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EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

21 Application number: **87200630.9**

51 Int. Cl.⁴: **C 10 C 3/06**

22 Date of filing: **03.04.87**

30 Priority: **04.04.86 GB 8608302**

43 Date of publication of application:
07.10.87 Bulletin 87/41

84 Designated Contracting States:
BE CH DE ES FR GB IT LI NL SE

88 Date of deferred publication of search report:
02.12.87 Bulletin 87/49

71 Applicant: **SHELL INTERNATIONALE RESEARCH
MAATSCHAPPIJ B.V.**
Carel van Bylandtlaan 30
NL-2596 HR Den Haag (NL)

72 Inventor: **Breuker, Jacobus Hendrikus**
Badhuisweg 3
NL-1031 CM Amsterdam (NL)

Van Gooswilligen, Gerrit
Badhuisweg 3
NL-1031 CM Amsterdam (NL)

Schellekens, Johannes Cornelis Antonius
Badhuisweg 3
NL-1031 CM Amsterdam (NL)

74 Representative: **Hunter, Keith Roger Ian et al**
4 York Road
London SE1 7NA (GB)

54 **Process for the preparation of bitumen.**

57 Process for the preparation of bitumen in which a residual fraction of a thermally cracked hydrocarbon feedstock is distilled under subatmospheric pressure at a maximum distillation temperature that corresponds with the boiling point at the subatmospheric pressure of hydrocarbons having an atmospheric boiling point of 455-540°C and at least a part of the distillation residue is recovered as bitumen.



DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.4)
X	US-A-2 768 119 (M.E. NASH) * Whole document *	6,8-10	C 10 C 3/06
Y		7	
X	--- US-A-2 305 440 (H.M. NOEL) * Whole document *	1,6,8,9	
X	--- US-A-1 891 890 (P.C. KEITH) * Whole document *	1-3,5-8	
Y	--- US-A-2 004 210 (J.C. MORRELL) * Page 1, left-hand column, lines 28-35; page 2, right-hand column, lines 17-37 *	7	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4)
A	--- US-A-2 850 436 (H. BEUTHER et al.) * Whole document *	1-8	C 10 C
A	--- FR-A-2 510 133 (SIVIA SOCIETE INDUSTRIELLE DE VIABILITE, S.A.) * Page 1, line 1 - page 6, line 11; page 6, lines 19-24; claims 1-6,9,10 *	1-8	

The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 10-08-1987	Examiner FISCHER W.H.F.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

