

HICoat® XTR – extreme temperature resistant thermal barrier coating



F-class turbines have firing temperatures much higher than previous generations of industrial gas turbines. Thermal Barrier Coatings (TBC) are required to protect the superalloy gas turbine components from these temperatures. TBCs lower the temperature of the substrate material by creating a thermal barrier from the gases in the turbine.

The zirconia used in TBCs has a very low thermal conductivity relative to the substrate material. The exact temperature gradient between the gas and substrate temperature below TBCs depends on the cooling air flow. It is estimated that 0.015" of TBCs can reduce substrate temperatures by over 150°F.



However, typical TBCs have proven insufficient for service in F-class turbines due to the high operating temperature and thermal expansion strain created by these temperatures.

HICoat® extreme temperature resistant (XTR) TBC coating is a modified Air Plasma Spray (APS) application designed to handle the extreme temperature and provide thermal protection in this environment. XTR coating is designed for 1st and 2nd stage turbine buckets or blades for F-class gas turbine components and can also be applied to single partition vanes.

XTR TBC is created by using a high enthalpy plasma torch that has an enthalpy output of more than double conventional plasma spraying equipment.

7FA 1st stage bucket after service



The Sulzer plus

- High performance TBC
- Extreme temperature resitant
- Ideal for F-class gas turbines

High temperature polymer wicking

The powder used to create XTR is manufactured differently than typical Yttria-Stabilized Zirconia (YSZ) powders. The resulting TBC is resistant to thermal shock and suitable for service in F-class gas turbine.

XTR utilizes a diffused HVOF MCrAlY bond coat. A high temp polymer is used to mask cooling holes during the coating process. After coating, diamond impregnated sanding discs are used to improve surface finish. XTRin is a version without the HVOF bond coat and can be used for GE 7FA combustion hardware.

XTR process

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|-------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Bond coat | Powder | MCrAIY |
| | Process | HVOF |
| | Thickness | 0.004" - 0.006" |
| Intermediate coat | Powder | MCrAIY |
| | Process | Air plasma spray |
| | Thickness | 0.0005" - 0.002" |
| Top coat | Powder | ZrO2-7Y2O3 |
| | Process | Air plasma spray |
| | Thickness | 0.008" - 0.015" |



Typical coupon placement used for qualifications





XTR coated 1st stage bucket

XTR coated 2nd stage bucket

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