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## Thermoelectric Half Heusler phases to harvest waste heat

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Thermoelectric materials have the ability to convert a heat flow into an electrical charge carrier flow (energy flow). TiNiSn-based thermoelectric half-Heusler phases (noncentrosymmetric, cubic MgAgAs-type) have proven to be excellent thermoelectrics. The large-scale production and particularly nanostructuring of materials by preferably system-inherent phases need a profound knowledge not only of isothermal phase relations, temperature dependent solubilities but also of the solidification behavior.

The present paper covers a detailed experimental investigation of the constitution of the [Ti,Zr]-Ni-Sn systems including a liquidus projection and a Scheil diagram, as well as a CALPHAD calculation of the entire constitution diagrams. For the binary systems TiNiSn-ZrNiSn and TiNiSn-HfNiSn, thermodynamic spinodal/binodal curves have been determined from solubility data and DFT calculations. With the relevant elastic moduli also the corresponding critical points of coherent spinodal demixing were calculated.

From a series of compounds  $\text{Ti}_{1-x-y}\text{Zr}_x\text{Hf}_y\text{NiSn}$  and respective Sn/Sb substituted alloys the thermoelectric behavior was characterized in the temperature range from 4.2 to 875 K. Due to a particularly low thermal conductivity at a high Seebeck coefficient, Hf-containing n-type alloy reached a figure of merit  $ZT = 1.5$  at 850 K whereas for Hf-free, n-type  $\text{Ti}_{0.5}\text{Zr}_{0.5}\text{NiSn}_{0.98}\text{Sb}_{0.02}$  a  $ZT \sim 1.2$  at 850 K was found yielding an thermoelectric leg-efficiency of  $\eta \sim 11$

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