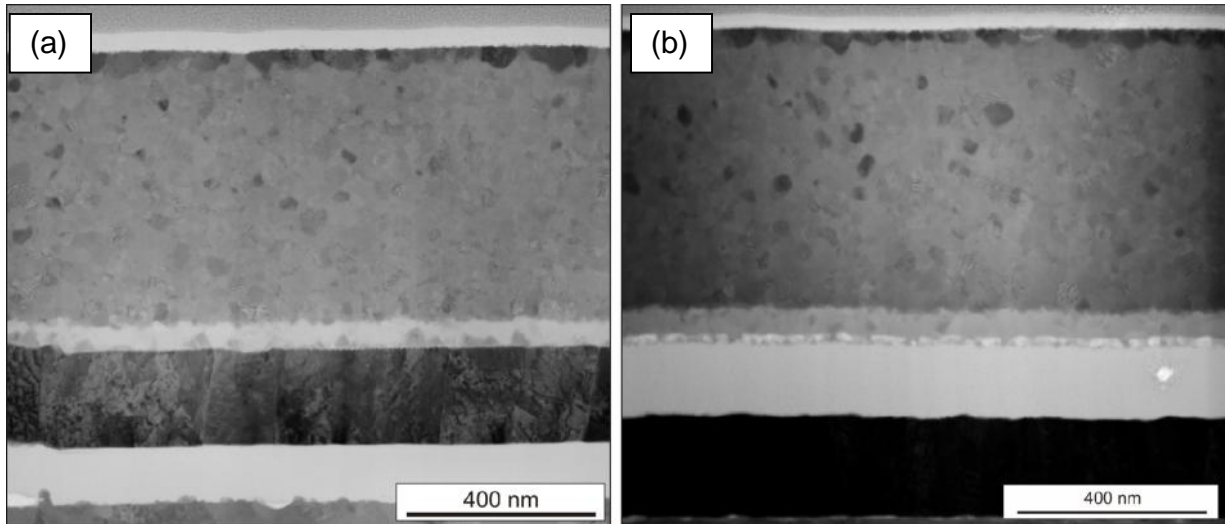




RuAl thin films exhibit parabolic oxidation kinetics. The surface colour and reflectivity did not change with the oxidation time and also no apparent increasing in roughness was observed after oxidation at 750°C.

The importance of analyzing the oxidation behaviour of these thin films lies on the fact that usually, bulk intermetallics show different oxidation rates compared to those of thin films and therefore, new studies in the aforementioned intermetallic system are needed.



**Figure 1:** RuAl thin films oxidised at 750°C for 45 minutes using (a)  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3 + \text{W}$  and (b)  $\text{W} + \text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  as diffusion barriers.