

Topic: Patents

Overview

A patent strategy can be an important part of your need to protect your intellectual property. This OnePager will provide basic part information for United States Patents.

What is a Patent?

- Grant rights from a government to license an idea or process
- Typically last 20 years in the U.S.
- Must be “non-obvious, novel, and useful”

Provisional patents can be filed with minimal work. You then have one year to file the detailed patent. The date of the provisional patent filing holds for legal purposes.

Why Get a Patent?

- Protect Your Intellectual Property
- Defense Against Other Patents
- Marketing Appeal
- Value to Company

You should check your idea to ensure someone does not already have a patent on it. You might have to pay licensing or face law suits if you infringe on someone else’s invention. Just ask Google.

How to Get a Patent?

- Determine if you have something truly innovative
- Do a quick search on the U.S. Patent Web Site
- Hire a patent attorney
- Perhaps file a provisional patent
- Work with the attorney to file a patent
- Wait, wait, wait!

Patents can cost from \$500 (do it yourself filing fees) to \$15,000-30,000 with a good law firm.

Software patents take from 5-7 years to be awarded.

Patent Quick Facts

- There have been over 7 million U.S. Patents issued.
- Software patents take from 5-7 years to be awarded.

Go to <http://www.uspto.gov> for more information.

Contact CTO Advisors

1.303.431.1699
1.303.957.5731 fax
info@ctoadvisors.com
<http://www.CTOAdvisors.com>