a.s., 334 41 Dobruška, Czech Republic

Prof. Dr. Ludmila Kučerová

Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Univerzitní 2732/8, 301 00 Pilsen, Czech Republic

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Editorial Office

MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5

4052 Basel, Switzerland

Tel: +41 61 683 77 34

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Metallic materials play a vital role in the economic life of modern societies; contributions are sought on fresh developments that enhance our understanding of the fundamental aspects related to the relationships between processing, properties and microstructure – disciplines in the metallurgical field ranging from processing, mechanical behavior, phase transitions and microstructural evolution, nanostructures, as well as unique metallic properties – inspire general and scholarly interest among the scientific community.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Yong Zhang

Beijing Advanced Innovation Center of Materials Genome Engineering,
State Key Laboratory for Advanced Metals and Materials, University of
Science and Technology Beijing, 30 Xueyuan Road, Beijing 100083,
China

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