

IP knowledge hacks: European Patent Office Register – a goldmine of FREE information and tools

This is a brief guide for US Paralegals and Patent Attorneys on how to access FREE information and tools which are available by using the EPO Official Register.

Barker Brettell also has a brief downloadable podcast walking through some of the main features which you can listen to by clicking [here](#).

Getting Started

First of all, access the EPO register by clicking the link below or typing 'EPO Register' in your internet search engine.

<https://register.epo.org/advancedSearch?lng=en>

Once you have accessed the EPO Register

If you have clicked on our hyperlink, you should now be looking at the 'Advanced Search' page on the EPO Register website. It should look like this:

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced search' page of the European Patent Register. The page has a header with the EPO logo and navigation links for Deutsch, English, and Français. Below the header, there are tabs for 'Smart search', 'Advanced search', 'Search results', and 'Help'. The 'Advanced search' tab is active. The main content area is titled 'Advanced search' and contains several input fields for search criteria. On the left side, there is a 'Quick help' section with a list of links for various search-related questions. Below the search fields, there are sections for 'Maintenance news', 'News flashes', and 'Related links'. The search fields include: 'Publication number' (e.g. EP1883031), 'Application number' (e.g. EP07010825), 'Priority number' (e.g. US20030423700), 'Filing date' (e.g. 20070919), 'Publication date' (e.g. 20070919), 'Priority date' (e.g. 20070919), 'Date of grant' (e.g. 20070919), and 'Applicant(s)' (e.g. IBM).

How to use the EPO Register

It is possible under the advanced search tab to search by application or patent number, applicant, inventor, representative, date ranges, International Patent classification, opponent, keywords in the title – a wide range of things. Information concerning the format for search terms is given on the search page.

How to search for granted patents

For granted patents the most useful button is the Federated Register which pulls information from the National patent offices of the member countries such as the UK, Germany etc. and provides a useful single location for relevant data including whether the EPO patent was validated in a particular country, the renewal status, and the registered proprietor. This is useful when conducting due diligence in an assignment transaction. Checking out that the patent is in force and what name it stands in are basic steps readily facilitated by the Federated Register.

An example is below.

Federated register: EP2704232

SYSTEM FOR THE STORAGE OF ELECTRICAL ENERGY FOR A VEHICLE WITH ELECTRIC PROPULSION

Application No.	Publication No.	Applicant	IPC
EP13183037	EP2704232	FERRARI S.p.A.	H01M2/10 H01M2/12 H01M10/613 (+2)

Quick help

Only designated contracting states and extension states providing the Federated Register Service are listed below.

Status	Application No.	Publication No.	Proprietor	Invalidation date	Not in force since	Renewal fees last paid	Record last updated
AT	EP13183037	EP2704232	FERRARI S.p.A.	13.07.2015	01.04.2015	---	---
BE	EP13183037	EP2704232	FERRARI S.p.A.	---	04.09.2013	---	18.10.2020
BG	No data provided by the national patent office for this patent						
CH/LI	EP13183037	EP2704232	FERRARI S.p.A.	---	30.09.2016	---	19.04.2017
CZ	CZ2013-183037	EP2704232	FERRARI S.p.A.	---	---	---	05.08.2018
DE	EP13183037	EP2704232	Ferrari S.p.A., Modena	---	---	---	06.10.2020

There are direct links to the national register entries, which provide definitive information about whether each national patent is in force or not.

What can you do if you need to widen your search?

The EPO register includes a link to Espacenet (highlighted above), which is a wider patent database maintained by the EPO. It includes a list of related family members (listed under 'published as'). In the example case, highlighted below, there is a US equivalent, and the file wrapper for the US case can be viewed via the Global Dossier link near the top of the page after having selected the US case (by clicking the highlighted patent number).

Searching for Japanese and Chinese cases

For Japanese cases, the EPO global dossier will also hold machine translations of office actions, which can save time and money. The same is meant to be true of Chinese cases, but in Barker Brettell's experience the global dossier for Chinese cases is less likely to be up to date.

☆ **EP2704232A1** System for the storage of electrical energy for a vehicle with electric propulsion

Available in ▾ Patent Translate ▾ ⋮

Bibliographic data ▾

Register ↗ **Global Dossier** ↗

Applicants FERRARI SPA [IT] +

Inventors FAVARETTO FABRIZIO [IT] +

Classifications

IPC **H01M10/613; H01M10/625; H01M10/6567; H01M2/10; H01M2/12;**

CPC **H01M10/0481 (EP,US); H01M10/613 (EP,US); H01M10/6554 (EP,US); H01M2/1077 (EP,US); H01M2/12 (EP,US); H01M2/1252 (US); H01M10/625 (EP,US);**

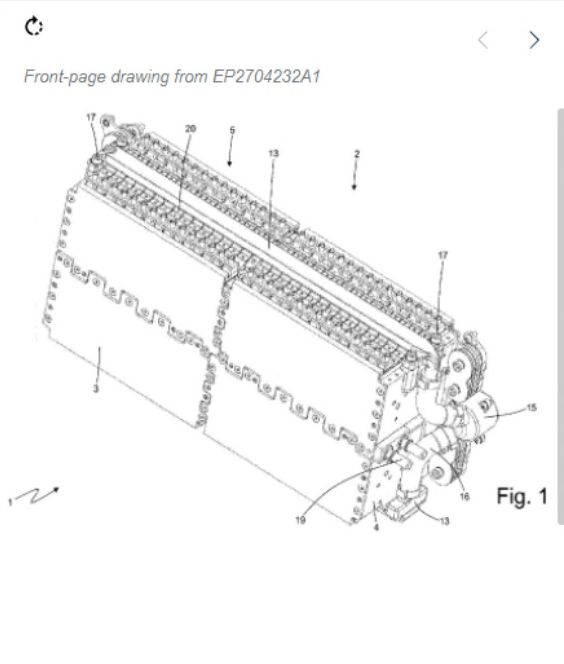
Priorities ITBO20120466A-2012-09-04

Application EP13183037A-2013-09-04

Publication EP2704232A1-2014-03-05

Published as EP2704232A1; EP2704232B1; ITBO20120466A1; US2014072840A1; **US9397324B2**

Front-page drawing from EP2704232A1



The Register entry for a European patent or application shows the citations made and any third party comments. These features are useful when assessing the validity of a patent. An example is below.

← About European Patent Register Other EPO online services ▾ Register Alert (email alerts)

Smart search Advanced search Search results Help

EP2704232

European procedure

About this file

Legal status

Federated register

Event history

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Patent family

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Quick help

- Is it possible to download documents?
- Is it possible to print a list of all the documents?
- Can I sort the list of documents?
- Is it possible to open one of the documents?
- Can I open multiple documents in separate windows?
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All documents(33) Search

Date	Document type	Procedure	Number of pages
05.02.2016	Communication regarding the expiry of opposition period	Search / examination	1
02.04.2015	Transmission of the certificate	Search / examination	1
05.03.2015	Decision to grant a European patent	Search / examination	2
19.02.2015	(Electronic) Receipt	Search / examination	1
19.02.2015	Filing of the translations of the claims	Search / examination	1
19.02.2015	French translation of claims	Search / examination	3
19.02.2015	German translation of the claims	Search / examination	3
19.02.2015	Letter accompanying subsequently filed items	Search / examination	2
15.10.2014	Bibliographic data of the European patent application	Search / examination	1
15.10.2014	Communication about intention to grant a European patent	Search / examination	5
15.10.2014	Intention to grant (signatures)	Search / examination	1
15.10.2014	Text intended for grant	Search / examination	24

Free patent watching alerts

It is possible to watch a patent or application by signing up for a free register alert email that alerts you to a change in the register, whether that be the issuing of an office action or the lapsing of a patent due to non-payment of a renewal fee.

It is also possible to submit anonymous observations on-line during prosecution of an application via the Register.

The Register is normally available 24/7, with occasional downtime for maintenance. Attorneys use the EPO Register all of the time – for checking out the portfolio of a competitor company; for watching the prosecution history of patents of interest; in an acquisition to check on the patent portfolio; to check renewal status and ownership, and if any patent is opposed, to search for prior art and family members (via Espacenet). It is also useful to check the current status of the prosecution of attorney's own files.

For more information on any of the points raised in this guide, please contact your normal Barker Brettell attorney or email info@barkerbrettell.co.uk.