

(51) International Patent Classification:

C08J 7/18 (2006.01) C08L 79/08 (2006.01)

C08J 5/18 (2006.01) C08J 3/28 (2006.01)

C08G 73/10 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2014/031015

(22) International Filing Date:

18 March 2014 (18.03.2014)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

13/986,012 22 March 2013 (22.03.2013) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT,

HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

— as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii))

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

— before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))

(54) Title: METHOD OF CURING THERMOPLASTICS WITH MICROWAVE ENERGY

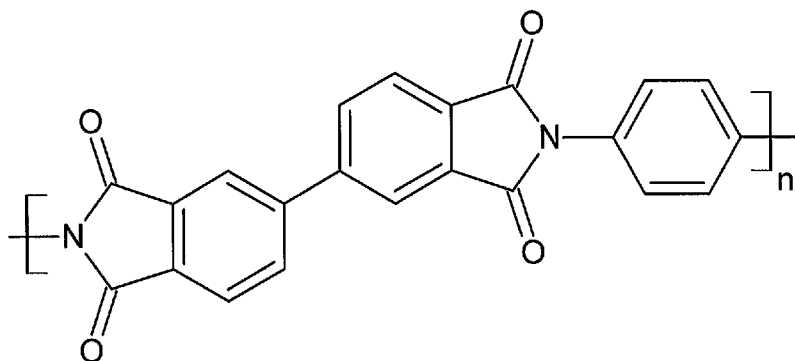


FIGURE 1

(57) **Abstract:** A method for densifying thermoplastics, particularly polyimides, for use in conjunction with electronic circuits while producing improved physical properties and a high degree of crystallinity, involves variable frequency microwave (VFM) processing at temperatures typically 100°C below the glass transition temperature or lower, for times of about 50 to 100 minutes. It is particularly applicable to polymers based on BPDA-PPD, but may also be generally applied to other intentionally designed polyimide structures with the same features. The invention enables the creation of layered structures involving integrated circuits with small feature sizes and overcoatings of polymers with high T_g and other desirable properties.