

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
17 January 2008 (17.01.2008)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2008/006136 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

C07F 5/00 (2006.01) *G06F 17/30* (2006.01)
C09B 47/04 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/AU2007/000549

(22) International Filing Date: 27 April 2007 (27.04.2007)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

11/482,986 10 July 2006 (10.07.2006) US

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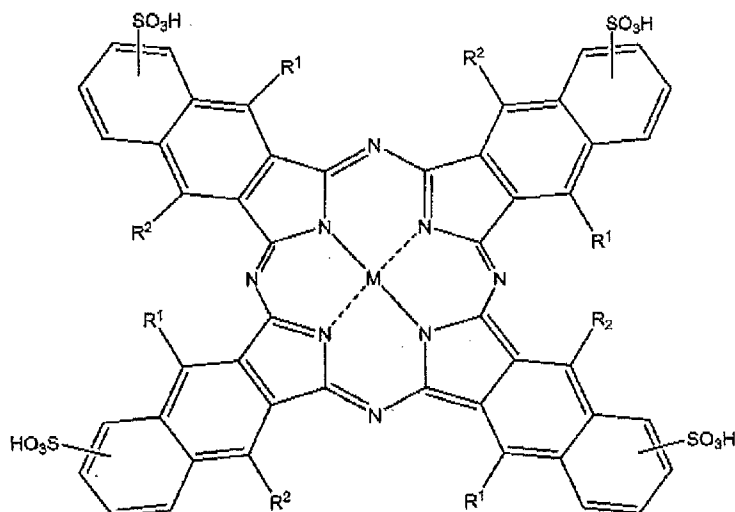
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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SV, SY, 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, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MT, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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(54) Title: IMPROVEMENTS IN INK FORMULATIONS COMPRISING GALLIUM NAPHTHALOCYANINES



(II)

(57) Abstract: There is provided an aqueous formulation comprising an IR-absorbing naphthalocyanine dye of formula (II); or a salt form thereof, wherein: M is Ga(A¹); A¹ is an axial ligand selected from -OH, halogen, -OR³, -OC(O)R⁴ or -O(CH₂CH₂O)_eR⁶ wherein e is an integer from 2 to 10 and R⁶ is H, C₁₋₈ alkyl or C(O)C₁₋₈ alkyl; R¹ and R² may be the same or different and are selected from hydrogen or C₁₋₂ alkoxy; R³ is selected from C₁₋₂ alkyl, C₅₋₁₂ aryl, C₅₋₁₂ arylalkyl or Si(R^x)(R^y)(R^z); R⁴ is selected from C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₅₋₁₂ aryl or C₅₋₁₂ arylalkyl; and R^x, R^y and R^z may be the same or different and are selected from C₁₋₁₂ alkyl, C₅₋₁₂ aryl, C₅₋₁₂ arylalkyl, C₁₋₁₂ alkoxy, C₁₋₁₂ aryloxy or C₅₋₁₂ arylalkoxy. The formulation has a pH in the range of 3.5 to 7 and is particularly suitable for use as an IR- absorbing inkjet ink, providing compatibility with known CMYK, inks together with an optimally red-shifted λ_{max}

WO 2008/006136 A1



Published:

— with international search report

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