



# EXPRESS SEARCH

[www.ExpressSearch.com](http://www.ExpressSearch.com)

## Clearance/Freedom to Operate Research

### How is Clearance Research Used?

Clearance research ("Freedom to Operate" or "Right to Use" research) is a fundamental element in opinion drafting and a key business tool for corporate management.

Express Search offers detailed clearance research allowing our clients the flexibility to focus on drafting opinions, amendments, and briefs while having made due diligence requirements.

Clearance research has become a standard method of judging product value in the intangible asset marketplace.

Patent portfolio management utilizes clearance research at multiple stages, including preparation for purchase or sale of portions or whole patent portfolios.

### How is Clearance Research Conducted?

Clearance research includes an infringement search in addition to searching expired patents that may provide a "safe harbor" for a specific product, process, or service.

Our researchers address both infringement and novelty concerns with the ultimate goal of giving the client the ability to offer a solid legal opinion regarding the barriers to entry into a particular field of technology or market.

### Search Results Include:

- Opinion-free comments
- Keyword searchable patents
- Current PAIR assignments
- Current INPADOC patent family and legal status
- Electronic results
- Free shipping and free electronic patent copies
- Free research estimate and conferencing

### Clearance Research Fees

- Cost: \$115 per hour
- Recommended hours: 24
- Scope: 20 to 60 patents (active and expired)

The disclosure is measured against the claims of the cited prior art. This eliminates references that could be included in patentability results that do not specifically teach the client's invention. The end result is a highly focused body of prior art whose claims read on the disclosure provided.

The researcher covers the earliest art to the most recent inventions, including US and foreign patents and applications. Non-patent literature may also be included to provide an additional scholarly overview of the field of technology.

Express Search clearance research includes both the search results as well as diverse legal status information for each of the cited references.

Opinion-free comments include column/line/figure and claim references which point clients directly to the most important features of the art. Coupled with keyword searchable electronic patent copies, clients can quickly and accurately prepare their clearance opinions with confidence. Additional assignment data is included to enable complimentary analyses.

### Who Benefits from Clearance Research?

Key beneficiaries of this product range from small start up companies requiring information and analysis of their market options to established corporations looking to increase product lines.

Additionally, venture capital and grant organizations are requesting clearance opinions as a basis for funding allocation, renewal, and in determining the viability of a venture.

Clearance research provides a solid foundation for the valuation of a patent or product with a specific focus on competing intellectual property.