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(54) Title: POLYMERISATION PROCESS CATALYSED BY A BIDENTATE BISPHOSPHINE-GROUP VIII METAL COMPLEX

(57) Abstract: A process for the polymerisation and copolymerisation of olefins is disclosed, comprising contacting the monomeric olefin under polymerisation conditions with a polymerisation catalyst or catalyst system which comprises (a) a source of a Group VIII metal; (b) a bidentate phosphine ligand having the formula $(R^1)(R^1)P-X-P(R^1)(R^1)$, where each R^1 is independently selected from a phenyl group or a substituted phenyl group with the proviso that at least one of the R^1 groups is a phenyl group having at least one ortho substituent, and X is a bridging group of the structure $-[N]_x-[P]_y-[N]-$ where x and y are independently 0 or 1, or $-C(R^4)_2-$ where R^4 may be the same or different and is hydrogen or a monovalent hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl or hetero-hydrocarbyl group; and optionally (c) a promoter.