

Expedited Examination Programs of IP Offices

Russian Federation

In April 2020, the Russian Federal Service for Intellectual Property (Rospatent) launched a pilot program for prioritized examination of applications related to technologies aimed at combating viruses and related diseases (pneumonia), also referred to as the Fast-Track Examination Procedure, to support the development of scientific and technological solutions playing a key role against COVID-19.

In 2021, Rospatent extended the list of prioritized areas for the Fast-Track Examination Procedure to include the following:

- antiviral therapy;
- vaccines against viral infections;
- diagnostic test systems for infectious diseases and their components;
- respiratory medical products (e.g. ventilators, inhalers, intubation tubes);
- personal protective equipment (e.g. medical masks, respirators, protective suits);
- sterilizing and disinfecting technologies;
- genome editing technologies;
- smart information systems for medicine and healthcare;
- telemedicine; and
- supercomputer technologies.

The Fast-Track Examination Procedure allows the resident inventors, working in the prioritized areas of science and technology, to obtain patent protection if they are ready to commercialize their inventions. Rospatent may carry out prior art search on these applications within 10 working days. The use of the search results during the examination allows to reduce the period needed to communicate the first examination-related correspondence to the applicants up to two months for the inventions and utility models applications, and to reduce accordingly the total pendency before the final decision regarding the applications.

Prior art search for the Fast-Track Examination Procedure is carried out based on concluded contracts. Any applicant may use this service by paying an additional fee. The final fee to be paid depends on the number of International Patent Classification groups.

Statistics: As from April 2020 (the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic) to February 28, 2023, Rospatent received 1,178 applications related to the technologies for combating viruses and related diseases, including 880 inventions and 298 utility models. The average timeline for the first office action during the substantive examination amounted to 28 days.