

**"C<sub>8</sub> AROMATICS ISOMERIZATION USING CATALYST CONTAINING  
MODIFIED SILICOALUMINOPHOSPHATE MOLECULAR SIEVE"**

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**ABSTRACT**

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A non-equilibrium C<sub>8</sub> aromatic-feed mixture is selectively isomerized to obtain an isomerized product enriched in para-xylene by contacting the feed in the presence of hydrogen with a catalyst containing a combination of a platinum group component with an SM-3 acidic crystalline silicaaluminophosphate molecular sieve at C<sub>8</sub> aromatic isomerization conditions. The SM-3 molecular sieve is enriched in framework silicon at the surface, resulting in a greater yield of para-xylene compared to prior art processes.