Select database

Enter your search terms. Remember possible truncation mark (*).

Use Boolean operators to combine search terms and patent classes.

Browse IPC to find relevant patent classes.
An example of a search strategy in the Derwent Innovations Index—patent database

Start to search with keywords, try synonyms.

Select examples of relevant patents from the results list and note their keywords and Patent Classification Codes (IPC/CPC).

To find relevant patent classes try International Patent Classification Codes (IPC) or Derwent Class Code.

Search by the identified patent classification codes in addition to keywords and find other similar patents.

Look at cited patents and patents that have cited.

Repeat this search strategy on the new keywords and codes you find.

If you cannot find suitable patents, try also market research reports by Frost & Sullivan, that lists key patents. Check e.g. patent classes, keywords.