Methods to produce high performance soft magnetic material (Minnealloy) in bulk

Technology #2019-263

Methods to prepare soft magnetic materials with high magnetization and low coercivity.

Applications
- All applications using soft magnetic materials, including hard disks, sensors, motors, generators, transformers, inductors, etc.

Key Benefits & Differentiators
- Industrially relevant, scalable manufacturing methods
- Different pathways to create Minnealloy with different composition and properties
- Optimizable processing parameters to tweak material properties

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Key Material Properties

• Lower achievable anisotropy compared to FINEMET
• Excellent magnetic saturation levels
• Favourable permeability, frequency dependence, and coercivity

High performance soft magnetic material

Prof. Jian-Ping Wang’s group at the University of Minnesota has developed a number of methods to prepare a new soft magnetic material called Minnealloy. Minnealloys are compounds of Fe-Z-N (Z=C,B,O) with attractive soft magnetic properties, such as high saturation flux density, low magnetic anisotropy and low coercivity. These soft magnetic materials have the potential to significantly increase efficiency of energy converters (such as transformers, inductors), lower heat loss, and miniaturize electronic devices. However, broader exploitation has been severely hampered as production of these soft magnetic materials are limited to laboratory scale.

The technology consists of several scalable methods to prepare Minnealloys in bulk to support industrial needs. These fabrication pathways may consist of multiple steps involving conventional manufacturing processes such as arc melting, melt spinning, ball milling, nitriding, annealing, etc. Based on the path and processing parameters chosen, a variety of Minnealloys with composition, and thus properties optimized for different applications can be prepared. Using these methods, for the first time, Dr. Wang’s group has demonstrated bulk synthesis of Minnealloy

• ribbons with specific magnetization >240 emu/g, coercivity <2 Oe, electrical resistivity >1000 μΩ·cm), and
• powders with specific magnetization >220 emu/g, coercivity <2 Oe, electrical resistivity 100 μΩ·cm).

Phase of Development

Proof of concept.

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Ready for Licensing

This technology is now available for license! The University is excited to partner with industry to see this innovation reach its potential. Please contact Larry Micek to share your business’ needs and your licensing interests in this technology. The license is for the sale, manufacture or use of products claimed by the patents.

Inventors

Jian-Ping Wang, PhD
Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering

Bin Ma, PhD
Research Associate Professor, Electrical Engineering

Guannan Guo, PhD
Postdoctoral Associate, Electrical Engineering

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For additional information, contact

Larry Micek
Technology Licensing Officer
exprlic@umn.edu
612-624-9568

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