

Inventions and Patents



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An invention is a new product or process that solves a technical problem. Inventions can improve lives in many ways. Patents protect inventions by allowing their holders to make, use or sell their invention exclusively for a time.

Territorial

Patents are granted nationally (e.g. Ireland) or regionally (e.g. Europe) but only protect in the territories that have granted them.

Research

Make sure the invention doesn't already exist, search online, e.g. Espacenet.

Inventions

Must be new, not obvious and usable in industry.

Secret

Inventions must not be made public before filing a patent application.



Why Patent?

- To prevent copying
- To spread knowledge
- An opportunity to profit
- Protect a business asset
- Up to 20 years protection

Not Patentable

- Recipes
- Works of art
- Mathematical equations
- Business methods
- Computer programmes

Irish Inventions

Ejector seat | Hypodermic syringe | Steam turbine



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