SINTERING OF BORON CARBIDE, J.C. Bressiani*, Energy and Nuclear Research Institute, CNEN, São Paulo Brazil. F.C.L. de Melo, C.R.M. da Silva, CTA-IAE-AMR, S.J.Campos, SP, Brazil. J.M. Vieira, Universidade de Aveiro, Portugal.

Compacts were produced through pressureless sintering and hot-pressing using C, $C+B_2\,O_3$, $C+B_2\,O_3+Al_2\,O_3$, Ni, Ti and Ni+Ti mixtures as sintering aids. The effects of composition, temperature and pressure on the final density, microhardness and thoughness of the resulting compacts was studied.