

In This Issue

- Welcome to Phil's Newsletter
- Understanding Your Technology Space
- Phil's Patent Picks



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[IP Scope services](#)
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[Phil's Patent Picks](#)
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Welcome to Phil's IP Scope News

I thought it was time to provide some news of my first 6 months in business since leaving Kodak European Research.

The time has flown by; learning how to set up a business together with all the associated aspects of networking, creating websites, setting up client databases etc. has been a great experience and great fun! The transition from working under the umbrella of a large corporation to going it alone has been a steep learning curve but, thankfully, I can say that I have replaced all the in-house patent searching and analysis tools with equally useful, lower cost alternatives that allow me to continue to provide the same quality service.

It is my pleasure to be able to offer these plus a range of patent and strategic IP training modules to a much wider group in the imaging, materials science and printed electronics sectors.

In this first post I talk about one of the key issues I find in many discussions with new or small business enterprises and introduce you to "Phil's Patent Picks".

Understanding Your Technology Space

One of the most frequently asked questions I get is "Is my idea worth patenting?" You can only answer this question correctly when you really understand your technology space. Firstly you need to know if your idea is patentable; is it novel, inventive (non-obvious) and useful in some way? Most of this can be understood by reference to published patents or patent applications and scientific literature. Then you need to assess whether there is a market for the product, process or improvement you have invented. This combination of technical and business intelligence is most valuable in defining your strategy and being able to answer the original question.

Gathering this information is vital and often is a pre-requisite for any discussions with partners or sponsors with whom you want to do business or try to obtain funding from. However, it is often neglected because the costs of doing this are thought to be prohibitive. IP SCOPE believes strongly that such information should not be expensive to find given that most of it is readily available through publicly accessible patent databases. We can provide training to help you discover this information for yourself or better still do it for you and free up time for your other business needs.

A simple patent search can start from around £500 to provide a basic "scoping" search of a technology space which will provide a database of relevant patent documents for subsequent analysis and enable further searches or analyses to be conducted in a targeted manner.

Phil's Patent Picks

I am primarily a research scientist and so I love to delve into the technology behind inventions. In the field of printed electronics there are plenty of examples of interesting patents and I have started a feature on my website which provides some technical background for a few of the more interesting patents I come across during my work. Here is an extract from the latest addition to *Phil's Patent Picks*.

Carbon Nanotube Ink Technology for commercial, high volume, printed electronics applications

SouthWest NanoTechnologies Inc. (SWeNT), a leading manufacturer of single-wall and specialty multi-wall carbon nanotubes (CNT) was created in 2001 to spin off nanotube research developed at the University of Oklahoma. Recently they have announced a partnership with Chasm Technologies Inc. to provide a method for printing carbon nanotubes using commercial, high-volume printing methods and equipment, including flexographic, gravure and screen printing. The method uses the V2V™ ink technology (from Chasm Technologies) as a vehicle for the CNT. Full details can be read on their [press release](#).

I was particularly interested in the patents around the carbon nanotubes and it turns out that most of the intellectual property for the CNT manufacture is held by the University of Oklahoma and relates to the CoMoCAT ® process. Some of the earliest single walled CNT patents are held by IBM and NEC and it appears that SWeNT have license agreements with these companies but they have also developed the process to make it more controllable so that specific diameter CNTs can be made. ([Read more...](#))

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