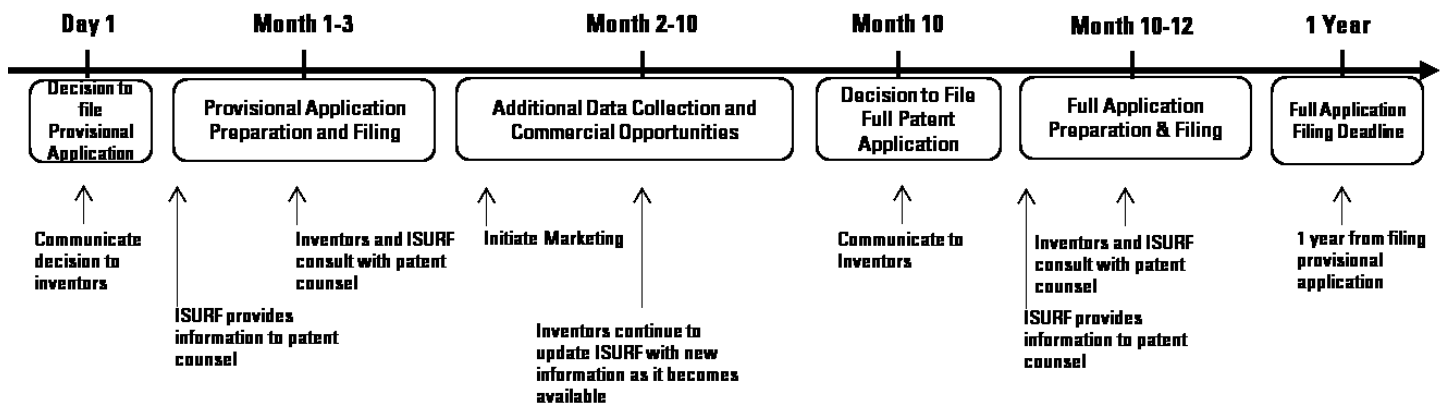




Provisional Patent Application – what to expect . . .

A provisional patent application is an optional, often ideal, starting point along the path to obtaining full patent protection. A provisional patent application establishes a priority date from which a patent may eventually issue. Once a provisional patent application is filed, the invention is “patent pending,” and gives researchers time to collect additional data, and/or ISURF time to evaluate commercial opportunities. Here is what you can expect during the 12 months following the filing of a provisional patent application:



ISURF Cost

Provisional patent applications vary in cost from \$2,000 - \$10,000 depending on the complexity and how much data and other information is available. On average, the cost is \$4,000.

Timeline (Months)



During months 1-3

- ISURF will engage a patent attorney with the appropriate expertise for the technology.
 - Inventors and ISURF will be involved in conversations with the patent attorney, as needed. A complete description of the invention is needed. A manuscript (even a pre-publication draft) is ideal. Other kinds of publications or descriptions are also helpful.
- ISURF and the patent attorney are specifically looking for:
 - Data, examples, ranges, context, parameters, etc.
 - Listing of all contributors and their contribution.
 - An indication of the direction of future research.
 - Any public disclosure/presentation plans.



During Months 2-10

ISURF will:

- Prepare a marketing brief and post it for web-based and/or social media exposure.
- Research market opportunities and conduct a marketing campaign to targeted industries.

Inventors help by:

- Providing additional data on improvements, advancements, or setbacks, prior to public disclosure.
- Providing potential commercialization leads and being available to talk to interested parties.
- Having demonstration materials/samples available.
- After the provisional application is filed, promote the technology with journal publications, oral presentations, or posters.



By Month 10

- ISURF will evaluate the licensing potential and make a decision whether to file a full (non-provisional) patent application.
- The decision will be based on the commercial opportunity as determined by the marketing campaign.
- Additional data, improvements, advancements, or setbacks will factor into this decision.
- Having a licensee or other commercial interest will increase the chances that a full patent application is filed.



During Months 10-12: If ISURF files a full patent application

ISURF will:

- Continue marketing activities.

Inventors help by:

- Providing additional data on improvements, advancements, or setbacks.
- Providing potential commercialization leads and being available to talk to interested parties.
- Having demonstration materials/samples available.
- Promoting the technology with journal publications, oral presentations, or posters.



One year and beyond: If ISURF does not file a full patent application

- Inventor(s) will be notified if ISURF does not intend to file a full patent application.
- Improvements and further developments of previously-disclosed technologies often lead to new commercial opportunities and should be disclosed to ISURF for evaluation.

Contact Information

In-house Counsel	Donna Johns	djohns@iastate.edu	294-6355
Patent Prosecution Assistant	Leslie Geffre	lgeffre@iastate.edu	294-9407
Life Sciences Senior Commercialization Manager	Dario Valenzuela	dariov@iastate.edu	294-4470
Engineering and Software Commercialization Manager	Jay Bjerke	jbjerke@iastate.edu	294-3621
Chemistry and Materials Senior Commercialization Manager	Craig Forney	ceforney@iastate.edu	294-9513
Technology Marketing Manager	Jack Hartwigsen	jackh1@iastate.edu	294-0693