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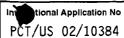
For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.



(54) Title: GRANULATION METHOD AND DEVICE USING FOCUSED ACOUSTIC ENERGY

(57) Abstract: A method and device for generating solid particles using focused acoustic energy are provided. A solution of a compound of interest is provided in a solvent, which may be an aqueous fluid, a nonaqueous fluid, or a supercritical fluid. Focused acoustic energy is used to eject a droplet of the solution, which is then directed into or through an antisolvent that upon admixture with the solution droplet causes the compounds in the droplet to precipitate. In a preferred embodiment, the solvent is an aqueous or organic liquid, and the antisolvent is a supercritical fluid.

### INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 B01J2/02 B01J19/00

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

### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

 $\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)} \\ IPC & 7 & B01J \end{array}$ 

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

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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	page 5, line 29 -page 6, line 30 page 7, line 6 - line 29 page 7, line 36 - line 37 page 13, line 1 - line 30 page 25, line 8 -page 26, line 20; claims 1-57; figures 2,14	
	-/	

X Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	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 filing date but later than the priority date claimed	<ul> <li>'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</li> <li>'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</li> <li>'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.</li> <li>'&amp;' document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>
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9 January 2003	20/01/2003
Name and mailing address of the ISA	Authorized officer
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	Cubas Alcaraz, J

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