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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US97/20781 (22) International Filing Date: 13 November 1997 (13.11.97) (30) Priority Data: 60/030,877 14 November 1996 (14.11.96) US (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ATOTECH DEUTSCHLAND GMBH [DE/DE]; Erasmusstrasse 20, D-10553 Berlin (DE). (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): MARTYAK, Nicholas, Michael [US/US]; 121 Blackfriars Circle, Doylestown, PA 18901 (US). McCASKIE, John, Edward [US/DE]; Tannenbergallee 26, D-14055 Berlin (DE). (74) Agents: MARCUS, Stanley, A. et al.; Elf Atochem North America, Inc., 2000 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-3222 (US).		(81) Designated States: BR, CA, CN, IL, JP, SG, US, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: REMOVAL OF ORTHOPHOSPHITE IONS FROM ELECTROLESS NICKEL PLATING BATHS (57) Abstract Orthophosphite ions produced by oxidation of hypophosphite in an electroless nickel plating bath can be removed by precipitation with an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal cation such as calcium. In order to avoid the precipitation of calcium sulfate and the generation of large amounts of particulates in the bath, nickel sulfate can be replaced by a nickel salt of an alkylsulfonic acid or hypophosphorous acid, whose anion forms a soluble salt with an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal cation.		