8. Patent Filing Support Program (PFSP)

Overview

The HEC encourages intellectual honesty and works to safeguard the rights of the scientist/inventor. Registering an invention in the name of the Researcher as a patent is an exclusive right granted by a country to an inventor. This helps the inventor to exclude others from making, using or selling his or her invention in that country during the life of the patent. Internationally too, most countries now abide by the patent system. The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) applies international patent laws globally through several treaties to secure intellectual property rights.

Keeping in view the importance of patent filing, HEC in July 2006 developed a program through which research ideas, published papers, thesis synopsis or whatever ready to describe potential invention is evaluated for patentability. In case an invention is determined to be patentable the inventor will be encouraged to file for an international patent.

Program Objectives

Securing an international patent serves two purposes; first, it allows the inventor, his/her institution and his/her country to benefit economically from his/her efforts and secondly, mankind benefits from it when a useful application or a product results from the invention. Scientists worldwide make significant contributions to economic growth through such inventions and replication of this practice is intended in Pakistan through this program.

Terms & Conditions

- The eligible scientists/researchers will apply for the funding of their patentable research/invention.
- The parent organization will send recommendation/approval letter of the head of Institute/organization for the PI, along with prior art search evaluation form.
- The recommendation letter should clearly establish and certify the potential market for the invention.
- On the basis of recommendations and market survey, the patent expert will decide whether the patent should be filed provisionally or otherwise.
- The concerned Institution/Organization/Inventor will search for the business/industrial partner ready to take the patent for further development of provisionally filed patents.
- HEC will file the patent, after approval of the Committee of Experts.
- The patent will be assigned to institution/organization concerned.
Once a patent is issued to the inventor he/she will be bound to follow his/her Institution/ HEI/R&D Organization's Intellectual Property (IP) Policy. The royalties and any other share will be distributed as per the HEI IP Policy.

The PI and institute/organization concerned will be bound to report the progress of his/her registered patent and its contribution towards economy and mankind.

It will be the responsibility of university/institute/R&D organization concerned to commercialize the patent and report to HEC.

The maximum amount to be paid/ reimbursed for patent fee will be US$6000.

**Application Procedure**

The procedure for patent funding is as follows:

- The researchers will upload their ideas/research outcomes on website through e-application, with potential market survey report along with the recommendation letter of his/her institutional/organizational Head.

- The experts will evaluate their ideas/research outcomes in light of the market survey provided.

- If the idea is patentable, only then HEC will process its filing.

**Release of Fee for Patent Filing**

- For filing of patent through HEC, the case will be processed for the approval of competent authority for release of funds after receiving the verified invoice and positive evaluation comments.

- In case the patent is recommended by the committee for funding; a maximum amount, equivalent to $6000/ will be reimbursed after approval. Additional support will be provided for extension and continuation fees, based upon recommendation/approval by the ‘HEC- R&D Division’.