

# NEWS

The following information is true and accurate at the time of publication

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## **Fujimi Successfully Develops New Thermal Spraying Material, SURPREX-W2010X -- The new Cermet composite material excels not only in preventing wear and corrosion but also in durability and impact resistance --**

Aichi (Japan), January 29, 2001 -- Fujimi Inc. (president: Akira Koshiyama), a leading manufacturer of precision abrasives and polishing compounds, announced today that the company has succeeded in the development of a new thermal spraying<sup>(\*1)</sup> material, called SURPREX-W2010X, which consists of Cermet<sup>(\*2)</sup> composite powders of a WC (tungsten carbide)-based special alloy. Thermal spray coating using the new Cermet composite material will be substantially more resistant to impact and more durable than other currently available Cermet materials, the use of which is limited because of their weak impact resistance.

Retaining Cermet's superb characteristics of preventing wear and corrosion, the new SURPREX-W2010X attains high levels of impact resistance and high degrees of adhesion to substrate surfaces, ideal for use in high-velocity flame spraying (HVOF/ HVOF<sup>(\*3)</sup>). According to the company's internal studies, thermal spray coating with the new Cermet composite will be three to eight times more resistant to impact compared to other currently available Cermet materials.

Fujimi's new Cermet material is a significant addition to the company's "powder technology" product lineup. Fujimi expects that due to its high level of impact resistance, SURPREX-W2010X will find wider use in HVOF/HVOF thermal spraying processes used to manufacture high-tensile rollers and large-scale screws as well as such industrial and construction machinery components as excavating tools, shovels, and watermills for hydropower plants. In addition, the thermal spraying technology using Cermet materials will be a welcome alternative to chrome plating technology, which causes serious environmental problems with hexavalent chrome emission and waste water.

Fujimi plans to start the commercial shipment of SURPREX-W2010X in February, 2001. The company estimates its sales at 15 million yen during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2002, and aims to double and triple sales in each of the following several years.

### [NOTES]

#### 1) Thermal spraying

A set of coating machining technologies that heat powder materials made up of metals and/or ceramics and spray them on substrate surfaces by using gas, electricity, or other energy sources.

#### 2) Cermet (Ceramics and metals)

A general term for composite materials that consist of ceramics and metals.

#### 3) HVOF/ HVOF (High-Velocity Oxy-Fuel spraying / High-Velocity Air-Fuel spraying)

HVOF: High-velocity spraying techniques using combustion energies based on gas or kerosene and oxygen.

HVOF: High-velocity spraying techniques employing air jets.

(translated)

**About Fujimi**

Fujimi Inc. (OTC: 5384), founded in 1950, is Japan's first manufacturer of synthetic precision abrasives and a leading supplier of lapping abrasives and polishing compounds. In the field of silicon wafer lapping abrasives, the company boasts a dominant worldwide market share of 90 percent. It had consolidated revenues of 22,397 million yen (\$211 million\*) in the fiscal year ending March 31, 2000. Capitalizing on its accumulated proprietary manufacturing technologies and research and development capabilities, Fujimi offers high-quality precision polishing abrasives for an array of electronics and high-tech industries.

Fujimi on the Web: <http://www.fujimiinc.co.jp>

\*Approximate exchange rate of 106.15=US\$1 as of March 31, 2000.