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ip-search Patent and Technology Searches

A reliable basis for your decisions



5 good reasons for ip-search

A wide variety of factors determine the quality of a patent search. We provide you with the maximum possible guarantee by ensuring superior quality at each individual stage. This includes starting with a precise understanding of the search objective so that you are provided with the result you need to be able to make your decisions.

Effective communication

Alongside their area of scientific expertise, our search experts are proficient in at least three languages, and being trained patent examiners, they also understand patent jargon. Not only do these specific skills – patent expertise, technical knowledge and language skills – allow for successful communication with clients from law firms and in the industry, they are also crucial for targeted searching.

Due to their language skills, our experts search directly in a variety of languages and analyse patent specifications without the need for translation. With their understanding of patent jargon and the various patent systems, they know how to correctly interpret novelty, inventive step and scope of protection. Together with each search expert's personal expertise gained from working several years in the industry, we provide the best prerequisites for comprehensively handling each search order.

Search experts for every technical field

Around 50 experts work in our team, each having industry experience in various technical fields. You can therefore instruct us to carry out a search in any specialist field, and even a search involving specialist interdisciplinary areas, which are handled by a team of experts from all the relevant scientific disciplines.

Due to our size, we are flexible meaning even short delivery deadlines are possible. We are also a close-knit team at a single location with short lines of communication. Your personal contact person and search expert discusses the search order with you, calling on additional specialists if necessary. They will gladly assist you in formulating the search objective, draft a search strategy and agree on a delivery date convenient for you. If questions come up during the actual search, they will discuss the next steps with you. They will also keep you up-to-date with the progress of the search on request.



A comprehensive search

Critical to success are not only good search tools and the ability to search in all major databases, but also tools to evaluate results from diverse sources. For this purpose, we have developed software solutions that enable us to cross-link the various search engines and sort the results in a targeted way.

We carry out your search order with the most appropriate search tools in specific databases which, in comparison to public systems, provide additional information and more diverse search options. Our software solutions allow us to search in multiple databases and in non-patent literature, collate information from various sources and to jointly evaluate the results, thus increasing efficiency and the certainty that no important document has been missed.

Discretion and reliability

As the competent authority in Switzerland for the protection of intellectual property, we provide reliability and discretion. Every order is treated with utmost confidentiality and all information can be securely exchanged with you. For this purpose, the electronic ip-search box is available to you, which you can access with your personal password and through which large amounts of data can be shared. We are also happy to encrypt electronic correspondence on request.

Our know-how is based on over 30 years of experience with more than 1800 searches annually. Clear processes and consistent quality control (the four-eyes principle) contribute as much to the reliability of our services as the ongoing training of our search experts. We also guarantee a long-term document retention policy and traceability of correspondence and search processes.



Structured results

You will receive a clearly presented search report and be able to analyse the data efficiently. Structured, annotated results support you in your decision-making. The content, structure and format of the report are tailored to your needs so that you can process the search results in the format most suitable for you.

Key information is located at the front of the report with the details following in the subsequent sections. A table containing the database citations linked with all the documents found provides you with an overview. The most important documents have short comments attached. The database citations are linked to further information on the internet or, if requested, with the full-text documents delivered with the search report. If necessary, we supplement the report with information on the legal status, important text passages or selected patent claims.

Facts and figures

Location	Bern, Switzerland. ip-search Patent and Technology Searches are a service of the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property.
Data security	As a state institution, we are bound by confidentiality. Exchange of documents via electronic mail boxes (ip-search box). Encrypted email.
No. of employees	Around 50 search experts with a university degree, most with a doctorate. Many years of personal expertise in the industry and training in the examination of patents.
Language skills	Native languages: German, French, Italian, English, Spanish, Russian, Romanian, Persian and Chinese. Foreign languages: Japanese, Arabic, Dutch, Swedish, Ukrainian, Turkish and Portuguese.
Experience	More than 1900 searches carried out annually, the first online search over 30 years ago.
Quality management	Quality control (the four-eyes principle) for search objective, search strategy, document selection and search report. Defined processes for document retention, correspondence and search procedure. Feedback system.
Databases	More than 300 databases for patent literature and scientific literature accessible via: European Patent Office search system, STN, Derwent Innovation, PatBase, GenomeQuest, SequenceBase, Reaxys.
Search services	Freedom-to-operate searches (FTO), validity search, subject search, strategic patent analysis, bibliographic search as well as technology and legal status monitoring.



Patent searches are a matter of trust. Which is why we are showing you our best – our search experts. Engineers, natural scientists and patent examiners.

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