

Abstract Submitted  
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**Probing the stability of Shastry Sutherland lattice in Er<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>Sn and Er<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>In** GICELA SAUCEDO SALAS, BAIDYANATH SAHU, ANDRE STRYDOM, HARIKRISHNAN NAIR, None, UNIVERSITY OF JOHANNESBURG COLLABORATION — The group of 221 compounds crystalizing in the Mo<sub>2</sub>FeB<sub>2</sub> structure type, more commonly known as R<sub>2</sub>T<sub>2</sub>X intermetallic (R = rare earth, T = transition metal, X =main group), have been reinvestigated recently owing to the spin liquid state in the underlying Shastry Sutherland lattice (SSL) formed by the R [1, 2]. Our motivation in investigating this compound is to explore the interplay of frustration and quantum criticality. The present study we have selected less-investigated Er<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>In and Er<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>Sn. X-ray powder diffraction studies and subsequent Rietveld refinements confirmed that the compounds were phase-pure and crystallized in the tetragonal Mo<sub>2</sub>FeB<sub>2</sub> structure. Both the compounds obeyed Curie-Weiss law in the paramagnetic regime, as judged from magnetic susceptibility data, which indicated antiferromagnetism. Specific heat data on both the compounds revealed a double peak indicating complex magnetic structure and phase transitions. We will present a detailed analysis of the magnetization and specific heat on both Er<sub>2</sub>Pd<sub>2</sub>(Sn/In) and motivate our future planned neutron diffraction experiment to determine the magnetic structure of these SSL compounds to probe for novel magnetic phases.

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None

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