

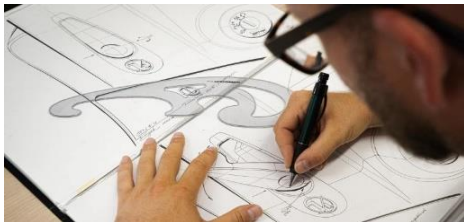


Research and Analysis of Chinese Patents

Patents as a Weapon for Competition

The analysis of Chinese patents often reveals extremely interesting results that allow drawing conclusions about the strategies of Chinese competitors:

- Which Chinese companies are active in our technology field or use our designs?
- Are there currently relevant Chinese innovations or recognizable trends?
- Are there any prior publications that are detrimental to novelty?
- Are our patents or registered designs being infringed or circumvented?
- Do we have freedom to operate in the Chinese market?



Important information includes the filing date of Chinese patents, their scope of protection, the breadth and depth of their claims, as well as gaps that can be exploited. This allows the identification of innovations and trends, as well as the recognition of weaknesses and risks in the company's own patent portfolio that need to be eliminated.

OUR SERVICES*

Resources and Methods:

- Use of commercial research tools and databases
- Search with differentiated key terms in Chinese characters considering context, synonyms and IPC classes.
- Consideration of subsidiaries, affiliated companies and monitoring of competition

Patent and Utility Model

Research:

- Filing activities of Chinese companies and prior art and novelty searches.
- Information on infringement, opposition and legal status
- Identification of Chinese intellectual property rights in bad faith and determination of freedom to operate by Chinese patent attorneys

Tracing of Registered Designs:

- Filing activities of Chinese individuals and companies
- Manual searches of designs by means of Locarno classes and scanned graphics or drawings
- Legal status search and identification of bad faith designs and design infringements by Chinese patent attorneys

Strategic Analysis:

- Information about new products and processes
- Benchmarking and identification of patent strategies of competitors
- Analysis of the market in specific product and technology areas
- Early detection of technical trends in specific product and technology areas

FAST FACTS

Patent Applications are Doubling

Currently, there are 6.3 patent applications per 10,000 inhabitants in China. This number is to be doubled within five years, to 12 new patents per 10,000 inhabitants.

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