

FACTSHEET - THE PATENT BAY

Innovation is essential for a sustainable future, and history shows that real breakthroughs happen when we share. Through The Patent Bay, we want to inspire others to do the same because real change is created together.

Background - Why sharing matters

Global patent filings hit 3.55 million in 2023, more than double the number in 1995. Export controls and IP protectionism are rising, locking away critical climate innovations and technologies. Meanwhile, the World Bank warns that protectionism stifles innovation, cooperation, and growth. As the climate clock ticks, slow progress in sharing technology risks delaying global net-zero targets by decades.

Historical breakthroughs like the seatbelt, internet, GPS, and GSM were made possible through shared innovation. During the pandemic, WHO's C-TAP platform showed how open IP accelerated global health innovation. Cross-border collaboration leads to faster innovation and greater collective benefit.

Research continues to confirm this. When technology is given the right conditions and spreads across borders, it can accelerate innovation and more efficiently drive sustainability efforts.

About The Patent Bay

The Patent Bay is a unique platform for sharing patents related to sustainable development, free of charge. It aims to accelerate technologies with the potential to advance sustainability through openness and collaboration. By taking a new approach to industrial innovation and rethinking how it is shared, it removes traditional barriers around patents – making sustainable technologies freely accessible, without the complex licensing or governance structures that often slow collaboration. The initiative reflects a shift from ownership to openness, and represents a practical, collaborative approach to industrial responsibility in the climate era.

First patent to be released - ARCTIC15 Steel Alloy for aviation industry

SKF's customers are designing new engines designed to reduce emissions by up to 25 percent. To support these new designs, SKF is required to offer new bearing solutions. The technology features a unique steel alloy specifically engineered for the aviation industry. This advanced material is engineered to meet the demands of next-generation aircraft engines. This new bearing material can handle higher loads in a more compact form, enabling high performance bearing solutions for new architectures of engines designed to reduce emissions.

About SKF

SKF is a Swedish global company renowned for its expertise in manufacturing ball bearings and seals. Founded in 1907 in Gothenburg, SKF has grown to become the world's largest bearing manufacturer. We are represented in around 130 countries, with more than 38,743 employees and 17 000 distributor locations worldwide. Our products are found everywhere in society. We are an important part of the everyday lives of people and companies around the world. SKF is

also known for its commitment to innovation and sustainability. We focus on improving energy efficiency and reducing CO2 emissions through our advanced products and solutions. We aim to decarbonize its entire production by 2030 and achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Q&A - The Patent bay

How does a company protect/safeguard its intellectual property and profitability if discoveries or inventions are shared with the world?

This is not about giving away every patent we have, of course, but we are talking about unlocking selected high-impact innovations for broader use. We believe returns come from new partnerships, faster market entry, and follow-on business. Exclusivity has its place, but climate benefit must guide openness. Patents certainly have an important role to play, in fact we built our company on one of them! At the same time, companies need to collaborate to accelerate innovation. It's a balance between maintaining a competitive edge while contributing to the broader industrial ecosystem and society at large.

What are you hoping to see in response to the announcement of The Patent Bay, from other companies or individuals? What kind of discoveries would you love to see shared on The Patent Bay?

We know that sharing can accelerate change, and history shows that real breakthroughs happen when we share. Therefore, we are hoping that other companies reach out and are willing to share their innovations on The Patent Bay. But, above all, this is a message that collaboration is the engine needed to move the world forward. If we can inspire more collaboration, big or small, we will be happy.

How long did it take SKF to develop this game-changing new alloy? When did you realise it was possible to 'give it away'? How do you feel about the idea of it being shared with the world?

The team has been working on this for nearly a decade, ever since SKF's customers began designing next-generation engines focused on reducing fuel consumption — driven by the EU-funded Clean Sky initiative. To meet the demands of these advanced engine designs, SKF has developed smaller, more compact bearing solutions. Through strategic participation in EU projects such as HEAVEN, part of the Clean Aviation programme, SKF has secured funding to invent, develop, and validate ARCTIC15, a breakthrough in bearing technology that supports the future of sustainable aviation.

And the team saw how one patent, once shared, could unlock new possibilities for others, leading to unexpected collaborations or improvements in sustainability, safety, or efficiency.

Holding onto patents didn't necessarily drive progress. In fact, it might have slowed down. That insight led to a bold decision: to share.

Sharing just one patent has the power to change an entire industry. But when we offer a way for others to do the same, we're not just changing industries, we're helping move the world forward. When we make our ideas accessible, we're not just opening doors, we're building

bridges. Bridges that connect people, industries, and possibilities. And together, we can turn individual breakthroughs into a global impact.

How does SKF foster this kind of out-of-the-box thinking and pioneering innovation across its technology R&D, especially with regard to improvements in sustainability?

Psychological safety is paramount, and we foster a culture that creates trust, allowing people to dare to innovate and dare to fail. Leaders lead by example, cultivating a culture of curiosity, collaboration, and continuous learning across its technology and R&D teams. We have cross-functional teams and sustainability-focused programs aligned with global megatrends to drive the climate transition.

SKF plays a unique role in the global industrial ecosystem, represented in approximately 130 countries and has around 17,000 distributor locations worldwide. As both a supplier and customer, SKF turns deep customer insight into practical solutions that reduce friction and drive progress. Through smart technologies and services, SKF helps customers cut emissions, extend equipment life, and move toward more sustainable operations.

What is your call to action to other industrial leaders and major corporations? What specific type of IP would you most like to see shared on the platform?

We must look beyond our walls. Through this initiative, we are challenging other industrial leaders who have patents that have the potential to advance sustainability technology to join us. Collaboration is key to solving global systemic challenges like steel decarbonization, and open IP can create the necessary ripple effects across industries.

Sources

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[Financial Times | WHO claims protectionism will widen wealth gap](#)

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