

Studying Citing Applications to Decide to File a Divisional Application



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Before the examination ends, your application can be cited to an application that was later filed (“Later Application”)

Because the **Later Application** is in the similar technological fields, the applicant of the **Later application** is often your **competitor**.

Patenting what the Later Applicant tried to patent

When your application is cited to a **Later Application**, your application discloses (a part of) the inventions claimed in the **Later Application**.



If the Later Applicant is your competitor, we suggest claiming and patenting what your competitor originally claimed, by a divisional application.

Because the claims of the **Later Application** cover the future products of the competitor, you can increase possibilities to cover the competitor's products.

Drafting claims that cover embodiments of the Later Application

The embodiments of the **Later Application** show future product ideas of the competitor.

We also suggest drafting claims that cover the embodiments of the **Later Application** by a divisional application.

Not Only in Japan

We suggest studying the **Later Applications** that cite your application not only in Japan, but throughout the world.

Upon receiving an allowance or Decision of Rejection, we are searching the **Later Applications** throughout the world. Please study the search results.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please let us know.