

PCTWORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁷ : C10G 33/04	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/50541 (43) International Publication Date: 31 August 2000 (31.08.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US00/02109 (22) International Filing Date: 28 January 2000 (28.01.00) (30) Priority Data: 09/258,618 26 February 1999 (26.02.99) US (71) Applicant: EXXONMOBIL RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING COMPANY [US/US]; P.O. Box 390, 180 Park Avenue, Florham Park, NJ 07932-0390 (US). (72) Inventors: VARADARAJ, Ramesh; 18 Aberdeen Circle, Flemington, NJ 08822 (US). SAVAGE, David, William; 5 Fieldstone Drive, Lebanon, NJ 08833 (US). BRONS, Cornelius, Hendrick; 28 Fairview Street, Washington, NJ 07882 (US). (74) Agents: SCUORZO, Linda et al.; ExxonMobil Research and Engineering Company, P.O. Box 390, Florham Park, NJ 07932-0390 (US).		(81) Designated States: CA, JP, SG, European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: CHEMICAL DEMULSIFIER FOR DESALTING HEAVY CRUDE (57) Abstract The invention is directed towards a process for desalting crude oil that requires less wash water than conventional desalting methods. In the practice of the invention, a chemical demulsifier formulation comprising an emulsion-breaking chemical and a solvent is added to the crude oil. Wash water may be added to the crude oil until the volume of water in the oil ranges from about 0.5 to about 8 vol. %. Subsequently, the mixture of crude oil, wash water when present, and chemical demulsifier formulation may be subjected to electrostatic desalting.		