



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification 7 : C08G 69/00, 69/04	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/24808 (43) International Publication Date: 4 May 2000 (04.05.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/24850 (22) International Filing Date: 25 October 1999 (25.10.99) (30) Priority Data: 60/105,656 26 October 1998 (26.10.98) US (71) Applicant: E.I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY [US/US]; 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US). (72) Inventors: MARCHILDON, Ernest, Keith; 842 Nordic Avenue, Kingston, Ontario K7M 4T1 (CA). MUTEL, Ahmet, Turgut; 1122 Craig Lane, Kingston, Ontario K7M 7W5 (CA). (74) Agent: STEVENSON, Robert, B.; E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, Legal Patent Records Center, 1007 Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19898 (US).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AU, BA, BB, BG, BR, CA, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DM, EE, GD, GE, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KP, KR, LC, LK, LR, LT, LV, MG, MK, MN, MX, NO, NZ, PL, RO, SG, SI, SK, SL, TR, TT, UA, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>

(54) Title: CONTINUOUS POLYMERIZATION PROCESS FOR PREPARING POLYAMIDES FROM OMEGA-AMINONITRILES

(57) Abstract

A continuous process for the polymerization of omega-aminonitriles (e.g., 6-aminocapronitriles) which is introduced at the top of a vertical multistage reactor being swept countercurrently with steam and polyamide (e.g., nylon 6) is recovered near the bottom of the vertical multistage reactor. By virtue of independent temperature control at each of the vertical stages of the multistage reactor, the polyamide recovered is typically characterized as having unreacted nitrile end groups of less than 20 gram equivalents per million grams of polyamide, and less than 25 gram equivalents of secondary amine branching per million grams of polyamide.

