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(71) Applicant: **AGENCY FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH** [SG/SG]; 1 Fusionopolis Way, #20-10, Connexis North, Singapore 138632 (SG).

(72) Inventors: **WANG, Cun**; c/o Institute of Sustainability for Chemicals, Energy and Environment, 1 Pesek Road, Jurong Island, Singapore 627833 (SG). **ONG, Jui Hsien Michelle**; c/o Institute of Sustainability for Chemicals, Energy and Environment, 1 Pesek Road, Jurong Island, Singapore 627833 (SG). **VAN MEURS, Martin**; c/o Institute of Sustainability for Chemicals, Energy and Environment, 1 Pesek Road, Jurong Island, Singapore 627833 (SG). **STUBBS, Ludger Paul**; c/o Institute of Sustainability for Chemicals, Energy and Environment, 1 Pesek Road, Jurong Island, Singapore 627833 (SG).

(74) Agent: **KINNAIRD, James Welsh**; Marks & Clerk Singapore LLP, Tanjong Pagar Post Office, P O Box 636, Singapore 910816 (SG).

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(54) Title: CATALYSTS FOR SOLVOLYSIS OF POLYESTER

(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein is a process and a catalysis for the solvolysis of a polyester. The process comprises (a) mixing the polyester with a solvolysis reagent and the catalyst, wherein the catalyst comprises: a cation of formula Ia: $[PR_1R_2R_3R_4]^+$, wherein each of R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 is independently selected from a linear or branched C_1 to C_{20} alkyl group; or wherein R_1 and R_2 and/or R_3 and R_4 together form an alkylene chain - $(CH_2)_p$, where p is from 3 to 6, such that R_1 and R_2 and/or R_3 and R_4 form, together with the phosphorous atom that they are attached to, a cyclic ring; and an anion; and (b) heating the mixture to a predetermined temperature.



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