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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/09642 (22) International Filing Date: 11 April 2000 (11.04.00) (30) Priority Data: 09/301,699 29 April 1999 (29.04.99) US (71) Applicant: GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY [US/US]; 1 River Road, Schenectady, NY 12345 (US). (72) Inventors: SPIVACK, James, Lawrence; RD 1 Box 528, Cobleskill, NY 12034 (US). WHISENHUNT, Donald, Wayne, Jr.; 1338 Dean Street, Schenectady, NY 12309 (US). CAWSE, James, Norman; 132 Kittredge Road, Pittsfield, MA 01201 (US). SOLOVEICHNIK, Grigori, Lev; 37 Laura Drive, Latham, NY 12110 (US). (74) Agents: SNYDER, Bernard et al.; General Electric Company, 3135 Easton Turnpike W3C, Fairfield, CT 06431 (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, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, 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, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: METHOD AND CATALYST SYSTEM FOR PRODUCING AROMATIC CARBONATES (57) Abstract A method and catalyst system for economically producing aromatic carbonates from aromatic hydroxy compounds. In one embodiment, the present invention provides a method of carbonylating aromatic hydroxy compounds by contacting at least one aromatic hydroxy compound with oxygen and carbon monoxide in the presence of a carbonylation catalyst system that includes a catalytic amount of an inorganic co-catalyst containing ytterbium. In various alternative embodiments, the carbonylation catalyst system can include an effective amount of a palladium source and an effective amount of a halide composition. Further alternative embodiments can include catalytic amounts of various inorganic co-catalyst combinations.		