

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## The Anders Gustaf Ekeberg Tantalum Prize 2021 has been won by an international team analysing the cutting of tantalum

Brussels, Belgium, September 16th 2021

### The Ekeberg Prize: Recognising excellence in tantalum research and innovation

A US-Japanese team led by Dr Jason M. Davis of the Center for Materials Processing and Tribology at Purdue University, IN, USA, has won the 2021 Anders Gustaf Ekeberg Tantalum Prize ('Ekeberg Prize') for its paper "Cutting of tantalum: Why it is so difficult and what can be done about it" published in the journal *International Journal of Machine Tools and Manufacture*.

The Ekeberg Prize is awarded annually for excellence in research and innovation of the element tantalum (Ta) and is sponsored by the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.), the global trade body representing the tantalum and niobium industry. Announcing the winner, the independent judging panel led by Dr Axel Hoppe stated that cutting tantalum was a subject which had interested metallurgists for decades and the research results offer important new considerations on the topic.

The Ekeberg Prize medal, manufactured from pure tantalum metal by the Kazakhstan Mint, is awarded during the T.I.C.'s annual General Assembly, which this year will be held in London, UK, from November 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. Full details are available at <https://www.tanb.org/event-view/62nd-general-assembly>.

On receiving the Ekeberg Prize, Dr Davis said "We are honoured and humbled that the publication was chosen for the award". The T.I.C. congratulates all entrants whose papers challenge the boundaries of knowledge regarding tantalum, and may well lead to significant breakthroughs into exciting new applications of the element.

The authors of the winning paper are Dr Jason M. Davis, Dr Mojib Saei, Debapriya Pinaki Mohanty, Dr Anirudh Udupa, Dr Tatsuya Sugihara, and Dr Srinivasan Chandrasekar. The team mostly work at the Center for Materials Processing and Tribology at Purdue University, IN, USA, while Dr Tatsuya Sugihara is based at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Osaka University, Japan. Dr Davis also works at the US Special Warfare and Expeditionary Systems Department, Naval Surface Warfare Center in Crane, IN, USA.

The winning paper will be reprinted in the T.I.C.'s journal, the Bulletin, in October.

More information regarding the Ekeberg Prize, the T.I.C., and current market-related activities by the T.I.C. is available at <https://www.tanb.org>.

#### Contact:

Roland Chavasse, Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.)  
Office Tel.: +32 2 649 51 58; [info@tanb.org](mailto:info@tanb.org); <https://www.TaNb.org>

[END]

### About the Ekeberg Prize

The Ekeberg Prize is the annual award that recognizes excellence in published research about the element tantalum (Ta). The long-term future of the tantalum market will depend on technology-driven innovations and a new prize dedicated to this rare and critical element will encourage research and development. The Ekeberg Prize increases awareness of the many unique properties of tantalum products and the applications in which they excel.

The Prize has been named after Anders Gustaf Ekeberg, who discovered tantalum in 1802. The prize is sponsored by the Tantalum - Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.) and is central to its efforts to publicise the many exceptional benefits afforded by this element. Roland Chavasse, Executive Marketing Manager of the T.I.C., said "Winners of the Anders Gustaf Ekeberg Tantalum Prize are acknowledged as true leaders in this field." Further information is available at <https://www.tanb.org/view/prize>.

### About the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.)

Since its inception the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C. or the Association) has grown and developed to encompass the changing nature of the tantalum and niobium industries and will continue in the same spirit in facing future challenges. After initially focusing on just tantalum, in 1986 niobium joined the association and today our membership represents every aspect of the global tantalum and niobium industries.

The Association:

- An international, non-profit association founded in 1974 under Belgian law.
- Around 90 member companies from over 30 countries involved with all aspects of the tantalum and niobium industry supply chain (including mining, trading, processing, recycling, metal fabrication, capacitor manufacturing, medical...).
- The Association is run by its Executive Committee. This Committee reflects the range of activities of the members and covers the geographic spread of the membership, too. Presidents have been drawn from all sectors of the industry and from many parts of the world. Elections are held annually.

Objectives:

- Increase awareness and promote the remarkable properties of tantalum and niobium in all their forms.
- Disseminate information on any matter affecting that industry, excluding price and related information and any other proprietary information.
- Address major issues and challenges facing its industry such as conflict minerals legislation, artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), and the transport of naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM).
- Organize a General Assembly of the membership in September or October each year for business and technical presentations. Typically, this includes a field trip to a member company or associated industrial facility.
- Publish a quarterly Bulletin newsletter containing interesting and informative articles about the T.I.C. and the global tantalum and niobium industries.
- Collect statistics from member companies (via an independent company to ensure confidentiality) on tantalum and niobium production, shipments and consumption. Participating members receive quarterly statistics updates.

Contact:

Roland Chavasse, Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.)  
Office Tel.: +32 2 649 51 58; [info@tanb.org](mailto:info@tanb.org); <https://www.TaNb.org>