

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

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization

International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
06 July 2023 (06.07.2023)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2023/126103 A1

(51) International Patent Classification:

C10G 9/36 (2006.01) C07C 11/04 (2006.01)
C10G 9/38 (2006.01) C07C 5/333 (2006.01)
C07C 4/02 (2006.01)

LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG,
NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS,
RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH,
TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS,
ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/EP2022/082705

(22) International Filing Date:

22 November 2022 (22.11.2022)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:

202141061196 28 December 2021 (28.12.2021) IN
22155545.1 08 February 2022 (08.02.2022) EP

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(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, CV, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, ME, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, 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))

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))
— in black and white; the international application as filed contained color or greyscale and is available for download from PATENTSCOPE

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(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, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU,

(54) Title: AUTOTHERMAL CRACKING OF HYDROCARBONS

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a process for producing olefins from a feed stream containing hydrocarbons by pyrolytic cracking of the hydrocarbons in an autothermal reactor, said process comprising: pre-heating an oxygen containing stream and a hydrogen and/or methane containing stream outside the autothermal reactor; feeding the pre-heated oxygen containing stream and the pre-heated hydrogen and/or methane containing stream into a burner of the autothermal reactor; generating steam in a combustion zone of the autothermal reactor; pre-heating a feed stream containing hydrocarbons outside the autothermal reactor; feeding the pre-heated feed stream containing hydrocarbons into the autothermal reactor; mixing the steam generated in the combustion zone with the pre-heated feed stream containing hydrocarbons in a mixing and cracking zone of the autothermal reactor, by feeding the steam and the pre-heated feed stream containing hydrocarbons into the mixing and cracking zone from substantially opposite directions, and pyrolytically cracking the hydrocarbons to provide an effluent containing olefins.



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