



INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C10G 53/16, 53/00, 53/06, 21/00	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 99/11740 (43) International Publication Date: 11 March 1999 (11.03.99)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/18160 (22) International Filing Date: 2 September 1998 (02.09.98) (30) Priority Data: 60/057,889 3 September 1997 (03.09.97) US 09/000,579 30 December 1997 (30.12.97) US (71) Applicant: HFM INTERNATIONAL, INC. [US/US]; 2020 South Dairy Ashford, Houston, TX 77077 (US). (72) Inventors: GENTRY, Joseph, C.; 419 Wilchester, Houston, TX 77079 (US). LEE, Fu-Ming; 2102 Cherrington Drive, Katy, TX 77450 (US). (74) Agents: CANTRELL, Thomas, L. et al.; Jenkins & Gilchrist, P.C., 3200 Fountain Place, 1445 Ross Avenue, Dallas, TX 75202-2799 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, 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>
(54) Title: AROMATICS SEPARATION PROCESS AND METHOD OF RETROFITTING EXISTING EQUIPMENT FOR SAME		
(57) Abstract An improved process for the recovery of aromatic compounds from a mixture containing aromatic and non-aromatic compounds and method for retrofitting existing equipment for the same is provided. The improved process comprises the steps of recovering aromatic compounds via parallel operation of a hybrid extractive distillation/liquid-liquid extractor operation and variations thereof. Methods of quickly and economically retrofitting existing recovery process equipment for use with the improved aromatics recovery process are also disclosed.		