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(54) Title: A SURFACTANT ASSISTED NANOMATERIAL GENERATION PROCESS

(57) Abstract: A process for the preparation of nanoscale particulate material is described comprising: (i) combining one or more functional material to be precipitated as nanoscale particles and one or more surface active material in a compressed CO₂ phase with a density of at least 0.1 g/cc, where the functional material is substantially insoluble in the compressed CO₂, in the absence of the surfactant, the surfactant comprises a compressed CO₂-philic portion and a functional material-philic portion, and the compressed CO₂ phase, functional material and surfactant interact to form an aggregated system having a continuous compressed CO₂ phase and a plurality of aggregates comprising surfactant and functional material molecules of average diameter less than 10 nanometers dispersed therein; and (ii) rapidly depressurizing the compressed CO₂ phase thereby precipitating the dispersed functional and surfactant materials in the form of composite particles of average diameter from 0.5 to less than 10 nanometers.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B01J2/04

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 B01J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

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	US 5 789 505 A (WILKINSON STEVEN PAUL ET AL) 4 August 1998 (1998-08-04) cited in the application column 1, line 5 - line 44 column 4, line 45 -column 6, line 43	1,6,7, 10,11, 13,14
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X Furth	er documents are listed in the continuation of box C. X Patent family members are li	sted in annov

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are listed in annex.
 Special categories of cited documents: 'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance 'E' earlier document but published on or after the international filling date 'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) 'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means 'P' document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed 	 "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family
Date of the actual completion of the international search 11 August 2003	Date of mailing of the international search report $21/08/2003$
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016	Authorized officer Cubas Alcaraz, J

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