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Learn about **prior art** in accordance with the PCT **as early as possible** to have a **clear understanding of your chances to file a successful PCT application**.

The International-type Search (ITS) performed by the Visegrad Patent Institute (VPI) helps you discover prior art that is relevant for the purpose to determine whether, and if so, to what extent, the claimed invention to which the national patent application relates is novel, and if it involves an inventive step. VPI ITS provides you this information without actually filing an international patent application.

The process

The **search is carried out** in accordance with the International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines under the PCT **by the VPI as an International Searching Authority (ISA) during the national patent procedure**.

The request for VPI ITS is to be **filed directly at the National IP Office** where the national patent application is in progress. In case of Polish and Slovak national procedures, ITS can also be requested in utility model applications.

At this moment, the request for VPI ITS **can be filed at** the following National IP Offices of the VPI Contracting States:

- [Hungarian Intellectual Property Office](#)
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- [Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic](#)

The service results in either an International-type Search Report (ITSR) or a declaration of non-establishment of ITSR. No Written Opinion is established upon completing the ITSR.

Delivery time and cost

The ITSR is issued within 3 months from the date on which both the request form and the fee arrived to the Visegrad Patent Institute.

The fee for ITS is 600 € that is to be paid directly to the bank account of the VPI.

For more information, visit the VPI website or contact us:

<https://vpi.int/en/12-international-type-search>

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