

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
6 May 2005 (06.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/039758 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B01J 23/24**, C07C 2/36
- (21) International Application Number:
PCT/EP2004/052469
- (22) International Filing Date: 7 October 2004 (07.10.2004)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data:
03256426.2 10 October 2003 (10.10.2003) EP
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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, 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, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, 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, IT, LU, 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).
- Published:**
— with international search report
- 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: CATALYTIC TRIMERIZATION OF OLEFINIC MONOMERS

(57) Abstract: A catalyst composition suitable for the trimerization of olefinic monomers, wherein the catalyst composition comprises: a) a source of chromium, molybdenum or tungsten; b) a ligand of general formula (I); (R¹) (R²) P-X-P (R³) (R⁴) wherein: X is a bivalent organic bridging group; R¹ and R³ are independently selected from, hydrocarbyl, substituted hydrocarbyl, heterohydrocarbyl and substituted heterohydrocarbyl groups, with the proviso that when R¹ and R³ are cycloaromatic groups they do not contain a polar substituent at any of the ortho-positions; R² and R⁴ are independently selected from optionally substituted cycloaromatic groups, each R² and R⁴ bearing a polar substituent on at least one of the ortho-positions; and c) a cocatalyst. The present invention further relates to a process for the trimerization of olefinic monomers, particularly the trimerization of ethylene to 1-hexene, wherein the process comprises contacting at least one olefinic monomer with the catalyst composition described hereinabove.

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