



Europäisches
Patentamt

European
Patent Office

Office européen
des brevets

The European Patent Register

An introductory guide



Everything you need to know before you start

What is the European Patent Register?

The European Patent Register is the place where the European Patent Office stores all the publicly available information it has on European patent applications as they pass through the grant procedure. It is a free internet service accessible via the quick link www.epo.org/register, which forwards you automatically to the secure Register server.

What can the Register do for you?

You can use the Register to:

- find out what stage in the procedure a European patent application has reached
- see whether a European patent application has been granted, or will be granted soon
- check whether any oppositions to a European patent have been filed
- read correspondence between the EPO and a patent applicant/attorney
- download data for later study.

What is in the Register?

The Register contains procedural information on all European patent applications from the moment they are published, including links to the patent registers of many of the member states of the European Patent Organisation showing the status of granted European patents after they have entered the national phase.

It also contains all the public documents in the EPO's file (often called the "file wrapper").

Can I sign up for automatic alerts?

If you are interested in tracking specific European patent applications, you can sign up for the Register Alert service, which will automatically send you an e-mail alert when something happens to any of these applications in the course of the grant procedure.*

You can monitor your own files and other people's patent applications.

* A list of the events that trigger an alert is available on the EPO website at www.epo.org/registeralert_events.

Where to find what you need

The European Patent Register is divided into sections giving you access to different types of information about the patent applications you are interested in.

About this file
Legal status
Event history
Citations
Patent family
All documents

About this file

Contains bibliographic and procedural information on the current status of a particular patent application, plus history.

Legal status

Shows the most important legal events in the European and Euro-PCT procedure, plus any information available to the EPO on the fate of the European patent once it becomes the responsibility of the designated states following grant. Also contains links to the national patent registers of EPO member states.

Event history

Lists all events relating to a file in chronological order.

Citations

Displays a list of documents found during the patentability search for the European patent application or cited by the applicant.

Patent family

Displays a list of documents from around the world that are linked to the European patent application by a common priority number.

All documents

Gives access to all documents in the public part of a file (also known as online file inspection or “file wrapper”).

Online tutorial

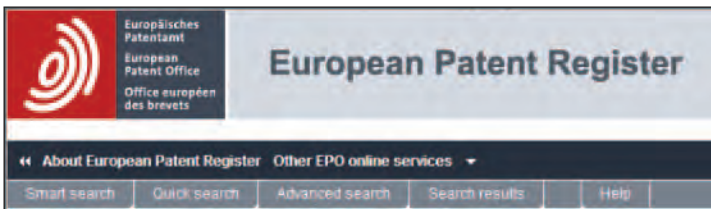
Learn how to use the Register and Register Alert with the European Patent Register Assistant e-learning tool.

www.epo.org/register-assistant

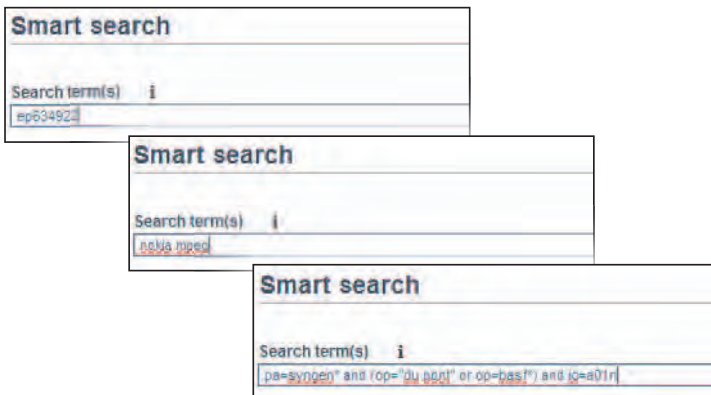
Getting started

First go to www.epo.org/register. This will take you straight to the smart search screen on the secure Register server.

Searching for procedural data



Smart search allows you to enter either single-word or multi-word searches or more complex search commands. You can use Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) and you can also formulate your search using field identifiers. Alternatively you can type in the number of a patent document. The online **Help** function provides advice on how to formulate queries.



Quick search gives you immediate access to a file if you know the EP application or publication number or the filing date.

Advanced search allows searches based on twelve search criteria.



Looking at the results

If your search produces more than one hit, the results will appear in a list on your screen. Just click on the title to see the details of any patent application that interests you.

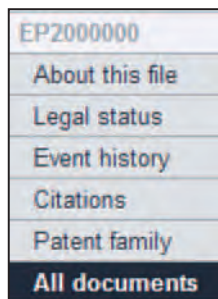


When you open a patent application, the current status and the most recent event are displayed at the top of the page. Then come details of the application itself.



Inspecting files

To inspect the file for a particular patent application, simply click on the **All documents** button on the left of the screen.



A new screen will appear, listing the documents in groups by procedural stage in the public part of the file, including correspondence between the EPO and the applicant or patent attorney.

Click on the document title to open it in PDF format.

Date	Document type	Procedure	Number of pages
24-10-2008	Communication regarding the expiry of opposition period	Search / examination	1
25-01-2008	Communication of amended entries concerning the representability	Search / examination	1
22-11-2007	Decision to grant a European patent	Search / examination	2
30-10-2007	German translation of the claims	Search / examination	9
30-10-2007	Filing of the translations of the claims	Search / examination	1
30-10-2007	French translation of claims	Search / examination	10
30-10-2007	Letter accompanying subsequently filed items	Search / examination	2
02-07-2007	Doubtful entry	Search / examination	28
02-07-2007	Communication about intention to grant a European patent	Search / examination	2

When a document opens, only the first page is displayed.

To print all the pages, click on **Load all pages**. Then click **Print** on the right-hand side of the PDF toolbar.

To download documents, click the checkbox next to the title, then click on **Selected documents** and save. The documents will be packaged in a single PDF file.

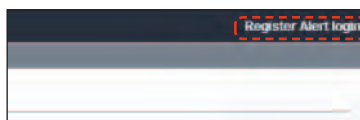


Register Alert

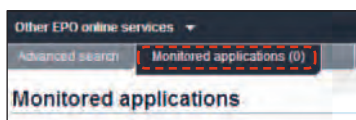
Enrolment

If you are new to the Register Alert service, you will have to enrol for a username and password.

To do this, click on **Register Alert Login** in the top navigation bar.



Once you have enrolled, log in. The **Monitored applications** tab will then appear in the menu bar and you can click on it.



Monitored applications

You can monitor up to 1 000 cases per e-mail account. When you use Register Alert for the first time, the **Monitored applications** view will be empty. To add a file you want to monitor, just click the **Add** button and enter the application or publication number. You can also add a file reference or description if you wish.



Then click **Submit**.

How do I know a file has changed?

There are two ways of finding out whether a file you are monitoring has changed:

- by e-mail alert (click on [Preferences](#), select the **Notification** tab and tick the **E-mail notification** box)
- by logging on and clicking on the **Monitored applications** tab.

Viewing changes

The changes themselves are not listed in Register Alert, but in the European Patent Register under **Most recent event**. To see the most recent event for a given file, simply click on the application number in the e-mail alert you receive or on the title of the application in the **Monitored applications** list.

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