

## Expedited Examination Programs of IP Offices

### Singapore

The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) offers applicants several options to request accelerated treatment of patent applications, including the PPH and other collaborative programs. Domestic applications are given accelerated treatment through the SG IP Fast program.<sup>1</sup> IPOS launched the SG IP FAST program in May 2020 to support the acceleration of patent applications in all technology fields. As a result of positive demand and usage in the first phase of the pilot, SG IP FAST was extended for a second phase from April 30, 2022 to April 30, 2024.

*Grounds/Qualification:* The application must be first filed in Singapore. The request for the grant of a patent, and the request for a search and examination report must also be filed on the same day. The request for SG IP FAST is accepted only where it is within the cap limit established by IPOS, which currently stands at 10 requests per month in general, and 2 requests per entity (individual or corporation). The application must necessarily contain 20 or fewer claims.

*Conditions & Fees:* The applicant must respond within two weeks from the receipt of formalities examination adverse report (if issued) and within two months from the date of receipt of the written opinion. Patent applications will be accelerated for up to two office actions. After the second written opinion, the processing of the patent application will no longer be accelerated. The applicant cannot request an extension of time limit for any matter during the patent application process. Patent applicants are not required to pay additional fees to benefit from the program.

*Reduced Pendency:* Under SG IP FAST, a patent may be granted within as fast as six months, subject to the complexity of the patent application. In recognition that inventions may carry with them intellectual property beyond patents, SG IP FAST also allows related trademark applications to be registered in as fast as three months, subject to the complexity of the trademark application, while related registered design applications can be registered in as fast as one month.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See the IPOS website, available at: <https://www.ipos.gov.sg/about-ip/patents/how-to-register/acceleration-programmes>.

<sup>2</sup> There is currently no cap on the number of requests for acceleration of trademark and registered design applications under SG IP FAST.