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POLYRESEARCH SERVICE

THE EXPERT ON PATENT SERVICE

who we are 2009

To patent or not to patent?

The question pops up every day somewhere in the world.

Companies want clear answers, because patent information can help determine their commercial policies.

The patent world is a maze and searching for the right answer can be very complicated.

Patent legislation differs from country to country.

Different standards are used with regard to filing, protecting and registering.

Patents are the key to a company's success. It is for this reason that many companies call upon our expertise.

RELY ON POLYRESEARCH SERVICE FOR EXPERT SERVICE

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who we are and **what we do**



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Who we are

Polyresearch Service BV is an independent private organization founded more than 50 years ago on February 4, 1955. Our main office is located in Rijswijk, a suburb of The Hague, in the close vicinity of the buildings housing the European and the Dutch Patent Office. We are located a few miles from the largest technical library in the country, that of Delft University of Technology and have direct access to specialized libraries of various industrial research organizations in the immediate vicinity. **Nowadays, with all modern communication techniques at hand and thanks to our long-lasting reliable contacts all over the world we are able to provide quality services throughout the globe.**

Our experienced staff is proficient in many languages and highly trained to help you with the difficult task of finding the right information relating to search and documentation matters in the field of intellectual property, including patent, design and trademark literature. Most of our technical staff members are university graduates in their particular

fields - **chemical, mechanical and electrical/electronic engineering.**

Our collective experience in the field of industrial property rights spans well over 200 years. We are well-acquainted with the information needs of industry. We are fast and flexible in cases of urgency. Moreover, we are fully aware of the cost efficiency required by many clients and are always happy to provide an estimate for any service you are interested in.

We combine know-how and experience with devotion and dedication. Our aim is to provide exactly the services you need. We would be glad to discuss with you ways in which our specialized services could benefit your activities, company or organization and are convinced you will enjoy doing business with us.

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What we do

Searches: patent literature searches, such as novelty, state-of-the-art, validity, infringement or right-to-use, name and counterpart searches, non-patent literature searches and searches of the design and trademark literature from all over the world.

All our searches are performed by professionals and adapted to your every need.

Permanent Patent Watch: monitoring of recent patent publications in a large number of countries.

Continuous monitoring of developments elsewhere keeps you alert! Receive the very kind of information useful to your own commercial policies.

File Histories: (certified) copies of file histories from virtually every country.

No need to contact different suppliers - we deliver it directly from the patent office to your desk.

Status Checks: quick results from official sources on the prosecution of a published patent application or granted patent.

Combined know-how and experience enables us to provide you almost instantly with any information required.

Patent and Non-Patent Document Delivery: hard-to-find copies via our network of agents all over the world.

Reasonable, fixed prices, including e-mail delivery and handling charges.

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SEARCHES - THE IMPORTANCE OF EXPERT RESEARCH

We specialize in searches and information retrieval services covering the patent, design, trademark and non-patent literature from all over the world.

Our searchers are well qualified to carry out any type of patent search such as novelty, state-of-the-art, validity, infringement or right-to-use, name and counterpart searches. They possess an extensive knowledge of manual and online search techniques, retrieval systems and patent legislation and are fully at home in the intricacies of the various patent classification systems which provide the most important key to the patent literature. **Our searchers, all of them professionals, are proficient in various languages (including Dutch, English, French, German, Czech and Russian), which enables them to cover the literature of a great many countries.**

Our searchers combine their technical skills and experience in searching with the use of comprehensive patent documentation collections and modern search techniques.

When ordered to undertake a **validity, novelty** or **state-of-the-art search**, we investigate in the first place (unless instructed otherwise) the EPO and PCT and the Dutch, German, British, U.S., French, Swiss, Austrian and Belgian patent literature. On request we can, however, extend our subject matter searches to the patent literature of virtually every country in the world.

If a patent search does not produce the desired result, it may be necessary to consult the pertinent non-patent literature. The sources available to us in this respect are also considerable either by making use of our in-house facilities or by invoking the aid of established, reliable contacts all over the world.

In contrast to novelty, validity and state-of-the-art searches, **infringement searches** are as a rule restricted to the patent literature of the countries where such searches are dictated by your commercial interests. We are capable of performing such searches in a large number of countries.

The duration of subject matter searches, including novelty and infringement searches, depends on a number of factors. A period of two to



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three weeks can be taken as a safe average for searches restricted to the patent literature of the countries usually considered by us (see above). Of course, a validity search can be far shorter if explicitly relevant prior art is found in an early stage of the search. On the other hand, infringement searches are in most cases more time-consuming per country and their total duration depends on the particular countries whose patent literature has to be covered.

We have no fixed fee schedule for subject matter searches of any category. This is because the search expenses depend on a large number of factors, greatly varying from case to case: the extent of the search field, the nature and difficulty of the subject matter concerned, the period to be covered (often dictated by the subject matter - e.g., for transistors there would be no use going back further than about 1948 - and, in the case of validity searches, by the effective date of the patent to be anticipated or, for infringement searches, by the maximum duration of patents in the countries concerned), etc. The search cost may vary from a few hundred to several thousand U.S. dollars, **but we would be pleased to provide an estimate for any specific**

search. Another possibility is for you to set a limit (sometimes based on our suggestion) which we will not exceed without authorization. When we have reached the specified limit, we produce an interim report giving you the opportunity to review the results and decide whether to terminate or continue the search. Please note that **our fees are based on the time expended on the search and that we charge only our actual expenses** even if they are much lower than the stipulated limit.

Counterpart searches and name searches, categories we have not mentioned as yet, may present unexpected challenges; with counterpart searches: the need to search for non-convention counterparts; with name searches: a company filing its applications in a given country under a certain name often files its applications in other countries under other names. Our experience in this respect and special records we keep in our office enable us to circumvent such difficulties.



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PERMANENT PATENT WATCH - CONTINUOUS INFORMATION KEEPS YOU ALERT

The second important branch of our activities is our **permanent patent watch**. This service is performed for practically all industrialized countries. Continuous monitoring of the patent literature will give you a clear picture of the state of the art and might help you to operate more efficiently and more economically. You can, for instance, participate in or anticipate external developments in time, thereby preventing unnecessary investments. **If you are involved in research and development you will also want to learn about developments elsewhere.**

Thanks to our experience, we are capable of alerting every interested party individually to all new patent publications of possible interest. We select these documents not only according to the classification headings under which they were grouped but also on the basis of their contents, including the possible applications of the invention disclosed therein. This is not only because the classification symbols rarely express all the points of possible interest, but also because of the difference in the interpretation, by the individual patent

offices, of even such a universally used system as the International Patent Classification system. We therefore advise you to describe your field(s) of interest not in terms of classification headings but in the form of accurately circumscribed verbal specifications. A large number of uninteresting patent documents incidentally grouped under certain classification headings can thereby be eliminated. **The advantage of this working method is that you will be alerted to all patent documents of interest even if they were insufficiently or incorrectly classified.**

We supply the title pages, i.e. the full bibliographic data, including the abstract, of the publications of interest. Our basic annual permanent watch subscription fees do not depend on the extent of your sphere of interest. Only if the number of alerts provided over the whole subscription year within the framework of a particular service (i.e. a given category of patent publications) exceeds 200, a small extra charge is levied at the end of the subscription year for every alert supplied in excess of that number.



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STATUS CHECKS - A WIDE RANGE OF SERVICES

Status checks belong to our daily activities; this service covers many countries. We can supply the results of checks on the status of European (EP), Austrian, Belgian, British, Dutch, French, German, and Swiss patent applications **practically within hours** of receiving the appropriate request. We can also monitor the progress of the patent granting procedure of specified applications by checking their status at regular intervals, and as a result inform you of any change in the status (acceptance, grant, opposition, rejection, etc.). The prices vary from country to country.

FILE HISTORIES - PATENTS SPECIFIED IN GREAT DETAIL

Another of our services is the supply of (certified) copies of documents from the files of, e.g., British, Dutch, French, Japanese, German, and European patent applications (file inspections). If desired, we can apply for access to the file of a particular patent document and supply copies of the correspondence conducted during the granting procedure, i.e. **examination reports, opposition documents** etc. In the case of published patent applications claiming the priority of

a pending or abandoned patent application we can order a copy of the priority document(s) from the patent office concerned. Japanese and Russian patent applications filed as priority documents with the EPO are sometimes accompanied by an English translation; the same applies to such applications filed in the Netherlands, Germany or the United Kingdom. We can procure these English translations as soon as the respective applications are made available to the public.

PATENT SPECIFICATIONS - TECHNOLOGY IN MANY LANGUAGES

Furthermore we wish to draw your attention to our **patent specifications delivery service**. We are able to supply you with (certified) copies of patent and non-patent documents readily available here in Rijswijk, or from the country concerned. **Over the years we have established a huge network of suppliers. All orders are carried out immediately. We guarantee optimal, smooth service. And what is more, you can enjoy speedy delivery of nearly every document while you will have to deal with only one supplier:**

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HISTORY

Polyresearch Service was founded over 50 years ago, on February 4, 1955. Once a one-man business, **Polyresearch Service is now an internationally operating organization of patent information specialists in various fields.**

Since our inception, we at Polyresearch Service have maintained a strong commitment to the second part of our name: **SERVICE**, which motivates us to deliver a high standard of service and help you find the right information.

For more than 50 years, we have helped small and medium-sized companies with their patent information needs. We have also assisted many multinationals on more than one occasion and patent lawyers and attorneys from all over the world have repeatedly used our services.

In honour of our 50th anniversary we have sponsored the purchase of a puppy by Stichting Hulphond Nederland. This dog, Umax, born on November 19, 2004, has meanwhile been trained as an assistance dog. Since service and

assistance are part of our daily activities too, we decided to continue sponsoring this dog after his training during his professional work for a client.

Stichting Hulphond Nederland (www.hulphond.nl - website in Dutch) is a non-profit organization dedicated to training assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities. An assistance dog literally and figuratively opens doors which remained closed to people with physical disabilities. An assistance dog offers a lot of practical help. The socio-emotional advantages of an assistance dog should not be underestimated either. For English-language information about assistance dogs go to www.assistedogseurope.org.

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