

Damon Panahi | Senior Associate



EDUCATION

- Qazvin International University
 - Bachelor of Engineering, Industrial Metallurgy, 2003
- Iran University of Science and Technology
 - Master of Applied Science, Design and Selection of Engineering Materials, 2006
- McMaster University
 - Master of Science, Materials Science and Engineering, 2009
 - Doctor of Philosophy, Materials Science and Engineering, 2013
- Northwestern University
 - Master of Science, Data Science, 2020

PRACTICE AREAS

- Rail Components and Track Work
- Process Industries/Refinery
- Civil Infrastructure
- Power Industry
- Metallurgical Evaluations
- Material Characterization
- Failure/Damage Investigations
- Fitness for Service

CONTACT

dpanahi@wje.com
 847.272.7400
 www.wje.com

EXPERIENCE

Dr. Damon Panahi specializes in materials science, with specific expertise in physical metallurgy, material characterization, and microstructural-property relationships of metals. He has extensive experience in product development, industrialization, process optimization, and failure mode and effects analysis (process and design FMEA) of engineering materials.

Dr. Panahi also has experience in engineered component compliance with relevant specifications, codes, standards, regulations, and fitness for service. He has applied his expertise to all types of materials investigations in different industries such as automotive structures, building structures, bridges, locomotive components, power generation, and oil and gas pipes.

Dr. Panahi's project work includes conducting failure investigations, root cause analyses, and risk assessments for clients in the steel manufacturing industry, power generation, oil and gas, aviation, and consumer products safety industries. He led multiple projects on the design and industrialization of advanced high-strength steels for the automotive industry. Dr. Panahi's focus areas were fundamental metallurgical investigations into the processing-microstructure-property relationship of complex steel chemistries to improve cold formability, surface quality, weldability, and robustness of new high-strength steels for automotive structural components. Under his leadership, several third-generation steels were developed for major automotive manufacturers through collaboration with different steel production facilities worldwide. Dr. Panahi's fundamental research led to the development of an atomistic, physically-based model for accurately predicting the transformation of austenite to ferrite in steels.

As a domain expert in materials science, he uses his data science knowledge to bridge the two disciplines and accelerate new material development, optimization, and characterization processes through data

management, and machine learning techniques. Dr. Panahi is the author of several US and international patents, book chapters, and peer-reviewed journal papers. He has delivered presentations at international conferences and instructed undergraduate courses related to metal forming and phase transformations.

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

Rail Components and Track Work

- Locomotive Wheels: Derailment analysis and metallurgical assessment of fractured wheels *

Process Industries/Refinery

- Steel Manufacturing: Design and industrialization of advanced high-strength steels for automotive applications *
- Steel Manufacturing: Failure analysis and metallurgical assessment of fractured components in casting facility *
- Oil and Gas: Supporting litigation regarding mercury contamination and damage in subsurface oil transportation lines from offshore facilities *

Civil Infrastructure

- Assessment of hail damage in rooftop steel structures *

Power Industry

- Hydro-Turbine Facility: Supporting litigation through damage assessment, metallurgical analysis, corrosion analysis, and material degradation evaluation of various components; evaluation of materials and manufacturing methods compliance with relevant specifications, codes, standards, and regulations *

** Indicates with previous firms*