# Response to Reviewer 3 Comments

**Point 1:** Grain size (Hall-Petch effect) and dislocation density could affect the hardness across the regions.

**Response 1:** This remark is justified. Text *It is necessary to note that the increasing hardness could be caused by fine-grained microstructure and/or higher dislocation density.* has been added to the manuscript.

**Point 2:** Adjustment in the laser spot size and working distance could significantly change the solidification in the fusion zone and affect grain recrystallization. Is there a good reason to select the current laser welding parameters or any better setups could be made to enhance the weldability?

**Response 2:** The welding parameters followed from the previous extensive researches and many years experience of RAPTECH company in laser welding.