

Alen Prskalo studied physics at the University of Stuttgart, graduating in 2007. His Diploma Thesis deals with the Hartree-Fock calculations of electronic states of atoms in strong magnetic fields as they appear on surfaces of neutron stars. In October 2007, he joined the Institute for Materials Testing, Materials Science and Strength of Materials at the University of Stuttgart, headed by Prof. Siegfried Schmauder. His research is focused on molecular dynamics simulations on high performance computers. Alen Prskalo obtained his PhD in 2013 on the topic "Molecular Dynamics Simulations of Si, SiC and Si<sub>3</sub>N<sub>4</sub> Layered Systems" where he investigated processes during a physical vapor deposition of protective ceramic coatings. In recent years, the focus of his research changed more towards metallic systems. Current investigations aim explaining the materials strengthening processes via solid solution and precipitation in aged Al-based alloys.