Suggestion for effective method of sourcing relevant prior art:

- Maintain a list of assignees who have, in recent years, filed patent applications with the same IPC classification as the application under examination:

- Contact the assignees and request voluntary participation and a designated point of contact person.

- Contact each designated contact at the time of examination (if the application has already published) and request input of prior art.

The assumption is that assignees of similar patents or applications are those with the most in-depth knowledge of the field and therefore their contribution would be of the greatest value.

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