



# Patent Protection

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### When should I seek Patent Protection?

**A** Generally, it's better to seek patent protection as early as possible once your idea is fairly complete. The invention must be novel and non-obvious over the "prior art," which can include products and publications etc. from all over the world. Because this "prior art" grows every day, the longer you wait to apply, the more likely it is that someone else may produce or publish something that incorporates technology similar or identical to what you wish to patent. Delay in filing can also cause your own activity (such as publicizing your technology) to make it impossible for you to obtain patent protection. An experienced patent practitioner can help you decide if your idea is ready for patenting.