

# PATENT ALERT

## SG Patent Fast Track Programme – Expedited patent grant in 6 months

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (“**IPOS**”) has launched a two-year initiative to accelerate the grant of patents in Singapore. Under the SG Patent Fast Track Programme (“**PFTP**”), a patent may be granted within six months of filing - a substantially shorter period than the typical time period required. The PFTP applies to inventions in all technology fields and replaces the earlier FinTech Fast Track and Accelerated Initiative for Artificial Intelligence programmes.

With the PFTP, IPOS aims to support innovation in areas with significant societal benefits, such as climate change, food security, public health, or which improve the way we work and live. Patent applications which may be favoured under the PFTP include those relating to:

- an emerging technology with a short product lifecycle (eg: FinTech, Industry 4.0 and Artificial Intelligence);  
or
- a technology with an environment or public health benefit (eg, mitigation of climate change, waste water and smart energy management, food security, and therapeutic agents to combat COVID-19).

Applicants under the PFTP will be required to state the reason(s) for requesting acceleration and the technology field to which the invention relates.

Key features of the PFTP include:

- no additional official fee (until further notice)
- no limitations on the technological field
- no limitations on the applicant (i.e. open to locals, foreigners, individuals and organisations)
- shortened time limits for responding to Office actions from IPOS
- the following eligibility conditions:
  - the patent application must be first filed in Singapore (i.e. no priority claims and not a divisional application);
  - the application must be filed between 4 May 2020 and 29 April 2022;
  - the application must contain 20 or fewer claims;
  - the fast track request is within the limit of 5 fast track requests per month on a first-come-first-served basis, with a rollover to the next month for unused capacity
  - the fast track request is within the limit of 10 requests annually per entity (individual or corporate)

Applications which are not accepted into the PFTP will automatically be moved to the existing 12 months File-To-Grant programme.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**Jo-Ann See**

Director  
Registered Patent Attorney  
[joann.see@amicalaw.com](mailto:joann.see@amicalaw.com)  
(65) 6303 6211



**Winnie Tham**

Director  
Registered Patent Attorney  
[winnie.tham@amicalaw.com](mailto:winnie.tham@amicalaw.com)  
(65) 6303 6217



**Edmund Kok**

Associate Director  
Registered Patent Attorney  
[edmund.kok@amicalaw.com](mailto:edmund.kok@amicalaw.com)  
(65) 6372 5488



**Lo Wen Yu**

Associate Director  
Registered Patent Attorney  
[lo.wenyu@amicalaw.com](mailto:lo.wenyu@amicalaw.com)  
(65) 6303 6227



**Dr Eugene Yang**

Registered Patent Attorney  
[eugene.yang@amicalaw.com](mailto:eugene.yang@amicalaw.com)  
(65) 6303 8190



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