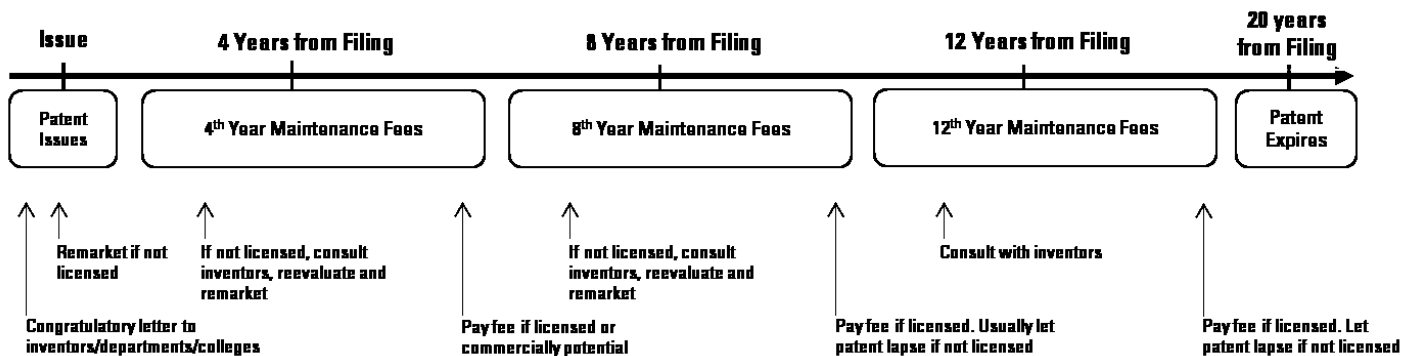




Issued U.S. Utility Patent – what to expect . . .

An issued patent is active for up to 20 years from the filing date of the U.S. utility application. In order to keep a patent active, maintenance fees must be paid. If needed, ISURF will continue to market technologies to industry after the patent has issued. Generally, technologies that are commercially attractive to industry are identified and licensed prior to the 8th year maintenance fee due date. Companies are usually reluctant to license issued patents that have been active for more than eight years because the remaining patent life is often not enough to justify the costs of bringing a new product to market. Foreign applications are covered in the Foreign Patent Applications – what to expect, Just In Time Series. Here is what you can expect during the life of an issued U.S. utility patent.



Issue/Post Issue Fees - ISURF Costs

- Issue Fee: \$480 small entity (<500 employees) or \$960 large entity (>500 employees)
- 4th Year Maintenance Fee: \$800 small entity or \$1,600 large entity
- 8th Year Maintenance Fee: \$1,800 small entity or \$3,600 large entity
- 12th Year Maintenance Fee: \$3,700 small entity or \$7,400 large entity
- Total issue/post issue ISURF cost over the life of a patent: \$6,780 small entity or \$13,560 large entity



At Issuance

The patent is active for up to 20 years from the filing date of the U.S. utility patent application, provided all the maintenance fees are paid.

ISURF will:

- Pay the issue fee.
- Conduct a marketing campaign if the technology is not licensed or optioned.



Four Years After Issuance

- ISURF will pay the 4th year maintenance fee if the technology is licensed or optioned.

If not licensed or optioned, ISURF will:

- Consult with the inventors, review, and reassess the technology.
- Remarket the technology.
- Pay the 4th year maintenance fee if there is commercial potential. If the maintenance fee is not paid, the patent will lapse.



Eight Years After Issuance

- ISURF will pay the 8th year maintenance fee if the technology is licensed or optioned.

If not licensed or optioned, ISURF will:

- Consult with the inventors, review, and reassess the technology.
- Remarket the technology.
- Pay the 8th year maintenance fee if there is compelling commercial potential. If the maintenance fee is not paid, the patent will lapse.



Twelve Years After Issuance

- ISURF will pay the 12th year maintenance fee if the technology is licensed or optioned.

If not licensed or optioned, ISURF will:

- Consult with the inventors, review, and reassess the technology.
- Consider remarketing the technology.
- Not pay the 12th year maintenance fee and the patent will lapse, unless there is an imminent commercial opportunity.

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