

METHOD OF FORMING A THERMAL BARRIER COATING SYSTEM

ABSTRACT

A method for producing a thermal barrier coating system on an article that will be subjected to a hostile environment. The thermal barrier coating system is composed of a metallic bond coat and a ceramic thermal barrier coating having a columnar grain structure. The method generally entails forming the bond coat on the surface of a component, and then grit blasting the bond coat with an abrasive media having a particle size of greater than 80 mesh. The component is then supported within a coating chamber containing an ingot of the desired ceramic material. An absolute pressure of greater than 0.010 mbar is established within the chamber with an oxygen-containing gas having an oxygen partial pressure of at least 0.006 mbar. Thereafter, the ceramic material is vaporized with an electron beam such that the vapor deposits on the surface of the component to form a layer of the ceramic material on the surface. According to the invention, the above process steps and parameters significantly improve spallation resistance of the coating system.

Figure 1

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