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).

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

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.

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

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

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

Use Boolean operators to combine search terms and patent classes.

You can browse IPC to find relevant patent classes.