



University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

Crowd-enabled Patent Web Analyser

A businessman in a dark suit and tie is pointing his right index finger towards the camera. The background is a dark blue digital interface with various data visualizations: a world map on the left, a bar chart on the right, a line graph at the bottom, and a pie chart with '82%' on the left. The word 'PATENT' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters, centered within a white rectangular border that the businessman's finger is pointing at.

PATENT

Are you effectively using the 50 million patent records that are instantly available?

Companies face many issues related to intellectual property management. This can be in conducting effective patent searches or landscapes, as well as reading and extracting use patent information effectively. Existing patent software applications are expensive and do not provide tailored solutions – as a result many companies are failing to leverage the innovation and commercial benefits of this vast resource.

Since software algorithms are still most effective in solving numerical problems, human reasoning is still most powerful to answer patent-related tasks that relate to complex technical and legal jargon. Through EPSRC-funded research, the Strathclyde team developed a unique crowd-enabled patent web platform, which brings human reasoning to solve textual problems, harnessing millions of available online workers through well-established procedures.

The platform supports patent search, cluster and application tasks in the complete industrial product development cycle: scoping, conceptualisation, embodiment and detailing processes. The platform produces customized solutions and visualization maps to suit industrial needs. The resulting cost of this approach is very low compared to using software applications.

A schematic of the platform workflow is shown in **Figure 1**. It provides an effective user-interface to: distribute patent tasks globally in connection with other crowdsourcing platforms; monitor task progress and completion; structure and evaluate crowd workers' results; and approve payment to online workers.

Key features of the crowd-enabled patent web analyser include:

- Facility for test questions to ensure participating crowd members are qualified.
- Patent tasks and output formats are customizable to industrial needs.
- Integration to other crowdsourcing platforms such as Crowdfunder and mTurk.
- Option to include NDA agreements to guarantee information confidentiality.

The platform helps to generate state-of-the-art patent landscapes oriented by specific characteristics such as function, technology, novelty, and identifies possible applications.

Contact

To test the platform for your specific needs and harness the power of patents, and to engage in potential research collaboration, please contact

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Figure 1. Schematic of the web platform workflow

