



What is a Patent Search?

A prior art search is a search of the Patent Registry (Database) to view all inventions that have been filed and/or registered in the Registry/Database.

A prior art search is done to ensure that the proposed invention is not already registered by another company or individual for a similar or identical invention. The search will help an inventor to assess whether the invention, for which you intend to register, is not infringing another invention that is already filed or registered.

How can I do a Patent Search for Prior Art?

You can do a search by: -

- Requesting the Office to do a Search for you – you inform the Office that you want a Patent Search in the PNG national register of Patents by submitting a Search Request which can be made in writing via correspondence and mailed to IPOPNG office or sent via email with the prescribed fee. The Office will then conduct the search for you and provide you with results; OR
- Alternatively, you can conduct the same search on your own but in absence of the PNG Patent Register, using your own resources – via the internet. Suggested portals to check would include Google Patents, WIPO – Patentscope, ESP@CENET by European Patent Office, Australian Patent Register by Australian Patent Office, US Patent Register by US Patent and Trade Mark Office.

Note: Similar registers are hosted by many other IP offices around the world, however, some may charge while others are free. Google Patents and Patentscope by WIPO are free for you're to use and covers millions of patent applications all around the world.

What is the fee for a Patent Search?

Search fee is PGK50.00 should you wish to request the office to search the patent register in PNG. Please refer to the [schedule of fees](#)

Can I conduct other searches in the PNG Patent Register/Database?

Yes, you can conduct searches for other information other than the invention. These includes:-

- Proprietor Search – Search for a proprietor or owner and all patent applications registered under these owner

Importance of Conducting a Search:-

By conducting this search, you will be in a good stead to compare and construct a proper argumentative description of your invention by stating the benefits of your invention to that which already exists. Without a proper research basis of your inventions, the probability of the examiner objecting your invention is great. More so, there maybe chances of possible infringement of other existing patents that are available worldwide which may attract a lawsuit from the patent owner.

Free Online Registers for Searching Patent Inventions:-

Patent Registers	Administrators	Type of Invention Coverage
Google Patent	Google Search Engine	World Wide
Patentscope	World Intellectual Property Organization	World Wide
Espacenet	European Patent Office	Europe
AusPat	Australian Patent Office	Australia

All other IP offices have their own registries. Should you be interested in a particular country, you can contact the relevant office directly to get more information.