Typical Progress for Patent Applications - 2020

START HERE

prelim

Develop IP strategy

Preliminary searching to investigate novelty, inventiveness, competitors

begin process

File first Provisional specification

Start developing/selling/commercialising invention

File additional Provisional specification(s) for improvements - if needed

Investigate foreign markets. Look for partners / licensees / distributors / investors

>>> alternative/additional pathway >>>

Further searching of foreign markets if necessary & updating earlier searching

RIGHTPAT PATENT ATTORNEYS

12mths

1.5-3yrs

12mths File Complete specification(s)

in countries of interest

Continuing commercialising in key markets

Request examination within deadlines

Pay annual maintenance fees where and when required

Receive first examination report

Respond to first and any other exam reports to overcome objections

Pay issue or grant fee when application accepted

Await opposition period to expire in some countries. Those with valid grounds may oppose the grant of your patent

Patent is granted

Continue to pay renewal fees when due until patent expires or relinquished

File International PCT Application select options and pay fees

Continuing commercialising in key markets

Receive international search report and written opinion

Optionally consider search report and file amended claims

Optionally file demand and amendments and arguments

Identify key markets where patent protection is required

2.5yrs National Phase Filings

16mths

22mths

File patent applns in countries or regions of interest selected from those nominated at time of filing

Translations may be required now

Applications will proceed through examination and acceptance

Maintenance and examination fees may be payable at set deadlines

<< See timeline to left for typical progress for each country / region

2-5yrs

20yrs

NOTE: This chart is indicative only, and time frames (orange and green lines) can vary considerably between countries. Other strategic options may also be followed, including divisional and continuation applications where available, or filing directly as a complete or PCT application. Some countries and regions may also include additional steps not shown here. The exact path will depend on the strategy and options discussed with your patent attorney