Claims

1. A process for coating plastics with metals, wherein the plastics are pretreated with a composition comprising at least one salt having a melting point of less than 100°C at 1 bar (hereinafter referred to as ionic liquid).

2. The process according to claim 1, wherein the ionic liquid is a salt which is liquid at 21°C, 1 bar.

3. The process according to either claim 1 or 2, wherein the ionic liquid is a salt having an organic cation.

4. The process according to any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the ionic liquid is a salt having an imidazolium cation, pyridinium cation or pyrazolium cation.

5. The process according to any of claims 1 to 4, wherein the ionic liquid is a salt having an imidazolium cation.

6. The process according to any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the composition comprises more than 30% by weight of the ionic liquid.

7. The process according to either claim 1 or 6, wherein the composition optionally comprises water or an organic solvent in addition to the ionic liquid.

8. The process according to any of claims 1 to 7, wherein the plastics are thermoplastic polymers.

9. The process according to any of claims 1 to 8, wherein the plastics are polyamides, polyolefins, polyesters, polyethers, polyacetals, in particular polyoxymethylene, polycarbonate, polyurethanes, polyacrylates, polystyrenes or copolymers of styrene, in particular with acrylonitrile, e.g. acrylonitrile-butadiene/styrene copolymer (ABS).

10. The process according to any of claims 1 to 9, wherein the metals to be deposited are nickel, aluminum, copper, chromium, tin or zinc or alloys thereof.

11. The process according to any of claims 1 to 10, wherein the plastic is treated with the composition at an elevated temperature of 30-120°C.

12. The process according to any of claims 1 to 11, wherein, after the pretreatment and if appropriate further processing steps such as activation or precoating with metal, one or more layers of the metal are applied by an electrochemical

deposition process.

What is claimed is:

1. An invention not claimed in any divisional application.