Nanocomposites and Nanomaterials

Nanocomposite SAC solders: structure and electrical conductivity of the liquid Sn-3.0Ag-0.5Cu solder with Ni nanoadditions

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Nanocomposite Sn-Ag-Cu (SAC) solders reinforced with different metal nanoparticles, such as Co, Ni, etc., have become particularly attractive nowadays both in advanced materials science and in industry due to the significant impact of the minor metal nanoinclusions on the microstructure and various properties of the SAC solders [1,2].

The present study reports the structure and the electrical conductivity behaviour of the Sn3.0Ag0.5Cu (SAC305) alloys with minor additions of Ni nanoparticles (NPs) up to 2 wt.%. For this purpose, commercial Ni nanoparticles were used. The nanocomposite samples were prepared by manual mixing of the lead-free SAC305 solder powder with different amounts of Ni NPs followed by cold pressing.

The structure analysis in the melting-solidification temperature range showed transformations in the investigated alloys, caused by dissolution of the Ni nanoadditions in the liquid Sn-based matrix. Furthermore, the electrical conductivity measurements indicated also a hysteresis between the heating and cooling curves.

Financial support for this study came from the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) under Project Nos. P 26304 and P 27049 and Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine under Project FL-29F.

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