

PATENTS AND SLAGS - DO THEY MIX?

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There are currently some 10,000 patents in the field of metallurgy involving slag technology. Not only does this represent a large number of exclusive rights for potential exploitation by patent holders, but it also provides a vast source of technical information that can be readily accessed. The paper explains briefly what a patent is, why and how it is relevant to engineers and scientists working in slag technology. A short résumé is given of the types of technological innovations that are presently the subject-matter of patent applications in this field.