(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
24 May 2007 (24.05.2007)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2007/058779 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:
C08G 65/44 (2006.01) *C08G 65/46* (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2006/042709

(22) International Filing Date: 31 October 2006 (31.10.2006)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
11/272,119 10 November 2005 (10.11.2005) US

(71) Applicant *(for all designated States except US)*: **GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY** [US/US]; 1 RIVER ROAD, Schenectady, NY 12345 (US).

(72) Inventors; and
(75) Inventors/Applicants *(for US only)*: **CARRILLO, Alvaro** [CO/US]; 11 WAKEFIELD COURT, Delmar, NY 12054 (US). **DELSMAN, Erik, Rene** [NL/NL]; EIKEPAGE 91, NL-4814 Tm Breda XX (NL). **FRESHOUR, Amy, Rene** [NL/NL]; BERKELAAN 17, NL-4645 Je Putte XX (NL). **GUO, Hua** [US/US]; 93 DORCHESTER AVENUE, Selkirk, NJ 12158 (US). **KRUGLOV, Alexey** [US/US]; 79 PATTERSON DRVIE, Glenmont, NY 12077 (US). **PETERS, Edward, N.** [US/US]; 103 WEST STREET, Lenox, MA 01240 (US).

(74) Agents: **WINTER, Catherine, J.** et al.; GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY, GLOBAL PATENT OPERATION, 187 DANBURY ROAD, SUITE 204, Wilton, CT 06897 (US).

(81) Designated States *(unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available)*: AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, 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, LV, 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, 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).

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*
— *before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: POLYFUNCTIONAL POLY(ARYLENE ETHER) METHOD

(57) Abstract: A polyfunctional poly(arylene ether) resin may be prepared by a method that includes oxidatively copolymerizing a monohydric phenol and a polyhydric phenol in an aromatic hydrocarbon solvent in the presence of a catalyst comprising a metal ion and a nitrogen-containing ligand to form a solution comprising a polyfunctional poly(arylene ether) having an intrinsic viscosity of about 0.04 to about 0.3 deciliter per gram at 25°C in chloroform; and contacting the polyfunctional poly(arylene ether) solution with an aqueous solution of a chelating agent to extract the metal ion from the solution; wherein the chelating agent and metal ion are present in a molar ratio of about 1.0 to about 1.5. The method reduces the formation of a dispersion during the chelation step.

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