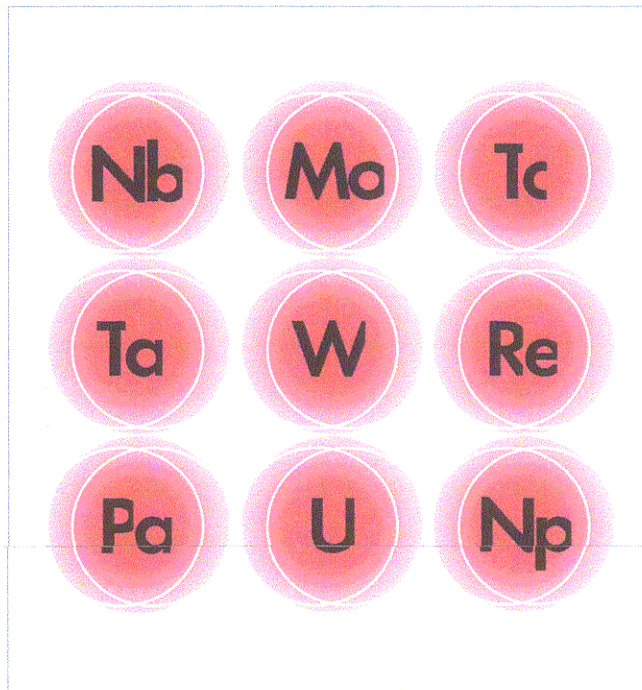


The Hard Truths

Tungsten (which is a Swedish word for heavy stone) or Wolfram is a hard metal of many superlatives. It has not only the highest melting point of all elements except carbon, about 3387 C to 3422 C, but also excellent high temperature mechanical properties and

the lowest coefficient of expansion. A temperature of about 5700 C is needed to bring tungsten to boil - a temperature found only on the sun's



expansion all metals. of about needed to to boil - a found only on surface. With

a density of 19.25 g/cc, tungsten is also among the heaviest metals. Tungsten features the lowest vapour pressure of all metals, very high moduli of compression and elasticity, very high thermal creep resistance and high thermal and electrical conductivity.