

# What is a patent?

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A patent is an exclusive right granted by the State for the protection of an invention. To be protectable, an invention must meet three requirements: **a. - Novelty** An invention will be new if it does not form part of the state of the art. The state of the art refers to all matter which has been made available to the public anywhere in the world, by publication in tangible form, sale or marketing. **b. - Inventive step** An invention involves an inventive step if it is not obvious to a person skilled in the art. **c. - Industrial application** The invention must be capable of industrial application, in principle, being made or used in any industry, whether manufacturing, handicrafts, mining, agriculture, or other.