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Hydrometallurgical process for producing finely divided spherical metal powders.

(57)

A process for producing finely divided spherical metal alloy powders comprises forming an aqueous mineral acid solution containing at least one metal, forming a metallic material from the solution, reducing the metallic material to metal powder particles, subjecting the metal powder particles to a high temperature zone to melt a portion of the particles to form droplets and cooling the droplets to form essentially spherical metal particles.

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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)
2	Y SOVIET POWDER METALLURGY AND METAL CERAMICS, vol. 10, no. 5, May 1971, pages 345-346, Plenum Publishing Corp., New York, US; V.Ya. BULANOV et al.: "Manufacture of alloyed iron powder by a chloride process" * Whole document * ---	1,2,4-6 ,9-11	B 22 F 1/00
2	Y PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 8, no. 80 (M-289)[1517], 12th April 1984; & JP-A-58 224 103 (MITSUI KINZOKU KOGYO K.K.) 26-12-1983 * Abstract * ---	1,2,4-6 ,9-11	
1	Y US-A-3 974 245 (CHENEY et al.) * Claim 1 * ---	1,2,4-6 ,9-11	
3	Y,D US-A-3 663 667 (CHENEY et al.) * Whole document * ---	1,2,4-6 ,9-11	
1	A PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, vol. 8, no. 197 (M-324)[1634], 11th September 1984; & JP-A-59 85 804 (SHINTOU BUREETAA K.K.) 17-05-1984 ---		
1	A GB-A-2 096 176 (NATIONAL STANDARD) -----		TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.4) B 22 F C 22 C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 01-06-1989	Examiner ASHLEY G.W.
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			