

Petroleum Equipment Patent Database Service

technology resources international, inc.

Petroleum Equipment Patent Database

For some time now, Technology Resources International, Inc. (TRI) has been developing a patent database covering service station, fuel distribution and alternative fuels related technologies. We featured 1995 and 1996 service station technology in a series of four articles published in PETROLEUM EQUIPMENT & TECHNOLOGY during 1996 and 1997. Alternative fuels patents were featured in two 1997 articles appearing in NATURAL GAS FUELS.

Currently, we are updating our database every quarter with newly issued US, European (EP) and World (WO) patents. In addition, we continue to search various databases for patents missed in previous searches. During the last three months we have added about 150 older patents. Significant resources have been allocated to commissioning searches, reviewing and organizing results, and data entry. The Table below provides an overview of our database contents as of January 2004.

	Patent Category	# of Patents
1	Nozzles	300
2	Hoses, Break Aways, Fittings	85
3	Vapor Recovery	250
4	Dispensers	450
5	Point of Sale (POS)	550
6	Robotics	130
7	Instrumentation	50
8	Vehicle ORVR & Fillpipe	200
9	Underground Systems	260
10	Station Design, Customer Focus	120
11	Alternative Fuels (CNG,LNG)	220
12	Terminal Operations	55
	Total to Date	ca. 2600

While most patent categories are self explanatory, two need additional data: Terminal Operations includes Stage 1 vapor recovery, while Customer Focus includes a number of miscellaneous topics

such as advertising on the squeegee handle or on the nozzle guard, highway information systems, customer reward programs, etc.

Access to TRI's Petroleum Equipment Patent Database provides a number of important benefits not available to the average individual scanning the Patent Gazette. We cover the European (EP) and World (WO) databases in addition to the US Patent Office. Our quarterly searches typically result in about 300-350 "hits" from which we cull the 50-100 patents applicable to our industry. While EP and WO issues are publications rather than actual patents, they are generally published several months before the corresponding US patents, thus providing advanced information on competitor technology.

Data Base Offerings

Option 1

TRI is now offering a **quarterly patent update service** for any combination or all patent categories by subscription. Updates will be issued before May 1, August 1, November 1 and February 1. Subscribers will be provided with lists of patents for each category, including patent number, date and title, inventor and assignee. An alphabetical listing by assignee will also be included. The fourth quarter report will include a consolidation of the entire year's patents.

Option 2

In addition, we are offering subscribers **access to the entire database**, again in any combination of specific categories. As a special incentive, we will provide subscribers of this option a year-end integration with the database, which will also include any additions beyond the new patents made during the year. Option 2 will, of course, include all quarterly updates.

Patent Images

Our database includes electronic images of the patents in Adobe pdf format.