CLAIMS:

1. A catalyst system useful in the production of bisphenol-A comprising:

(a) an acidic heterogeneous catalyst comprising amorphous silica having organosulfonic acid groups chemically bonded thereto, wherein the catalyst has a pKa value of 3.5 or less; and

(b) a catalyst promoter comprising at least one organic sulfur-containing compound,

wherein the catalyst promoter is chemically and physically separate from the amorphous silica.

2. The catalyst system of claim 1, wherein the amorphous silica comprises separate silica particles.

3. The catalyst system of claim 1, wherein the amorphous silica comprises extrudates comprising silica particles.

4. The catalyst system of any preceding claim, wherein the amorphous silica is substantially free of zirconium.

5. The catalyst system of any preceding claim, wherein the acidic heterogeneous catalyst comprises amorphous silica having bonded thereto organosulfonic acid groups having the following formula $-R^1SO_3H$ where R^1 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl group having up to 8 carbon atoms or is a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group.

6. The catalyst system of claim 5, wherein R^1 is an alkyl group having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

7. The catalyst system of claim 5, wherein R^1 is an alkyl-substituted phenyl group in which the alkyl moiety has from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

8. The catalyst system of any preceding claim, wherein the at least one organic sulfur-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of alkyl mercaptans, mercaptocarboxylic acids, mercaptosulfonic acids, mercaptoalkylpyridines, mercaptoalkylamines, thiazolidines and aminothiols.

9. The catalyst system of any preceding claim, wherein the catalyst promoter is chemically bonded to the amorphous silica.

10. A process for producing bisphenol-A by the reaction of acetone and phenol in a reaction medium in the presence of a catalyst system, wherein the catalyst system comprises:

(a) an acidic heterogeneous catalyst comprising amorphous silica having organosulfonic acid groups chemically bonded thereto, wherein the catalyst has a pKa value of 3.5 or less; and

(b) a catalyst promoter comprising at least one organic sulfur-containing compound,

wherein the catalyst promoter is chemically and physically separate from the amorphous silica.

11. The process of claim 10, wherein the amorphous silica comprises separate silica particles.

12. The process of claim 10, wherein the amorphous silica comprises extrudates comprising silica particles.

13. The process of any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein the amorphous silica is substantially free of zirconium.

14. The process of any one of claims 10 to 13, wherein the acidic heterogeneous catalyst comprises amorphous silica having bonded thereto organosulfonic acid groups having the following formula $-R^1SO3H$ where R^1 is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, alkenyl, or alkynyl group having up to 8 carbon atoms or is a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group.

15. The process of claim 14, wherein R^1 is an alkyl group in which the alkyl moiety has from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

16. The process of claim 14, wherein R^1 is an alkyl-substituted phenyl group in which the alkyl moiety has from 1 to 4 carbon atoms.

17. The process of any one of claims 10 to 16, wherein the at least one organic sulfur-containing compound is selected from the group consisting of alkyl mercaptans, mercaptocarboxylic acids, mercaptosulfonic acids, mercaptoalkylpyridines, mercaptoalkylamines, thiazolidines and aminothiols.