

Protecting innovation with patents

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There are numerous ways of protecting an innovation and the Intellectual Property (IP) surrounding it and many important points to consider when implementing a strategy of protection to get the best out of the innovation. Amongst others IP can be protected using patents.

Governments originally introduced patents to encourage innovation. Patents are granted to give inventors the right of monopoly over their inventions, for a limited period (20 years from filing), in exchange for disclosing that invention to the public. The intention is to encourage further development of ideas and technology.

When a patent is granted, that invention is registered as being the inventor's (or inventors') property and it can be used in the same way as any other property.

This document contains important points to consider before and when filing a patent.

The document is available in Enclosure 1