



## INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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| <b>(51) International Patent Classification <sup>7</sup> :</b><br><b>C10G 21/12</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>A1</b> | <b>(11) International Publication Number:</b> <b>WO 00/46322</b><br><b>(43) International Publication Date:</b> 10 August 2000 (10.08.00)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>(21) International Application Number:</b> PCT/GB99/04387<br><b>(22) International Filing Date:</b> 23 December 1999 (23.12.99)<br><b>(30) Priority Data:</b><br>9902518.1      4 February 1999 (04.02.99)      GB<br><b>(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US):</b> BP EXPLO-<br>RATION OPERATING COMPANY LIMITED [GB/GB];<br>Britannic House, 1 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7BA<br>(GB).<br><b>(72) Inventors; and</b><br><b>(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only):</b> DUNCUM, Simon, Neil<br>[GB/GB]; 6 Cressida Chase, Warfield, Bracknell, Berk-<br>shire RG42 3UD (GB). OSBORNE, Christopher, George<br>[GB/GB]; 66 Mickle Hill, Sandhurst, Berkshire GU47 8QU<br>(GB).<br><b>(74) Agent:</b> SMITH, Julian, Philip, Howard; BP International<br>Limited, Patents & Agreements, Chertsey Road, Sun-<br>bury-on-Thames, Middlesex TW16 7LN (GB). |           | <b>(81) Designated States:</b> AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG,<br>BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, EE, ES,<br>FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IN, IS, JP, KE,<br>KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD,<br>MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD,<br>SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US,<br>UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS,<br>MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ,<br>BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE,<br>CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC,<br>NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA,<br>GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).<br><br><b>Published</b><br><i>With international search report.</i> |
| <b>(54) Title:</b> A PROCESS FOR DEACIDIFYING A CRUDE OIL SYSTEM<br><br><b>(57) Abstract</b><br><p>This invention relates to a process for deacidifying a crude oil system, said process comprising the steps of: (a) contacting the crude oil system with a polar solvent, such that at least part of the organic acid present in the oil is extracted into the solvent as an extract phase; and (b) separating said extract phase from the treated crude oil system of step (a).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |