

POWDER METALLURGY PROGRESS IN CHINA

Huang Baiyun

State Key Lab for Powder Metallurgy, Central South University, Changsha 410083, P.R.China

This presentation has overviewed powder metallurgy progress in P.R.China, including the history, the PM industry and state of the art of technical innovations. Powder metallurgy activity in P.R.China can be dated back to 1950's, when the first cemented carbides factory was built up. In recent years, China's powder metallurgy industry has gained much benefit from the high growing rate of China's economy, especially the annual increase of 40% in China's automobile industry. In 2003, China has a shipment of 118,200 tons ferrous powder, and has produced 13,500 tons hardmetals, with 16.3% and 11% increase respectively compared to 2002. Research and education of powder metallurgy in China has been rapidly developed since 1980's. Now advanced technical innovations in powder metallurgy field have been expanded in China, for example warm compaction, powder injection molding, spark plasma sintering and direct metal laser sintering. The status of powder metallurgy in China's high technique programs, especially in the field of advanced materials has become more and more important. Although powder metallurgy in P.R.China is still under development, but its great potential in marketing has drawn more and more attention from both world famous PM industries and domestic investors.