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MSP-REFRAM-improving the valorization of the refractory metal resources in Europe

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Refractory metals (tungsten, tantalum, rhenium, molybdenum and niobium) are highly strategic metals which are today mainly limported from few countries. However, resources exist in Europe, as primary resources but mainly as secondary resources through recycling. Valorizing these resources requires coordination and networking between researchers, entrepreneurs and public authorities to harmonise technologies, processes and services, develop standards, create new potential for export of eco-innovative solutions and for seizing new markets. By creating a multi-stakeholder platform that draws the current refractory metals value chains and identifies its innovation potential, MSP-REFRAM supports the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials. Coming from industry, research, public sectors and civil society, both Consortium Members and External Experts have joined forces with expertise covering the whole value chain including mining, processing, recycling and application. The outputs of MSP-REFRAM will help Europe improve the supply value chain of refractory metals in the coming years, optimising the use of external resources as energy and water and at the same time reducing the amount and the toxicity of waste. MSP-REFRAM will share its conclusions widely and efficiently, in a long lasting way thanks to the support of the PROMETIA association. To ensure the systemic change, the outcomes of the project will be made available to the stake holders and to the public through different tools and reports. This paper presents the organisation of the project as well as the first results obtained after the first technical workhoop.

Biography

Stéphane Bourg is a Engineer from Ecole Supérieure de Physique et Chimie Industrielles and Doctor in Chemistry, Stéphane Bourg joined the CEA in 1999 as Research Engineer for developping materials dedicated to liquid effluent decontamination. In the years 2000, he was involved in pyrometallurgical process development. Since 2008, he is Project Manager, In-charge of European collaborations. In parallel, he is involved in process simulation and life cycle assessment studies linked to the sustainability of energy mixes. Since 2014, he is the Chairman of the PROMETIA association, promoting mineral processing and extractive metallurgy. Since January 2015, he is also the Coordinator of MSP-REFRAM.

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