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Datasheet for the decision of 9 February 2023

Case Number: T 0300/20 - 3.3.06

Application Number: 10814166.4

Publication Number: 2473275

B01J27/128, B01J27/122, IPC:

B01J37/02, C07C17/354,

C07C19/08

Language of the proceedings: EN

Title of invention:

Catalysts for fluoroolefins hydrogenation

Patent Proprietor:

Honeywell International Inc.

Opponent:

ARKEMA FRANCE

Headword:

Fluoroolefins hydrogenation/HONEYWELL

Relevant legal provisions:

EPC Art. 113(2)

Keyword:

Basis of decision - all requests and agreement to text of the patent withdrawn by patent proprietor

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Catchword:



Beschwerdekammern Boards of Appeal

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Boards of Appeal of the

European Patent Office Richard-Reitzner-Allee 8

Chambres de recours

Case Number: T 0300/20 - 3.3.06

DECISION
of Technical Board of Appeal 3.3.06
of 9 February 2023

Appellant: ARKEMA FRANCE

(Opponent) Département Propriété Industrielle

420, rue d'Estienne d'Orves

92700 Colombes (FR)

Representative: Arkema Patent

Arkema France

DRD-DPI

420, rue d'Estienne d'Orves 92705 Colombes Cedex (FR)

Respondent: Honeywell International Inc.

115 Tabor Road

(Patent Proprietor) Morris Plains, NJ 07950 (US)

Representative: Crooks, Elizabeth Caroline

Kilburn & Strode LLP

Lacon London 84 Theobalds Road London WC1X 8NL (GB)

Decision under appeal: Interlocutory decision of the Opposition

Division of the European Patent Office posted on 28 November 2019 concerning maintenance of the European Patent No. 2473275 in amended form.

Composition of the Board:

Chairman J.-M. Schwaller

Members: L. Li Voti

J. Hoppe

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Summary of Facts and Submissions

- I. The opponent's appeal is against the decision of the opposition division to maintain European patent no. 2 473 275 in amended form.
- II. In its statement of grounds and at the oral proceedings before the board the appellant requested that the decision under appeal be set aside and the patent be revoked.
- III. In its reply to the statement of grounds the respondent and patent proprietor requested to dismiss the appeal and to maintain the patent on the basis of one of the sets of claims submitted with said reply as main and first to seventh auxiliary requests.
- IV. During the oral proceedings held before the board the respondent withdrew all pending claim requests, and declared its disapproval of any text for maintenance of the patent.

Reasons for the Decision

- 1. Article 113(2) EPC requires that the European Patent Office decides upon the European patent only in the text submitted to it, or agreed by the proprietor of the patent.
- 2. Since in the present case the proprietor withdrew all pending claim requests during the oral proceedings before the board and declared its disapproval of any text for maintenance of the patent, there is no text of the patent which can be deemed to be approved by the patent proprietor.

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3. In such a situation, it is established case law of the boards of appeal that the proceedings are to be terminated by a decision ordering revocation of the patent, without going into the substantive issues (see Case Law of the Boards of Appeal of the EPO, 10th edition, 2022, IV.D.2, third full paragraph, page 1265).

Order

For these reasons it is decided that:

- 1. The decision under appeal is set aside.
- 2. The patent is revoked.

The Registrar:

The Chairman:



A. Pinna J.-M. Schwaller

Decision electronically authenticated