

The Business Development Company GmbH (BDC) in Hochwald/Basel, Switzerland specializes in technology brokerage, business development and management of intellectual property rights in Life Sciences.

IP Support in Preparing and Filing of Patent Applications

BDC offers assistance to companies or inventors in preparing and filing patent applications. The following gives an overview of the procedure, critical terms to be considered as well as an estimation of costs regarding the preparation and subsequent filing of a patent application.

The indicative costs are based on general assumptions such as: the application has a volume of 20 to 30 pages with a maximum of 20 claims; a clear situation regarding ownership, inventiveness, state of the art, etc. Costs in preparing a patent application can vary dramatically if one of the above mentioned assumptions is not met. Some of the required efforts and costs can be reduced to a minimum depending on the level of detail of the information that can be provided to BDC and the level of involvement of the inventor(s) in the process. However, there is always a balance to be made between quality of a patent filing and costs.

Customers will get a more detailed offer encompassing steps to be taken, timelines, costs etc. based on the customer's needs and based on the background analysis performed in the first evaluation step of the procedure described below.

By preparing and filing of a patent application BDC offers to manage and to support all of the below listed activities as the clients sole contact office. BDC even controls the step of writing the patent application by subcontracting to a selection of carefully chosen patent law firms with relevant competency in the field of the invention.

- Evaluation of the invention disclosure including aspects such as ownership, inventorship, novelty, inventive-step/non-obviousness, means and scope of protection, filing strategy, relationship between business and IP strategy. Max. 5 hours: 950 CHF, which includes a face to face meeting and analysis of the invention disclosure form provided by the inventor(s).
- Analysis of prior art including a detailed state of the art search in the patent and/or scientific literature. Recommended but not always necessary: 2'500 to 3'500 CHF, which includes a written report, interpretation with recommendations and cited documents/patents.

- Alternatively a more simple and less comprehensive search on specific databases and internet: 800 to 1'500 CHF, which includes a short summary report with details of the relevant cited documents/patents.
- More detailed analysis based on the above results of the state of the art search in combination with business strategy and commercial potential. Recommendations regarding best filing strategy including costs and time, scope of protection, preparing necessary documents and guidelines for patent lawyer: 1'000 to 1'500 CHF
- Drafting a full patent application document by patent lawyers. Price is dependent on volume, complexity, quality of preparatory documents submitted by the inventors: 3'000 to 9'000 CHF.
- Alternatively writing and preparing an US provisional application: 800 to 2'000 CHF.
- Indicative costs for filing a patent application (in CHF):

	Swiss Application	European Application	PCT Application	US Application	US Provisional Applic.
Filing Fees	200.--	2'500.-- to 5'000.--	2'500.-- to 6'000.--	500.-- to 2'000.--	80.-- USD = 120.-- CHF
BDC' Handling Fee	950.--	2'500.-- to 4'000.--	2'500.-- to 4'000.--	950.--*	950.--*

* excl. the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement

Filing Fees are the official fees to be paid to the national patent offices.

BDC Handling Fees include the filing with the patent office, administering and managing the patent application during the first (priority) year, i.e. taking up the necessary data in BDC administration system, recording, monitoring and controlling of deadlines and due dates as well as correspondence with the national representatives and informing customer in time about upcoming actions to be taken.

Dependent on the chosen filing strategy the client's cost for a patent applications can vary between 1'500 to 2'500 CHF for an US provisional application without any further analysis and database searches and 10'000 - 15'000 CHF for a complex PCT application with all the necessary involved preparatory work, especially the state of the art search and its interpretation. Based on our experience the average cost to a client for a patent application is between 6'000 to 8'000 CHF.

Please contact us to discuss how we can assist you in preparing and filing patent applications and the choice of the adequate filing strategy.

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