CLAIMS

1. A method for preparing a metal powder (1) intended for an additive manufacturing process, of the type that involves scanning a bed of powder (2) by a near-infrared laser beam (3), characterized in that the method comprises:

   - an initial step for selecting a powder (1), that has an optical reflectivity of more than 70% for a wavelength ranging between 800 and 1500 nm; then
   - a step for treating said powder (1), which is different from grafting particles, and which induces a physical and/or chemical surface modification of the grains (4) of said powder (1), making it possible to lower its optical reflectivity, at the given wavelength, the grains (4) having, after treatment, a median grain size d50 of between 5 and 50 µm,

   wherein the step of treating excludes treating via oxidation.

2. A method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in the initial step, the powder (1) selected comprises at least support particles (10) of a first material, having a first optical reflectivity at the given wavelength, and in that the treatment step comprises at least partial functionalization of the surface (11) of the support particles (10) of the first material, by diffusion, by germination-growth or by precipitation, without resulting in deposition of nanoparticles, by forming a surface layer (20) of at least one second material having a second optical reflectivity, lower than the first optical reflectivity, thus lowering the optical reflectivity of the powder (1), at the given wavelength.

3. A method according to Claim 1, characterized in that in the initial step, the powder (1) selected comprises at least particles (10) of a first material, having a first optical reflectivity at the given wavelength, and in that the treatment step comprises physical and/or chemical etching causing an increase in the surface roughness of the particles (10), thus lowering the optical reflectivity of the powder (1), at the given wavelength.

4. A method according to Claim 2, characterized in that the treatment step comprises functionalization, after which the powder (1) consists of functionalized particles (10+20) each comprising a support particle (10) of the first material and a surface layer (20) consisting of at least a second material, then a second treatment comprising physical and/or chemical etching causing an increase in the surface roughness of the functionalized particles (10+20), thus lowering the optical reflectivity of the powder (1), at the given wavelength.