

Expedited examination program of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic

Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic offers expedited examination program under which the examination of a patent application is accelerated and a patent is granted **within 24 months from the filing of an application** (an average time of patent application proceeding in 2021 was 42,2 months from filing of the application). The program was implemented on 1st March 2021 and in 2021 24 percent of patent application filed with the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic qualified for expedited examination.

Applicant does not have to request expedited examination of a patent application - examination of an application is expedited based on fulfilment of qualifying criteria (see Qualifying criteria for expedited examination listed below). Under the expedited examination program examination of patent applications **from all technical fields** which fulfil qualifying criteria is accelerated and there are **no surcharges** payable for expedited examination.

The goal of the expedited examination program of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic is to **grant patents on patentable inventions as soon as possible** (one of qualifying criteria required for expediting examination is that no novelty or inventive step destroying documents are found by performed search).

Qualifying criteria for expedited examination:

Examination of a patent application is expedited if following criteria are fulfilled:

- request for search is filed together with the patent application,
- request for substantive examination is filed within 10 months after filing of the application,
- applicant requests earlier publication of the application; request for earlier publication is filed within 10 months and
- no novelty and/or inventive step destroying documents are found by performed search.