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## **Exxon Awarded \$171 Million in Patent Suit**

The Exxon Corporation said on Tuesday that it had been awarded \$171 million by a Federal court in Texas in a patent suit against the Mobil Corporation over a so-called smart catalyst used to make plastics and rubber.

In a statement, Exxon, the world's second-largest oil company, said the United States District Court in Houston ruled that Mobil had infringed its metallocene catalyst patent.

Mobil officials were not available for comment.

Exxon contended that Mobil had infringed its "metallocene catalyst patent, and the damages granted will help to compensate us for our very substantial investment to develop and defend our metallocene patent estates," the president of Exxon Chemical, Ray Nesbitt, said in a statement.

Mr. Nesbitt said metallocene technology had been Exxon Chemical's largest research and development effort to date.