**Invention** - an innovative, original solution to a technical problem. In engineering sciences and product research, an invention most often takes the form of a new device or its component, method, or process that enables the performance of a certain task more efficiently, safely, effectively, economically, or with better quality. In social sciences, inventions also include intangible achievements such as printing, money, or writing.

In the Polish legal system, there is no definition of the concept of "invention." The Industrial Property Law defines only the criteria that an invention must meet in order to be eligible for patent protection. According to the law, patents are granted - regardless of the field of technology - for inventions that are new (not part of the prior art), involve an inventive step (not obvious to a person skilled in the art), and are industrially applicable.

The earliest inventions of humanity are considered to be simple stone and bone tools used by hominids over 3 million years ago.