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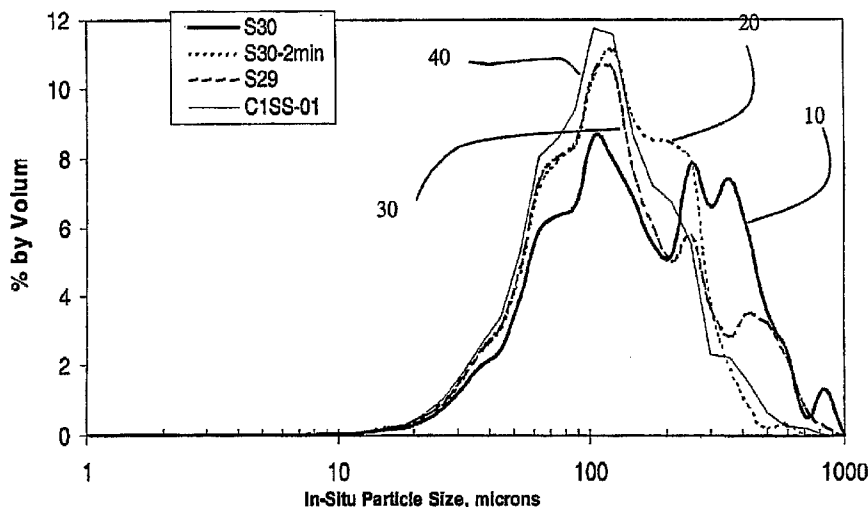
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- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY** [US/US]; (a New York Corporation), 1 River Road, Schenectady, NY 12345 (US).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BRUNELLE, Daniel, Joseph** [US/US]; 4 Woods Edge, Burnt Hills, NY 12027 (US). **ACAR, Havva, Yagci** [TR/TR]; Koc University, Lojman 28B3, Bumelifeneri Yolu, 34450 Sariyer, Istanbul (TR). **KHOURI, Farid, Fouad** [US/US]; 6 Tamarack Lane, Clifton Park, NY 12065 (US).

- GUGGENHEIM, Thomas, Link** [US/US]; 7160 Upton Road, Mount Vernon, IN 47620 (US). **WOODRUFF, David, Winfield** [US/US]; 12 Seymor Drive, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866 (US). **JOHNSON, Norman, Enoch** [US/US]; 1251 Tanglewood Drive, Mount Vernon, IN 47620 (US).
- (74) Agents: **CURBELO, Pamela** et al.; Cantor Colburn, LLP, 55 Griffin Road South, Bloomfield, CT 06002 (US).
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: PHASE TRANSFER CATALYZED METHOD FOR PREPARATION OF POLYETHERIMIDES

Particle Size Distribution for bisphenol A-Na



(57) Abstract: Polyether polymers, such as polyetherimides, are prepared by the reaction of a dihydroxy-substituted aromatic hydrocarbon alkali metal salt, such as bisphenol A disodium salt, with a bis(N-(chlorophthalimido))aromatic compound, such as 1,3-and/or 1,4-bis(N-(4-chlorophthalimido))benzene, in a solvent such as o-dichlorobenzene and in the presence of a phase transfer catalyst such as a hexaalkylguanidinium chloride. Several embodiments may be employed to improve the method. They comprise employing substantially dry reagents, employing a high solids level in solvent, beginning with an excess of bis(N-(chlorophthalimido))- aromatic compound and incrementally adding alkali metal salt, employing alkali metal salt of small particle size, and using reagents of high purity.

WO 2007/100473 A3



RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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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)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2005/049390 A1 (BRUNELLE DANIEL JOSEPH [US] ET AL) 3 March 2005 (2005-03-03) paragraphs [0001] - [0071]; claims 1-40; examples 1-25	1-25
A	EP 0 908 485 A (GEN ELECTRIC [US]) 14 April 1999 (1999-04-14) paragraphs [0001] - [0026]; claims 1-10; examples 1-12	1-25
A	US 5 229 482 A (BRUNELLE DANIEL J [US]) 20 July 1993 (1993-07-20) cited in the application column 1, line 5 - column 5, line 68; claims 1-20; examples 1-25	1-25
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 Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

 See patent family annex.

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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

Kiebooms, Rafaël

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C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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Information on patent family members

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