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(71) Applicant: **ECONIC TECHNOLOGIES LTD** [GB/GB];
Block 19 S, Alderley Park Nether Alderley, Macclesfield
Cheshire SK10 4TG (GB).

(72) Inventors: **KEMBER, Michael**; c/o Econic Technologies
Ltd, Block 19s Alderley Park, Macclesfield Cheshire SK10
4TG (GB). **BLACKBURN, Anthea**; c/o Econic Technolo-
gies Ltd, Block 19s Alderley Park, Macclesfield Cheshire
SK10 4TG (GB). **WALL, Patrick Anthony**; c/o Econic
Technologies Ltd, Block 19s Alderley Park, Macclesfield
Cheshire SK10 4TG (GB).

(74) Agent: **BRAND MURRAY FULLER LLP**; 50 Eastcastle
Street, London W1W 8EA (GB).

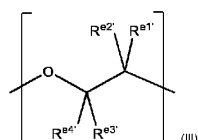
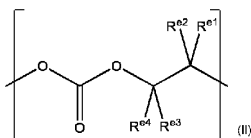
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(54) Title: SURFACE-ACTIVE AGENT



(57) Abstract: The invention concerns an ionic surface-active agent comprising a polycarbonate or poly(carbonate ether) of the formula (I): A-((PC)_P-(PE)_Q-Z)_X (I) wherein: A is derived from a functional starter compound; PC represents a carbonate block with P repeat units of formula (II); wherein: R^{e1}, R^{e2}, R^{e3}, and R^{e4} are all H; or one of R^{e1}, R^{e2}, R^{e3}, and R^{e4} is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate group, and the remaining three of R^{e1}, R^{e2}, R^{e3}, and R^{e4} are all H; PE represents a polyether block with Q repeat units of formula (III); wherein: R^{e1}, R^{e2}, R^{e3}, and R^{e4} are all H; or one of R^{e1}, R^{e2}, R^{e3}, and R^{e4} is methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, or an ether, ester or carbonate group, and the remaining three of R^{e1}, R^{e2}, R^{e3}, and R^{e4} are all H; at least one Z is an ionic constituent; wherein the value of the or each P is independently from 1 to 50; wherein the value of the or each Q is independently from 0 to 50; and X is 1 or more.

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