



## THE EUROPEAN PATENT

*The protection of a new invention containing an industrial application*

The European Patent Office (EPO) was set up in 1977 to provide a uniform application procedure for individual inventors and companies seeking Patent protection in up to 38 European countries through the European Patent Convention, which was signed in 1973.

### Patent Search

Novelty is an essential requirement for your Invention to be Patentable. Therefore it is recommended that before filing for a Patent with the EPO, a Patent search is carried out to ensure that your Invention is new.

A Patent search may also be used if you are interested in knowing the latest state of the art in a certain technological area.

The following are two suggested websites for conducting Patent searches:

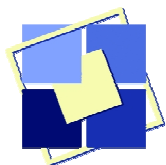
Google Patents: <http://www.google.com/patents>

esp@cenet: [http://ep.espacenet.com/?locale=en\\_EP](http://ep.espacenet.com/?locale=en_EP)

### Applications with the EPO

The EPO accepts applications submitted by post or fax, or online using the tools offered by EPO Online Services through the following web link:

<http://www.epo.org/index.html>



*Information Supplied by the*

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