

## **On-line Search Facility for Patents related to Electronic Products**

### **Search facility for patents registered in Hong Kong**

All patents registered in Hong Kong are searchable by using the patents computer system installed at the Intellectual Property Department (“IPD”) at a fee of HK\$100 for every 30 minutes. Patent search can be done by subject with reference to the International Patent Classification promulgated by the World Intellectual Property Organisation. IPD is enhancing its computer system to provide a free on-line patent search service by the end of 2003.

### **On-line search facilities for patents registered in other jurisdictions**

2. As far as we are aware, the following patent offices provide free on-line search facilities at least for patents granted or patent applications published in their own jurisdictions -

- State Intellectual Property Office of Mainland China (<http://www.sipo.gov.cn/>)
- UK Patent Office (<http://www.patent.gov.uk/>)
- European Patent Office (<http://www.european-patent-office.org/>)
- US Patent and Trademark Office (<http://www.uspto.gov/>)
- Japan Patent Office (<http://www.jpo.go.jp/>)
- Australian Patent Office (<http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/>)
- Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (<http://www.ipos.gov.sg/>)

3. The on-line patent search facility of the European Patent Office also covers patents granted or patent applications published in other countries (e.g. the US and Japan). IPD's homepage provides hyperlinks to the website of most of the above patent offices.

### **Non-government patent search services**

4. Many non-government bodies offer patent search services at a fee. Some examples are given below -

**Local**

- All law firms in Hong Kong which have a patents practice provide search service and technical and legal advice on patents. There are also agents specialising in patents. Most of them can draft and file patent applications and documents for their clients.
- The Hong Kong Productivity Council provides patent search services for their clients for a particular product idea, technology area or manufacturing process. The search covers patents registered in other jurisdictions.

**Overseas**

- There are plenty of overseas companies providing patent search services. These services may be accessed on-line, through fax or by post.

**Conclusion**

5. As existing resources and facilities are abundantly available, it is not necessary for the Government to establish a new on-line search facility for overseas patents related to electronic products.

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