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(54) **Catalyst composition and process for preparing linear alpha-olefins**

(57) The present invention relates to a catalyst composition for the oligomerization of ethylene, comprising a transition metal compound of the general formula $MX_m(OR')_{4-m}$ or $MX_m(OOCR')_{4-m}$, wherein R' is an alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, aralkyl or cycloalkyl group, X is chlorine or bro-

mine and m is from 0 to 4 and a reaction product of an organoaluminium compound and a cyclic amide, preferably 2-pyrrolidone; as well as to a process for preparing linear alpha-olefins utilizing this catalyst composition.

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