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Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)
- as to the applicant's entitlement to claim the priority of the earlier application (Rule 4.17(iii)) for all designations

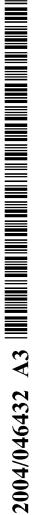
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(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS AND PROCESSES FOR REDUCING WATER SOLUBILITY OF A STARCH COMPONENT IN A MULTICOMPONENT FIBER

(57) Abstract: A melt spinnable multicomponent fiber is provided that comprises a first component comprising a starch insolubilizing agent and a thermoplastic polymer, and a second component comprising destructurized starch and a plasticizer. The insolubilizing agent acts on the starch of the second component to render the starch less soluble when the fiber is exposed to water. The invention is also directed to nonwoven webs and disposable articles comprising the multicomponent fibers.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 D01F8/00 D01F D04H1/42 D01F8/18 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 D01F D04H 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 C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Α EP 0 814 184 A (CHISSO CORP) 1 - 2029 December 1997 (1997-12-29) page 4, line 54 - page 5, line 5; claims page 2, line 53 - page 3, line 5 US 5 516 815 A (BUEHLER FRIEDRICH ET AL) 1 - 20A 14 May 1996 (1996-05-14) the whole document A EP 0 232 121 A (COURTAULDS PLC) 1 - 2012 August 1987 (1987-08-12) the whole document US 6 218 321 B1 (LORCKS JURGEN ET AL) A 1 - 2017 April 2001 (2001-04-17) cited in the application the whole document Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "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 "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 "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "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) "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 docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means in the art. *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 3 June 2004 12/07/2004 Authorized officer 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, Blas, V Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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Information on patent family members

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