

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....III

KURZFASSUNG V

ABSTRACT IX

Table of Contents xiii

NOMENCLATURE.....XVII

CHAPTER ONE (Introduction) 1

 1.1. Background Information 1

 1.2. Research Objectives 3

CHAPTER TWO (Literature Review) 7

 2.1. Fundamentals of Mg and Mg-Al-Ca alloys..... 7

 2.1.1. Classification and manufacturing 8

 2.1.2. Microstructure 9

 2.1.3. Mechanical properties..... 12

 2.2. Surface layer formation on Mg and Mg-Al-Ca alloys 14

xiii

Table of Contents

2.2.1. Native oxide 14

2.2.2. Surface layers in the active state 16

2.2.3. Surface layers in the passive state 17

2.3. Electrochemical corrosion of Mg and Mg-Al-Ca alloys 18

2.3.1. Thermodynamics 18

2.3.2. Kinetics 23

2.3.3. Effect of secondary phases 28

CHAPTER THREE (Publications) 33

3.1. Overview 33

3.2. The effect of time dependent native oxide surface conditions on the electrochemical corrosion resistance of Mg and Mg-Al-Ca alloys 35

3.2.1. Abstract 36

3.2.2. Introduction 37

3.2.3. Material and methods 40

3.2.4. Results 44

3.2.5. Discussion 65

3.2.6. Conclusion 69

3.2.7. References 71

3.3. Contribution of the oxygen reduction reaction to the electrochemical cathodic partial reaction for Mg-Al-Ca solid solutions 80

3.3.1. Abstract 81

3.3.2. Introduction 82

3.3.3. Material and methods 84

3.3.4. Results and discussion 86

3.3.5. Conclusion 90

3.3.6. References.....	92
3.4. The effect of Al on the corrosion resistance of binary Mg-Al solid solutions: combining in-situ electrochemistry with combinatorial thin films.....	96
3.4.1. Abstract.....	97
3.4.2. Introduction	98
3.4.3. Material and methods	99
3.4.4. Results and discussion	101
3.4.5. Conclusion	106
3.4.6. References.....	108
3.5. Laves phases in Mg-Al-Ca alloys and their effect on mechanical properties	110
3.5.1. Abstract.....	112
3.5.2. Introduction	113
3.5.3. Experimental.....	114
3.5.4. Results.....	117
3.5.5. Modelling and Discussion	126
3.5.6. Conclusions	133
3.5.7. References.....	135
3.6. The effect of Laves phases and nano-precipitates on the electrochemical cor- rosion resistance of Mg-Al-Ca alloys under alkaline conditions.....	140
3.6.1. Abstract.....	142
3.6.2. Introduction	142
3.6.3. Material and methods	145
3.6.4. Results.....	148
3.6.5. Discussion.....	165
3.6.6. Conclusion	168

Table of Contents

3.6.7. References..... 169

CHAPTER FOUR (Discussion) 179

4.1. Native Oxide (Research Objective 1) 179

4.2. Structure and Effects of Passive Layers (Research Objective 2) 182

4.3. Micro-Galvanic of Laves Phases (Research Objective 3)..... 187

CHAPTER FIVE (Conclusion and Outlook) 191

5.1. Conclusion..... 191

5.2. Outlook 194

REFERENCES 197

LIST OF FIGURES 217

LIST OF TABLES 223

APPENDIX 227

CURRICULUM VITAE..... 229

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS 231