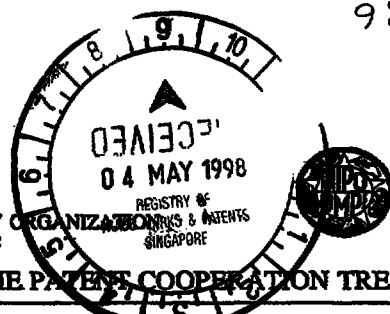


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1905.



PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : B22F 9/16, 9/20, C22B 5/02, 5/04, 15/00, 23/02, C22C 1/04, 33/02, 38/08, C01F 7/02, 17/00, C01G 9/08, 25/02, 49/06, C04B 35/10, 35/48, 35/50, 35/622, 35/626	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 97/07917 (43) International Publication Date: 6 March 1997 (06.03.97)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/AU96/00539 (22) International Filing Date: 28 August 1996 (28.08.96) (30) Priority Data: PN 5047 28 August 1995 (28.08.95) AU PN 7725 22 January 1996 (22.01.96) AU (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA [AU/AU]; Nedlands, W.A. 6907 (AU). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MCCORMICK, Paul, Gerard [US/AU]; The University of Western Australia, Nedlands, W.A. 6907 (AU). DING, Jun [AU/AU]; The University of Western Australia, Nedlands, W.A. 6907 (AU). MIAO, Wie-Fang [CN/AU]; The University of Western Australia, Nedlands, W.A. 6907 (AU). STREET, Robert [AU/AU]; The University of Western Australia, Nedlands, W.A. 6907 (AU). (74) Agent: VAN WOLLINGEN, Rolf, Griffith Hack & Co., 6th floor, 256 Adelaide Terrace, Perth, W.A. 6000 (AU).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ULTRAFINE PARTICLES (57) Abstract A new, cost effective process for the production of ultrafine particles which is based on mechanically activated chemical reaction of a metal compound with a suitable reagent. The process involves subjecting a mixture of a metal compound and a suitable reagent to mechanical activation to increase the chemical reactivity of the reactants and/or reaction kinetics such that a chemical reaction can occur which produces a solid nano-phase substance. Concomitantly, a by-product phase is also formed. This by-product phase is removed so that the solid nano-phase substance is left behind in the form of ultrafine particles. During mechanical activation a composite structure is formed which consists of an intimate mixture of nano-sized grains of the nano-phase substance and the reaction by-product phase. The step of removing the by-product phase, following mechanical activation, may involve subjecting the composite structure to a suitable solvent which dissolves the by-product phase, while not reacting with the solid nano-phase substance. The process according to the invention may be used to form ultrafine metal powders as well as ultrafine ceramic powders. Advantages of the process include a significant degree of control over the size and size distribution of the ultrafine particles, and over the nature of interfaces created between the solid nano-phase substance and the reaction by-product phase.		