What is a patent?

A patent is an IP right for a technical invention. It allows you to prevent others from using your invention for commercial purposes for up to 20 years. You decide who is allowed to produce, sell or import your invention in those countries in which you own a valid patent. You can also trade your patent, e.g. sell it or licence the use of your invention.
Key information at a glance

- What is an invention?
- What is a patent?
- Why patent an invention?
- Patent searches and monitoring

Before applying for a patent

What do I need to consider before applying for a patent?

- Before you apply

How can I verify the novelty of my invention?

- Verifying novelty
Your patent application and examination

**Who can help me?**
- Patent attorneys

**How can I apply for a patent?**
- Three routes to patent protection

**How much does a patent cost?**
- Costs and fees

**The Swiss patent register**
- Swissreg

**Your patent application and examination**

**How do I obtain a Swiss patent?**
- Application in Switzerland

**Where do I apply for a European patent?**
- European application (EP)
I am the owner of a patent

How do I take full advantage of my patent?

- Exploiting your patent
- Patent marking
- Enforcing your patent

Interesting questions about patents

- How can you protect an invention?
- What protection does a Swiss patent provide?
- What is a patent search?
- When is an invention considered “new”?
- Are there standard licencing agreements?
Can your idea be patented? Find out with an assisted patent search.

How can I use patent information?

Information from patents contain valuable up-to-date knowledge about companies and technologies. This information is available to everyone – so why not use it?

Services

- ip-search

Invent, produce, market

In our Guide for Innovative and Creative Minds, you can find practical tips on patents, trade marks, designs and copyright to help you with the innovation process.

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