

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

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
18 March 2010 (18.03.2010)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2010/030372 A2

(51) International Patent Classification:
C08F 8/12 (2006.01)

(21) International Application Number:
PCT/US2009/005098

(22) International Filing Date:
11 September 2009 (11.09.2009)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
61/096,756 12 September 2008 (12.09.2008) US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SEK-
ISUI SPECIALTY CHEMICALS AMERICA LLC**
[US/US]; 1603 W. LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75234 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **VICARI, Richard**
[US/US]; 2507 Sunny Shores Drive, Pearland, TX 77584
(US). **BARSAN, Florin** [CA/US]; 3623 Brookstone Ct.,
Pearland, TX 77684 (US). **PHUNG, Kien, Van** [US/US];
3118 Sagewood Ct., Pearland, TX 77584 (US).

(74) Agent: **SPIERING, M., Susan**; 4921 Williams Drive,
Corpus Christi, TX 78411 (US).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every
kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,
AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ,
CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO,

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,
ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI,
NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RS, RU, SC, SD,
SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, 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, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV,
MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, SM,
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))
- of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv))

Published:

- without international search report and to be republished
upon receipt of that report (Rule 48.2(g))

(54) Title: IMPROVED NVF COPOLYMER PROCESS

(57) Abstract: Disclosed herein is a water-soluble copolymer formed by copolymerizing N-vinylformamide and one or more vinyl C₁-C₁₀ alkyl esters, and then hydrolyzing from 30 to 100 mol% of the formyl groups from the copolymerized units to form amino groups and from 30 to 100 mol% of the C₁-C₁₀ alkyl ester groups from the copolymerized units to form hydroxyl groups, wherein the copolymer has a unimodal molecular weight distribution as evidenced by essentially one peak in a gel permeation gradient elution chromatographic analysis. A process to produce the polymer is also disclosed.



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