



OECD PATENT DATABASES

IDENTIFYING TECHNOLOGY AREAS FOR PATENTS

Within a patent document, several sections can be analysed in order to connect the patent to the relevant technology: the **International Patent Classification** system (IPC) and the national patent classification system; the title of the invention; the abstract describing the invention and the list of claims. One or several classification codes are attributed during the patent examination process.

However, for emerging technologies, a specific category or class might not yet be incorporated in the patent classification systems, which makes it difficult to identify patents related to these technologies afterwards. Therefore, to select patents related to specific technological domains, one can either look at the IPC classes and subclasses, and/or search for appropriate key words within the text fields of the patent document. Such a method might exclude, or include, patents that are, or are not, relevant for a specific domain, but it makes it possible nonetheless to provide a relatively good picture of innovative activity in the technology field.

The 8th edition of IPC is used to identify patents in the ICT or biotechnology sectors.

Patents in the ICT sector can be split into four fields, based on selected IPC codes:

- **Telecommunications:**
[G01S,G08C,G09C,H01P,H01Q,H01S3/(025,043,063,067,085,0933,0941,103,133,18,19,25), H1S5,H03B,H03C,H03D, H03H,H03M,H04B,H04J,H04K,H04L,H04M,H04Q].
- **Consumer electronics:** [G11B,H03F,H03G,H03J,H04H,H04N,H04R,H04S].
- **Computers, office machinery:**
[B07C,B41J,B41K,G02F,G03G,G05F,G06,G07,G09G,G10L,G11C,H03K,H03L].
- **Other ICT:**
[G01B,G01C,G01D,G01F,G01G,G01H,G01J,G01K,G01L,G01M,G01N,G01P,G01R,G01V,G01W,G02B6, G05B,G08G,G09B,H01B11,H01J(11/,13/,15/,17/,19/,21/,23/,25/,27/,29/,31/,33/,40/,41/,43/,45/),H01L].

Patents in Biotechnology:

[A01H1/00,A01H4/00,A61K38/00,A61K39/00,A61K48/00,C02F3/34,C07G(11/00,13/00,15/00), C07K(4/00,14/00,16/00,17/00,19/00),C12M,C12N,C12P,C12Q,C12S,G01N27/327, G01N33/(53*,54*,55*,57*,68,74,76,78,88,92)].

For further details

International Patent Classification, 8th edition, 2000: www.wipo.int/classifications/ipc/ipc8.