**Patent Translate**

Removing the language barriers from patent information

**About Patent Translate**

Patent Translate is a free online machine translation service specifically built to handle complex and technical patent vocabulary. Integrated into the European Patent Office’s Espacenet worldwide patent database and European publication server, it allows instant translations of patents between English and currently 13 European languages, plus Chinese. Set up jointly with Google, the service makes it easier for anyone to use the wealth of information disclosed in patent documents. It allows companies, inventors and scientists to cut costs and speed up their R&D efforts by accessing information about state-of-the-art technologies from around the world in their own language. As a tool also used by patent examiners in their daily work, Patent Translate is also essential for safeguarding and improving patent quality worldwide.

**Espacenet: A gateway to patents from around the world**

Patent Translate facilitates multilingual access to a vast and fast-growing collection of patent documents related to state-of-the-art technology from around the world. The EPO’s Espacenet database is in fact one of the biggest sources of information on technology available anywhere. It contains almost 80 million documents from patent offices around the world, including all European patents, and is searched by some 30,000 users per day. The amount of patent documentation, especially from Asia, is growing quickly, and Espacenet offers convenient access to the most up-to-date documents. You can search the database to find solutions to technical problems, monitor developments in emerging technologies, gather business intelligence on your competitors and identify business partners.

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Patent Translate currently provides instant translations between English and 13 European languages, namely Danish, Dutch, German, Finnish, French, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Swedish, covering more than 90% of all patents granted in Europe. It now also provides translation between English and Chinese, allowing companies and researchers from around the world unprecedented access to information about technology coming out of China. The number of languages is expected to double in the coming years.

“Patent Translate is a major step forward in helping to increase access to information and safeguard patent quality.”

*EPO President Benoît Battistelli*
Chinese-English translations
The EPO has been co-operating for decades with China to improve access to patent documents and bring up the quality of the patent system. Thanks to this co-operation, nearly 4 million full-text patent documents in Chinese have now been added to the EPO's databases, making it one of the world’s most important patent languages. And with the help of Patent Translate, this large source of technological information is accessible in English for the first time. This means European businesses can now get access to Chinese inventions at the click of a mouse, information they can use for example in deciding whether or not to invest in China in a certain area of technology, or which companies to start a joint venture with. The improved access to information also helps patent offices worldwide to do a more thorough global prior art search, making sure that an invention really is novel. The quality of the global patent system thus also benefits.

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