

**Table 1.** Physicochemical parameters of group VIII metals determining their reactivity with carbon nanotubes under the electron beam.

Metal	Cohesive energy <sup>[32]</sup> [kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	M–C $\sigma$ -bond energy <sup>a)</sup> [kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	M–C $\pi$ -bond energy <sup>b)</sup> [kJ mol <sup>-1</sup> ]	Stable carbide <sup>[33]</sup>
Os	1713	1040	84	No
Ru	1142	898	160	No
Fe	898	802	90	Yes

<sup>a)</sup>Calculated for  $\sigma$ -bonding of corresponding metal atoms with a tetra-vacancy defect in a SWNT sidewall; binding energies for mono- and di-vacancy follow the same trend of relative energies;

<sup>b)</sup>Calculated for the concave side of a carbon nanotube.