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:: AZoNanotechnology Article

Carbon Nanotubes - Who Owns the Patents and IP Rights for Carbon Nanotubes?

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Key Suppliers
Key Services
Elkington and Fife LLP
Key Experts

Topics Covered

Background

IBM and Patenting Carbon Nanotubes

Carbon Nanotechnologies Hold the Majority of Patents for Carbon Nanotubes

The Patenting Strategy Employed by Carbon Nanotechnologies in the Carbon Nanotube Sector

Which Products Can Carbon Nanotubes Be Used In?

Hydrogen Catalysis and Multi-Wall Carbon Nanotubes

List of Companies and Organizations Who Hold Patents for Carbon Nanotubes

Producers of Carbon Nanotubes in Europe and Asia

Patenting Carbon Nanotubes - an Overview of the Current Climate

Background

Single-wall carbon nanotubes were discovered in 1991 by Sumio Iijima of Japan, a researcher for Japanese computer giant, NEC Corporation. The company asserted that any company that wants to manufacture carbon nanotubes must first negotiate a license on NEC's two patents. NEC is expected to license its carbon nanotube patent this year. Japan's Sumitomo Corporation was the first company to negotiate a license.

IBM and Patenting Carbon Nanotubes

IBM also holds an early and fundamental patent on single-wall carbon nanotubes. US Patent No. 5,424,054 has been identified by patent lawyers as one of the ten most important patents that could have an impact on the future development of nanotech. IBM's patent was licensed to Carbon Nanotechnologies, Inc.

Nano Books
Elsevier
The Science and Technology of Carbon Nanotubes
Nano Books
Cambridge U.K.I
Carbon Nanotubes and Related Structures
Computational Physics of Carbon Nanotubes

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