

Czech Republic

The Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic puts into practice examination procedures that seek to help accelerate patent application processes overall. In the case of the first filing of the patent application in the Czech Republic, the Office has introduced an effective specific assistance in providing search reports in Czech and English, and in a structure corresponding to the standards of the European system. These search reports are provided with respect to patent applications filed together with the requests for substantive examination. In practice, this means that such a search report is usually issued within seven months from the filing of an application.

The search reports are available well in advance before the expiration of the 12-month priority period for filing abroad. Thus, applicants can decide, in a more qualified way, whether to file an application for the technical solution also abroad. In addition, they can more realistically estimate the outcomes of foreign patent proceedings, based on the search results. Moreover, the expeditious issuance of a search report and a patent benefits the applicants who seek accelerated patent proceedings before foreign patent offices with which the Office has agreed on the respective PPH cooperation.