



"We ran TotalPatent in a trial with a rival system. TotalPatent was user-friendly, offered much wider coverage, more depth of information and had more comprehensive features. The overall package is significantly better."

Rachel Atfield, Senior Technology Associate, Cambridge Enterprise

Cambridge Enterprise requirements

Cambridge Enterprise exists to help some of the nation's greatest innovators take their inventions from the drawing boards of Cambridge University to the market place.

A wholly-owned subsidiary of the University, set up to commercialise University technology, the company has an annual income of more than £8 million. A large percentage is returned to academics and departments to reward their contribution and encourage future work.

The due diligence process is crucial in the journey from the laboratory to commercial success as a missed document can prove both costly and time-consuming further down the line. Cambridge Enterprise filed over 50 patent applications in 2010.

What did LexisNexis recommend?

LexisNexis recommended TotalPatent, the most comprehensive and precise patent research and retrieval system available anywhere. It allows access to the extensive LexisNexis patent database, including the full text from over 30 authorities, bibliographic and abstract data from more than 100 authorities and access to British granted patent applications. Its unique analytics feature allows visualization, comparison and contrast of search results.

"We originally ran TotalPatent in a head-to-head trial with a rival system, which we had been using previously," says Dr Rachel Atfield, Senior Technology Associate with the company's licensing team. "We were immediately impressed that TotalPatent was not only user-friendly but offered much wider coverage, more depth of information and more comprehensive features. In my opinion the overall package offered by TotalPatent is significantly better."

How did Cambridge Enterprise benefit?

Since making the switch to TotalPatent, Dr Atfield and her colleagues have continued to be impressed.

"Patent protection is often crucial for a company to license a technology," she explains. "We invest a lot of time and money filing patents. Ultimately, if we miss an existing patent our patent protection can end up having little value."

"Making those checks is an extensive process and that is why it is crucial that we have a tool like TotalPatent which gives us confidence. It's a system we can trust to carry out detailed searches."

TotalPatent boasts three times more full texts than any other single provider, giving Cambridge Enterprise another benefit.

Dr Atfield says: "Full text searching is important for us. There is a risk of missing information that is not contained in the abstract or claims. The crucial detail is sometimes hidden in the text."

TotalPatent allows searches both in the language of publication and in English language machine translations, as well as images, legal status, citations and patent family data, and searchable PDFs. No other patent research solution in the world offers that level of comprehensive reach, multiple searching and international scope.

Additionally, it offers a unique semantic search engine allowing users to improve results by prioritising key words and phrases.

Dr Atfield says: "The added features, such as accessing translations and searchable PDFs, are useful. I know that in the past while carrying out searches in the vaccine field, we have missed foreign language material as we weren't able to search translations. I expect these would now be picked up by TotalPatent, potentially saving us time and also money. TotalPatent offers us many advantages."