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Patent Searches (U.S. Applications)

We strongly recommend a patent search before drafting and filing a patent application. This may not be necessary if you are highly sophisticated in the technology of the invention, but otherwise, we view a search as an excellent investment.

Based on your disclosure, we request a search by a professional patent searcher. The searcher finds the US Patents and Published Patent Applications which are closest to your invention. The search is generally limited to US Patents and Published Patent Applications because these are most likely to affect the issuance of your US patent application and because most valuable inventions are patented in the United States. However, publications or public disclosures from anywhere in the world may be a basis for invalidating an issued patent, and when a valuable patent is enforced, it is possible that an opponent may spend many thousands of dollars searching for material which may invalidate an issued patent. It, however, is not practical to spend \$100,000.00 on a search when an application may cost \$5,000.00 to file, and we believe that a search of US Patents and Published Patent Applications is a reasonable approach. While we do recommend a search by a professional searcher, performing such a search is entirely at your discretion.