

METHOD OF REMOVING A THERMAL BARRIER COATING

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of removing a ceramic coating (18), such as a thermal barrier coating (TBC) of yttria-stabilized zirconia (YSZ), from the surface of a component (10), such as a gas turbine engine component (10). The method generally entails subjecting the ceramic coating (18) to an aqueous solution of ammonium bifluoride, optionally containing a wetting agent, such as by immersing the component (10) in the solution while maintained at an elevated temperature. Using the method of the invention, a ceramic coating (18) can be completely removed from the component (10) and any cooling holes, with essentially no degradation of the bond coat (16).

Figure 1.