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(54) Title: PROCESS OF PREPARING FLAKES

(57) **Abstract:** The invention relates to a process of preparing flakes, the process comprising the steps of: (i) applying a masking agent to a portion of a collecting substrate to provide a masked portion and an unmasked portion of the collecting substrate; (ii) applying a flake precursor to the unmasked portion of the collecting substrate to provide a plurality of flakes attached to the collecting substrate; and (iii) recovering the flakes. The invention also relates to: flakes obtained by said process; a pigment comprising said flakes; a surface coating comprising said flakes; and a use of said flakes as a pigment.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
PCT/GB2007/002578

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
INV. C09C1/64 C09C1/00

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)

C09C H05K

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

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>WO 02/072683 A (QINETIQ LTD [GB]; PITT ANDREW MARTIN [GB]; HIGGINS DAVID EDWARD [GB]) 19 September 2002 (2002-09-19)</p> <p>page 9, paragraph 1 - page 10, paragraph 2</p> <p>page 14, paragraph 7</p> <p>page 21, paragraph 5; claim 55</p> <p>-----</p> <p>-/-</p>	1-33, 41-45

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

See patent family 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 filing 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 filing 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

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No
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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	<p>WO 2007/020448 A (DUNWILCO 1198 LTD [GB]; WHEELER IAN ROBERT [GB]) 22 February 2007 (2007-02-22) page 4, line 6 - line 20 page 5, line 16 - line 19 page 6, line 1 - line 2 page 7, line 20 - line 21 page 10, line 11 - line 21 page 11, line 12 - page 12, line 20 page 13, line 1 - page 15, line 3 page 16, line 12 - line 14 page 26, line 18 - line 21</p> <p>-----</p> <p>WO 2006/082415 A (DUNWILCO 1198 LTD [GB]; WHEELER IAN ROBERT [GB]) 10 August 2006 (2006-08-10) page 3, line 16 - line 27 page 4, line 15 - line 32 page 8, line 25 - page 9, line 16 page 11, line 9 - line 10 page 12, line 21 - line 23 page 13, line 27 - page 14, line 9 page 17, line 30 - page 18, line 21 page 20, line 1 - line 35</p> <p>-----</p>	1-33, 41-45
A	US 2004/146642 A1 (JOSEPHY KARL [US] ET AL) 29 July 2004 (2004-07-29) paragraphs [0122], [0313]	1-33, 41-45

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.: because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.: because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.: because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

1-33, 41-45(part)

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/GB2007/002578

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-33, 41-45(part)

a process for preparing flakes characterised by the steps of applying a masking agent to a portion of a collecting substrate, applying a flake precursor to the unmasked portion and recovering the flakes

2. claims: 34-40, 41-45(part)

flake products characterised by their median particle diameter and their particle size distribution

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No PCT/GB2007/002578

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)			Publication date
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