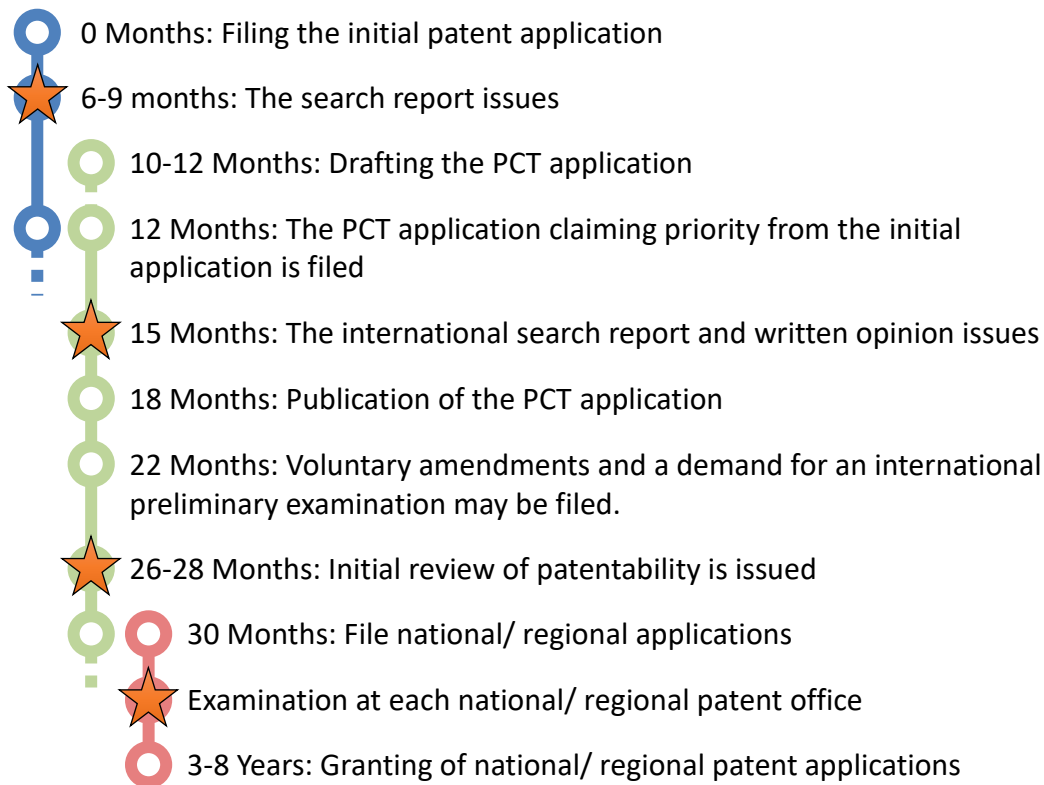


EUROPEAN PATENT AND TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

**An International Patent Prosecution Timeline**

The typical process for patent protection in multiple overseas territories is as follows:

1. An initial Irish, UK or European application is filed and used as the basis for later applications. It is important that the invention is fully described in this initial application.
2. An application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) is filed up to 12 months after the initial patent application is filed. Whilst additional information and data can be included in the PCT application, this information is given a new filing date and is examined differently from the information in the initial application.
3. 30-31 months after the initial application, the PCT application is used to file national or regional applications (including Europe). A European patent may then be validated in Ireland, the UK and other European states of interest.



Key:

Initial Application

PCT Application

National/ Regional Application

A report issues which should be carefully reviewed by the inventors. **A decision must be made whether to proceed.**

Yearly **renewal fees** to the patent office/ intellectual property office may be due during the patent application process and after grant. If these are not paid, rights to the patent/application will lapse.