

**IMPROVED PROCESS FOR THE HYDROGENATION OF MALEIC ACID
TO 1,4-BUTANEDIOL**

ABSTRACT

Maleic acid and/or other hydrogenatable precursors are hydrogenated in the presence of a noble metal catalyst to 1,4-butanediol. The production and yields of 1,4-butanediol are enhanced by the addition of iron to the hydrogenatable precursor feed.