ANGELIC II Domain Model: Inventive Step in European Patent Law

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1 Introduction

This document presents an ANGELIC Domain Model (ADM) for the legal domain of assessing the inventive step of a patent, based on the European Patent Office (EPO) Guidelines. The model is constructed following the ANGELIC II methodology, which structures legal knowledge into a hierarchy of issues, abstract factors, and base-level factors. This work is based on the ANGELIC II paper (Atkinson & Bench-Capon 2023) and on a handcrafted document of extensive defeasible inference rules for the domain.

2 Main Analysis: Inventive Step

This section details the primary logical flow for determining if an invention involves an inventive step.

2.1 Issue Table

The Issue Table contains the highest-level legal questions for the main analysis.

Table 1: Issue Table for Inventive Step

ID	Issue	Children	Acceptance Conditions	Source	Value
I1	InvStep	I2, F29, F27, F28, I3, F47	REJECT IF F29 REJECT IF I2 ACCEPT IF F27 AND F28 AND I3 AND F47 REJECT	r43, r44 [p. 21]	LC > UPQ > TP
I2	Obvious	F55, AF12	ACCEPT IF F55 ACCEPT IF AF12 REJECT	r42 [p. 21]	UPQ, FC
I3	Novelty	F25	ACCEPT IF F25 REJECT	r9 [p. 6]	UPQ

2.2 Abstract Factor Table: Skilled Person

Table 2: Abstract Factors for Foundational Concepts

ID	Factor	Children	Acceptance Conditions	Source	Value
AF1	Person	F5, F6, F7	ACCEPT IF F5 ACCEPT IF F6 ACCEPT IF F7 REJECT	r1 [p. 3]	UPQ

ID	Factor	Children	Acceptance Conditions	Source	Value
AF2	SkilledPerson	F1, F2, F3, F4, AF1	ACCEPT IF F1 AND F2 AND F3 AND F4 AND AF1 REJECT	r1 [p. 3]	UPQ
AF3	CommonKnowledge	F8, AF4	ACCEPT IF AF4 REJECT IF F8 ACCEPT	r2 [p. 3]	LC, FC
AF4	DocumentaryEvidence	F9, F10, F11, F12	REJECT IF F9 ACCEPT IF F10 ACCEPT IF F11 ACCEPT IF F12 REJECT	r3 [p. 3]	LC

2.3 Abstract Factor Table: Closest Prior Art

Table 3: Abstract Factors for Main Analysis

ID	Factor	Children	Acceptance Conditions	Source	Value
AF5	RelevantPriorArt	F13, F14, F15, F16	ACCEPT IF F15 ACCEPT IF F16 ACCEPT IF F13 ACCEPT IF F14 REJECT	r4 [p. 4]	UPQ
AF6	ClosestPriorArt	AF5, F19, F20, F21	ACCEPT IF AF5 AND F19 AND F20 AND F21 REJECT	r5 [p. 5]	UPQ, LC
AF7	CombinationDocuments	F22, F17, F18, F23, F24	ACCEPT IF F22 AND F17 AND F23 AND F24 ACCEPT IF F22 AND F18 AND F23 AND F24 REJECT	r6 [p. 5]	UPQ
AF8	ClosestPriorArtDocuments	AF6, AF7	ACCEPT IF AF6 ACCEPT IF AF7 REJECT	r7 [p. 6]	UPQ, LC

2.4 Abstract Factor Table: Problem-Solution Approach

Table 4: Abstract Factors for Main Analysis

ID	Factor	Children	Acceptance Conditions	Source	Value
AF9	Combination	F28, F45, F46	ACCEPT IF F28 AND F45 AND F46 REJECT	r22 [p. 12]	TP
AF10	PartialProblems	AF9, F28	REJECT IF AF9 ACCEPT IF F28 REJECT	r25, r26 [p. 13, p. 14]	TP
AF11	CandidateOTP	AF9, AF10	ACCEPT IF AF9 ACCEPT IF AF10 REJECT	r24, r26 [p. 13, p. 14]	TP

2.5 Abstract Factor Table: Secondary Indicators

Table 5: Abstract Factors for Main Analysis

ID	Factor	Children	Acceptance Conditions	Source	Value
AF12	SecondaryIndicator	AF13, AF14, AF15, AF17, F75, AF19	ACCEPT IF AF13 ACCEPT IF AF14 ACCEPT IF AF15 ACCEPT IF AF17 ACCEPT IF F75 ACCEPT IF AF19 REJECT	r35 [p. 18]	FC
AF13	PredictableDisadvantage	F59, F60, F61	REJECT IF F61 ACCEPT IF F59 AND F60 REJECT	r32 [p. 17]	TP > FC
AF14	BioTechObvious	F63, F62, F67, F68	REJECT IF F62 ACCEPT IF F63 AND F67 ACCEPT IF F63 AND F68 REJECT	r33 [p. 17]	TP > LC
AF15	AntibodyObvious	AF16, F65, F66	REJECT IF F66 ACCEPT IF AF16 AND F65 REJECT	r34 [p. 17]	TP > FC
AF16	SubjectMatterAntibody	F63, F64	ACCEPT IF F63 AND F64 REJECT	r34 [p. 17]	UPQ
AF17	KnownMeasures	F69, F70, AF18	ACCEPT IF F69 ACCEPT IF F70 ACCEPT IF AF18 REJECT	r36, r37, r39 [p. 18, p.19]	FC
AF18	KnownUsage	F71, F72, F73, F74	ACCEPT IF F71 ACCEPT IF F72 ACCEPT IF F73 AND F74 REJECT	r38 [p. 19]	FC
AF19	ObviousSelection	F76, F77, F78, F79	ACCEPT IF F76 ACCEPT IF F77 ACCEPT IF F78 ACCEPT IF F79 REJECT	r41 [p. 20]	FC

2.6 Sub-Model 1 - Technical Contributions

Table 6: Abstract Factors for Sub-Model 1

ID	Factor	Children	Acceptance Conditions	Source	Value
I4	FeatureReliableTechnicalEffect	AF23, F42, F43, AF22, AF20, AF21	REJECT IF AF21 REJECT IF AF22 REJECT IF AF20 ACCEPT IF AF23 AND F42 AND F43 REJECT	r10 [p. 7]	LC > FC > TP
AF20	ImpreciseUnexpectedEffect	F56, F57	REJECT IF F57 ACCEPT IF F56 REJECT	r10 [p. 7]	LC > TP
AF21	SufficiencyOfDisclosureIssue	F43, F44, F80	REJECT IF F43 ACCEPT IF F44 and F80 REJECT	r19[p.10]	LC
AF22	Bonus Effect	AF23, F56, F58	ACCEPT IF AF23 AND F56 AND F58 REJECT	r20 [p. 11]	FC
AF23	FeatureTechnicalContribution	AF24, AF26, AF27	ACCEPT IF AF24 ACCEPT IF AF26 ACCEPT IF AF27 REJECT	r10 [p. 7]	TP
AF24	NormalTechnicalContribution	F30, F31, F32, AF25	REJECT IF F32 REJECT IF AF25 ACCEPT IF F30 ACCEPT IF F31 REJECT	r10 [p. 7]	UPQ > TP
AF25	ExcludedField	F33, F34, F35, F36	ACCEPT IF F33 ACCEPT IF F34 ACCEPT IF F35 ACCEPT IF F36 REJECT	r11 [p. 7]	UPQ
AF26	ComputationalContribution	F33, F41, F34, F38	ACCEPT IF F33 AND F41 ACCEPT IF F33 AND F37 ACCEPT IF F34 AND F37 ACCEPT IF F34 AND F38 REJECT	r12 [p. 7]	TP
AF27	MathematicalContribution	F35, AF28,F41	ACCEPT IF F35 AND AF28 ACCEPT IF F35 AND F41 REJECT	r13 [p. 8]	TP
AF28	AppliedInField	F39, F40	ACCEPT IF F39 AND F40 REJECT	r14 [p. 8]	TP, LC

2.7 Sub-Model 2 - Objective Technical Problem

Table 7: Abstract Factors for Sub-Model 2

ID	Factor	Children	Acceptance Conditions	Source	Value
I5	WouldHaveArrived	AF29, F53, F54	ACCEPT IF F53 AND AF29 ACCEPT IF F54 AND AF29 REJECT	r30 [p. 16]	FC, UPQ
AF29	ObjectiveTechnical ProblemFormulation	AF31, AF30	ACCEPT IF AF31 ACCEPT IF AF30 REJECT	r29 [p. 15]	UPQ, LC, FC
AF30	ConstrainedProblem	AF31, F26	ACCEPT IF AF31 AND F26 REJECT	r28 [p. 15]	FC, UPQ
AF31	WellFormed	F51, F52, AF32	REJECT IF F52 ACCEPT IF F51 AND AF32 REJECT	r27 [p. 14]	LC > UPQ
AF32	BasicFormulation	F48, F49, F50	ACCEPT IF F48 AND F49 AND F50 REJECT	r24, r26 [p. 13, p. 14]	UPQ, LC

3 Base-Level Factor Table & Question List

3.1 Base-Level Factor Table

Table 8: Base-Level Factor Table

ID	Factor	Value	Dimension	Required Answer	Prerequisite
F1	SkilledIn	UPQ	Skilled Person Attributes	Q6(a)	AF5
F2	Average	UPQ	Skilled Person Attributes	Q7(a)	
F3	Aware	UPQ	Skilled Person Attributes	Q8(a)	AF3
F4	Access	UPQ	Skilled Person Attributes	Q9(a)	AF5
F5	Individual	UPQ	Skilled Person Nature	Q10(a)	
F6	ResearchTeam	UPQ	Skilled Person Nature	Q10(b)	
F7	ProductionTeam	UPQ	Skilled Person Nature	Q10(c)	
F8	Contested	FC	CGK Status	Q4(a)	
F9	SinglePublication	LC	CGK Evidence	Q5(d)	
F10	Textbook	LC	CGK Evidence	Q5(a)	
F11	TechnicalSurvey	LC	CGK Evidence	Q5(b)	

Table 8 – continued from previous page

ID	Factor	Value	Dimension	Required Answer	Prerequisite
F12	PublicationNewField	LC	CGK Evidence	Q5(c)	
F13	SimilarPurpose	UPQ	Prior Art Relationship	Q1(a)	
F14	SimilarEffect	UPQ	Prior Art Relationship	Q2(a)	
F15	SameField	UPQ	Prior Art Field	Q3(a)	
F16	SimilarField	UPQ	Prior Art Field	Q3(b)	
F17	SameFieldCPA	UPQ	Combination Field	Q14(a)	AF6
F18	SimilarFieldCPA	UPQ	Combination Field	Q14(b)	AF6
F19	SingleReference	LC	Prior Art Form	Q11(a)	
F20	MinModifications	UPQ	Prior Art Form	Q12(a)	
F21	AssessedBy	UPQ	Skilled Person Perspective	Q12(a)	AF2
F22	CombinationAttempt	UPQ	Combination of Art	Q13(a)	AF6
F23	CombinationMotive	UPQ	Combination of Art	Q15(a)	AF6, AF2
F24	BasisToAssociate	UPQ	Combination of Art	Q16(a)	AF6, AF2
F25	DistinguishingFeatures	UPQ	Novelty	length of DistinguishingFeaturesList > 1	AF8
F26	NonTechnicalContribution	FC	Contribution Nature	accept if factor FeatureTechnicalContribution not present in $\geq$ 1 sub-model instantiation	(Sub-Model 1: 6)
F27	TechnicalContribution	TP	Contribution Nature	accept if factor FeatureTechnicalContribution present in $\geq$ 1 sub-model instantiation	(Sub-Model 1: 6)
F28	ReliableTechnicalEffect	TP	Effect Reliability	accept if accept root in $\geq$ 1 sub-model instantiation	(Sub-Model 1: 6)
F29	SufficiencyOfDisclosure	LC	Disclosure Sufficiency	accept if factor SufficiencyOfDisclosureIssue present in $\geq$ 1 sub-model instantiation	(Sub-Model 1: 6)
F30	IndependentContribution	TP	Contribution Type	Q17(a)	AF2
F31	CombinationContribution	TP	Contribution Type	Q18(a)	AF2

Table 8 – continued from previous page

ID	Factor	Value	Dimension	Required Answer	Prerequisite
F32	CircumventTechProblem	UPQ	Subject Matter Nature	Q20(a)	
F33	ComputerSimulation	UPQ	Subject Matter Type	Q19(a)	
F34	NumericalData	UPQ	Subject Matter Type	Q19(b)	
F35	MathematicalMethod	UPQ	Subject Matter Type	Q19(c)	
F36	OtherExlusions	UPQ	Subject Matter Type	Q19(d)	
F37	IntendedTechnicalUse	TP	Technical Character	Q22(a)	
F38	TechUseSpecified	TP	Technical Character	Q23(a)	
F39	SpecificPurpose	TP	Technical Character	Q24(a)	
F40	FunctionallyLimited	LC	Technical Character	Q25(a)	
F41	TechnicalAdaptation	TP	Technical Character	Q21(a)	
F42	Credible	LC	Effect Reliability	Q29(a,c)	AF23
F43	Reproducible	LC	Effect Reliability	Q29(b,c)	AF23
F44	ClaimContainsEffect	UPQ	Effect Reliability	Q30(a)	
F45	FunctionalInteraction	TP	Effect Nature	Q33(a)	F28
F46	Synergy	TP	Effect Nature	Q32(a)	F28
F47	ObjectiveTechnicalProblem	TP	Sub-Model 2 Output	accept if factor ObjectiveTechnicalProblemFormulation present in ≥ 1 sub-model 2 instantiation	(Sub-Model 2: 7), AF11
F48	Encompassed	UPQ	OTP Formulation	Q34(a)	AF11
F49	Embodied	UPQ	OTP Formulation	Q35(a)	AF11
F50	ScopeOfClaim	LC	OTP Formulation	Q36(a)	AF11
F51	WrittenFormulation	UPQ	OTP Formulation	Q37(a)	AF32,
F52	Hindsight	LC	OTP Formulation	Q38(a)	AF32, AF2
F53	WouldModify	FC	Motivation to Modify	Q39(b)	AF2, AF5, AF8, AF29

Table 8 – continued from previous page

ID	Factor	Value	Dimension	Required Answer	Prerequisite
F54	WouldAdapt	FC	Motivation to Modify	Q39(a)	AF2, AF5, AF8, AF29
F55	OTPObvious	FC	Sub-Model 2 Output	accept if reject for sub-model 2 is < 1	(Sub-Model 2: 7)
F56	UnexpectedEffect	TP	Effect Nature	Q26(a)	AF23
F57	PreciseTerms	LC	Effect Nature	Q27(a)	AF23
F58	OneWayStreet	FC	Effect Nature	Q28(a)	AF23, AF2, AF8
F59	DisadvantageousMod	FC	DisadvantageousMod	Q40(a)	AF8
F60	Foreseeable	FC	DisadvantageousMod	Q41(a)	AF2
F61	UnexpectedAdvantage	TP	DisadvantageousMod	Q42(a)	AF2
F62	InventionUnexpectedEffect	TP	Sub-Model 1 Output	accept if factor UnexpectedEffect present in $\geq$ 1 sub-model 1 instantiation	(Sub-Model 1: 6)
F63	BioTech	UPQ	Biotech Specifics	Q43(a)	
F64	Antibody	UPQ	Biotech Specifics	Q44(a)	
F65	KnownTechnique	FC	Biotech Specifics	Q47(a)	AF5
F66	OvercomeTechDifficulty	TP	Biotech Specifics	Q48(a)	
F67	PredictableResults	LC	Biotech Specifics	Q45(a)	
F68	ReasonableSuccess	LC	Biotech Specifics	Q46(a)	
F69	GapFilled	FC	Known Measures	Q49(a)	AF5, AF2
F70	WellKnownEquivalent	FC	Known Measures	Q50(a)	AF5
F71	KnownProperties	FC	Known Measures	Q51(a)	
F72	AnalogousUse	FC	Known Measures	Q52(a)	
F73	KnownDevice	FC	Known Measures	Q53(a)	
F74	AnalogousSubstitution	FC	Known Measures	Q55(a)	
F75	ObviousCombination	FC	Obvious Combination	Q54(a)	F73
F76	ChooseEqualAlternatives	FC	Obvious Selection	Q56(a)	
F77	NormalDesignProcedure	FC	Obvious Selection	Q57(a)	
F78	SimpleExtrapolation	FC	Obvious Selection	Q58(a)	AF5

Table 8 – continued from previous page

ID	Factor	Value	Dimension	Required Answer	Prerequisite
F79	ChemicalSelection	FC	Obvious Selection	Q59(a)	
F80	SufficiencyOfDisclosureIssue	LC	Effect Reliability	Q31(a)	F44

3.2   Values

The ADM's reasoning is underpinned by four core legal values. These values represent the competing purposes of patent law and help to justify the preferential ordering of the acceptance conditions.

- **Legal Certainty (LC):** This value promotes patents which are clear, predictable, and reliable. It requires that patent claims are supported and that their technical contributions work as claimed and are reproducible. This promotes legal certainty by ensuring the public can clearly understand the scope and validity of a granted patent.

- **Upholding Patent Quality (UPQ):** This value is concerned with ensuring that patents are granted only for genuine, non-obvious inventions which represent a meaningful technical contribution over the prior art, thereby maintaining public trust in the patent system.

- **Technical Progress (TP):** This value focuses on promoting inventions that provide a real, substantive technical contribution beyond the existing state of the art , often indicated by a credible technical effect or synergy.

- **Fair Competition (FC):** This is a protective value emphasising the role of safeguarding the public domain from the grant of monopolies on advances that are trivial, obvious, or non-technical, ensuring that routine engineering choices remain in the public domain.

3.3   Question List

1. Relevant Prior Art

These questions establish the relevant prior art to the invention.

Q1 Do the candidate relevant prior art documents have a similar purpose to the invention?

 (a) They have the same or a very similar purpose.

 (b) They have a different purpose.

Q2 Are there similar technical effects between the candidate relevant prior art documents and the invention?

 (a) It produces a similar technical effect.

 (b) It produces a different technical effect.

Q3 What is the relationship between the candidate relevant prior art documents and the invention's technical field?

 (a) It is from the exact same technical field.

 (b) It is from a closely related or analogous technical field.

 (c) It is from an unrelated technical field.

2. Common General Knowledge (CGK)

These questions establish the source and status of the background knowledge in the field.

Q4 Is the assertion of what constitutes Common General Knowledge being contested?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q5 (if Q4(a)) What is the primary source of evidence cited for the CGK?

(a) A standard textbook

(b) A broad technical survey

(c) A single publication in a very new or rapidly evolving field.

(d) A single publication in an established field.

(e) No documentary evidence is provided.

(f) Other

3. The Skilled Person

These questions define the person who is skilled in the art. This a hypothetical concept rather than a real person, nevertheless this must be established and reasoned through.

Q6 Is the practitioner skilled in the relevant technical field of the prior art?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q7 Does the practitioner possess average knowledge and ability for that field?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q8 Is the practitioner presumed to be aware of the common general knowledge in the field?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q9 Does the practitioner have access to all documents comprising the state of the art?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q10 What is the nature of this practitioner?

(a) An individual practitioner

(b) A research team

(c) A production or manufacturing team

4. The Closest Prior Art

These questions help to identify the closest prior art (CPA) documents

Q11 Is the closest prior art document a single reference?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q12 Does the closest prior art document require minimal modifications to the invention as assessed from the perspective of the skilled person??

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q13 Is there a reason to combine other documents with the CPA to attempt to demonstrate obviousness?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q14 (if Q13(a)) How are the other documents to be combined related to the CPA's technical field?

(a) They are from the same technical field.

(b) They are from a similar technical field.

(c) They are from an unrelated field.

Q15 (if Q13(a)) Would the skilled person have a clear and direct motive to combine these specific documents?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q16 (if Q13(a)) Is there a reasonable basis for the skilled person to associate these specific documents with one another?

(a) Yes

(b) No

5. Technical Contribution & Effect

These questions analyse the nature of the invention's technical differences from the prior art.

Q17 Does the feature make an independent technical contribution to the invention?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q18 Does the feature make a contribution in combination with other technical features to the invention?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q19 What is the primary nature of the distinguishing feature?

(a) A computer simulation.

(b) The processing of numerical data.

(c) A mathematical method or algorithm.

(d) Other excluded field

(e) None of the above

Q20 Is the feature a technical implementation of a non-technical method i.e. game rules or a business method, and does it circumvent the technical problem rather than addressing it in an inherently technical way?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q21 Is the feature a specific technical adaptation which is specific for that implementation in that its design is motivated by technical considerations relating to the internal functioning of the computer system or network.

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q22 (If Q19(a) or Q19(b)) Is there an intended use of the data resulting from the feature?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q23 (If Yes Q22) Is the potential technical effect of the numerical data either explicitly or implicitly specified in the claim?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q24 Does the technical contribution have a specific technical purpose i.e. produces a technical effect serving a technical purpose. Not merely a 'generic' purpose i.e. "controlling a technical system".

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q25 Is the claim functionally limited to the technical purpose stated either explicitly or implicitly?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q26 Is the technical effect unexpected or surprising?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q27 (If yes to Q26) Is this unexpected effect described in precise, measurable terms?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q28 (If yes to Q26) Is the unexpected effect a result of a lack of alternatives creating a 'one-way street' situation? I.e. for the skilled person to achieve the technical effect in question from the closest prior art, they would not have to choose from a range of possibilities, because there is only one-way to do x thing, and that would result in unexpected property y.

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q29 Are the technical effects credible and/or reproducible?

(a) Credible

(b) Reproducible

(c) Both

(d) Neither

Q30 (if Q29(a,d) Does the claim contain the non-reproducible effect i.e. if the claim says the invention achieve effect E, but this is not reproducible.

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q31 (if Q30) Is there an issue with sufficiency of disclosure regarding this feature?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q32 How do the invention's features create the technical effect?

(a) As a synergistic combination (effect is greater than the sum of parts).

(b) As a simple aggregation of independent effects.

Q33 (if Q32(a)) Is the synergistic combination achieved through through a functional interaction between features?

(a) Yes

(b) No

6. The Objective Technical Problem

This section covers the establishment and solution of the objective technical problem.

Q34 Would the skilled person, consider the the technical effects identified to be encompassed by the technical teaching?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q35 Would the skilled person, consider the the technical effects identified to be embodied by the same originally disclosed invention?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q36 Are the technical effects achieved across the whole scope of the claim, and is this claim limited in such a way that substantially all embodiments encompassed by the claim show these effects?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q37 Can we construct a written formulation of the objective technical problem?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q38 Has the objective technical problem been formulated in such a way as to refer to matters of which the skilled person would only have become aware by knowledge of the solution claimed?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q39 Would the skilled person have arrived at the proposed invention by adapting or modifying the closest prior art, not simply because they could, but because they the prior art would have provided motivation to do so in the expectation of some improvement or advantage?

(a) Would have adapted from the prior art
(b) Would have modified from the prior art
(c) Neither

7. Common Obviousness Arguments

This section covers standard lines of reasoning used to establish that an invention is obvious.

Q40 Does the invention involve a disadvantageous modification of the prior art?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q41 (if Q40) Was this disadvantageous modification of the prior art foreseeable to the skilled person?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q42 (if Q40) Did the disadvantageous modification result in an unexpected technical advantage?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q43 Is the subject matter of the invention biotech?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q44 (if Q43) Does the subject matter concern antibodies?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q45 (if Q43) Were the results obtained clearly predictable?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q46 (if Q43) Was there a 'reasonable' expectation of success in obtaining the results?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q47 (if Q44) Were the antibodies arrived at exclusively by applying techniques known in the art?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q48 (if Q44) Does the application of the antibodies overcome technical difficulties in generating or manufacturing them?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q49 Does the invention merely fill an obvious gap in an incomplete prior art document which would naturally occur to the skilled person?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q50 Does the invention differ from the prior art in regard to substituting one well-known equivalent for another (e.g., a hydraulic for an electric motor)?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q51 Is the invention merely the new use of known properties of a well-known material i.e. A washing composition containing as detergent, a known compound having the known property of lowering the surface tension of water.

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q52 Does the invention just apply a known technique in a closely analogous situation?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q53 Does the invention rely on known devices?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q54 (if Q53(a)) Is the invention a simple juxtaposition of the known devices, with each performing their normal, expected function?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q55 (if Q53(a)) Does the invention rely within a known device, simply substituting in a recently developed material suitable for that use?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q56 Does the invention result from a choice between equally likely alternatives?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q57 Does the invention consist in choosing parameters from a limited range of possibilities arrived at through routine design procedures?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q58 Is the invention a result of a simple, straightforward extrapolation from the known art?

(a) Yes

(b) No

Q59 Does the invention just consist in selecting a specific chemical compound or composition from a broad field?

(a) Yes

(b) No