

## Carbide production

Carbide production at CERATIZIT started in 1929. Last but not least, thanks to long-standing experience CERATIZIT handles the entire process chain, from the raw material to the dispatching of the finished products to customers. The production process of powder-metallurgical products basically includes the four steps of powder preparation, forming, sintering and finishing.

## Tungsten carbide production

The APT (ammonium para-tungstate) is calcined into tungsten oxide under high temperature. Subsequently the oxide is reduced to tungsten metal in a hydrogen atmosphere. The metal powder is then mixed with carbon and carburised under inert atmosphere at high temperatures. The production parameters are decisive for the WC grain size in the sintered carbide.

## Powder preparation

The tungsten carbide is intensely mixed with the binder metal cobalt, nickel or iron, various grain growth inhibitors and materials, which promote compaction, by wet grinding so that a homogeneous suspension is created. Afterwards, the suspension is dried in a spray tower to produce a granulate with good flow characteristics. This granulate represents the basis for all forming processes.

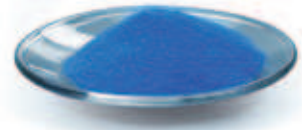
APT (ammonium para-tungstate)



Yellow tungsten oxide



Blue tungsten oxide



Tungsten



Tungsten carbide

