

Excellence in Patentability Studies

How Melexis use IPRally to reduce their time spent on patentability studies by 75%

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“Thanks to IPRally
we now spend three hours
per search compared to
a day and a half.”



– Thomas Freitag
IP Business Partner, Melexis

Key highlights

- + IPRally reduces time spent on patentability studies by 75%
- + 30-50% of the prior art found with IPRally shows up again in the EPO search reports
- + The quality of the search results allows writing claims around the prior art in an early phase

Patentability studies and drafting support

Thomas Freitag is an IP business partner at Melexis, a global supplier of microelectronic semiconductor solutions. As a part of the Melexis IP team, he works together with R&D and the business unit and is responsible for the intellectual property related to several product lines. He primarily uses IPRally in two stages of Melexi's IP processes – to carry out patentability studies and to provide the external law firms with relevant prior art in the drafting process.

"When we get an invention disclosure from our development team, the overall question is: is this patentable or not? Our claim language can be pasted directly into IPRally to find the relevant prior art to answer that question", says Thomas Freitag.

If Thomas and his team decide to file a patent application, they engage an outside law firm to draft it. The law firm's preliminary claim set is then run through IPRally to compare the new results with the previously found prior art documents. If additional prior art is found, it is shared with the external attorney.

Up to 50% of the prior art found with IPRally shows up in the EPO search report

With traditional search methods, the boolean way with keywords and classifications, Melexis invested on average a day and a half per search.

"That's what we had budgeted for, says Thomas Freitag. "But with the help of IPRally we can reduce that to three hours per search case. So that's really a big help. The graph AI also catches patents with IPC/CPC classes that would rarely have been found with classic search methods, at least not without a lot of effort."

"We see very good search results with IPRally. Melexis is usually filing the priority in Europe and after eight months we get the search report with the prior art that the examiner has found. I can only speak for our technical field, but we see 30-50% of the prior art we found with IPRally showing up again in these search reports."

High grant rate

"The quality of search results gives us the opportunity to write claims around the prior art in an early phase. This is of course very valuable", says Thomas Freitag.

"IPRally also offers the ability to share what we are working on with the law firms. When you look at the overall performance, we lose approximately 10% of filed inventions because of prior art, i.e. novelty or inventive step. And we spend three hours per search compared to a day and a half. To put it shortly, IPRally brings us value."

Melexis designs, develops and delivers innovative micro-electronic solutions. They enable designers to turn ideas into applications that support the best imaginable future. The customer base consists primarily of companies in the automotive market, but is expanding into sectors such as medical technology, home automation and transport. Founded in Belgium in 1989, the company employs 1500 people whereof 50% are engineers.



IPRally lets you search and categorize the patent landscape faster, easier and more accurately using knowledge graph AI.

If you would like to try it and see how it works for you, just contact us at iprally.com for a short demo and we'll sign you up for a free trial.