



BioKrete

IP STRATEGY

www.biokrete.com

Intellectual Property Strategy

Our business model for engaging with potential customers is a licensing model, which relies solely on the fact that our technology, which is the intellectual property, has been duly protected. We have explored some strategies surrounding IP protection, which include trade secrets, trademarks, and patents. We initially considered trade secrets since it was the easiest way to protect valuable company information without jeopardizing our chances of filing for a patent when the idea was fully fledged. But upon further communication with our principal investigator and advisors, we were encouraged to pursue filing a patent from the get-go. This will allow us to fully develop our idea and present a strong business case for our licensing model. The trademark IP protection was for our logo, which we want to have rights over as we pursue partnerships to execute our second solution (the pentacones).

We then research the IP protection landscape in Ghana to determine how we would go about further pursuits of transferring our technology through the technology transfer office at Ashesi University.

Below is a breakdown of how the patenting process occurs in Ghana.

1. A Patent application is filed with the prescribed fees, which must contain: a description, claims, abstract, and drawings where applicable
2. The application is acknowledged with a filing date and application number
3. Power of attorney, if applicable, where the applicant is a foreigner or foreign entity based outside the jurisdiction
4. The formality examination is conducted by the Patent Registry to ensure that all the formal requirements in respect of fees and information required are provided.
5. A Search and Substantive examination is subsequently conducted for the invention claimed in the application/ request
6. The application is refused where it does not meet the patentability requirement as provided by the Patent Act
7. The application is granted where it meets the patentability requirement in accordance with the Patent Act
8. The application is published in the Industrial and Commercial Bulletin
9. A certificate is issued for the patent
10. In order to maintain the patent or patent application, an annual fee shall be paid in advance to the Registrar for each year, starting one year after the filing date of the application.

Patent Application Process in Ghana

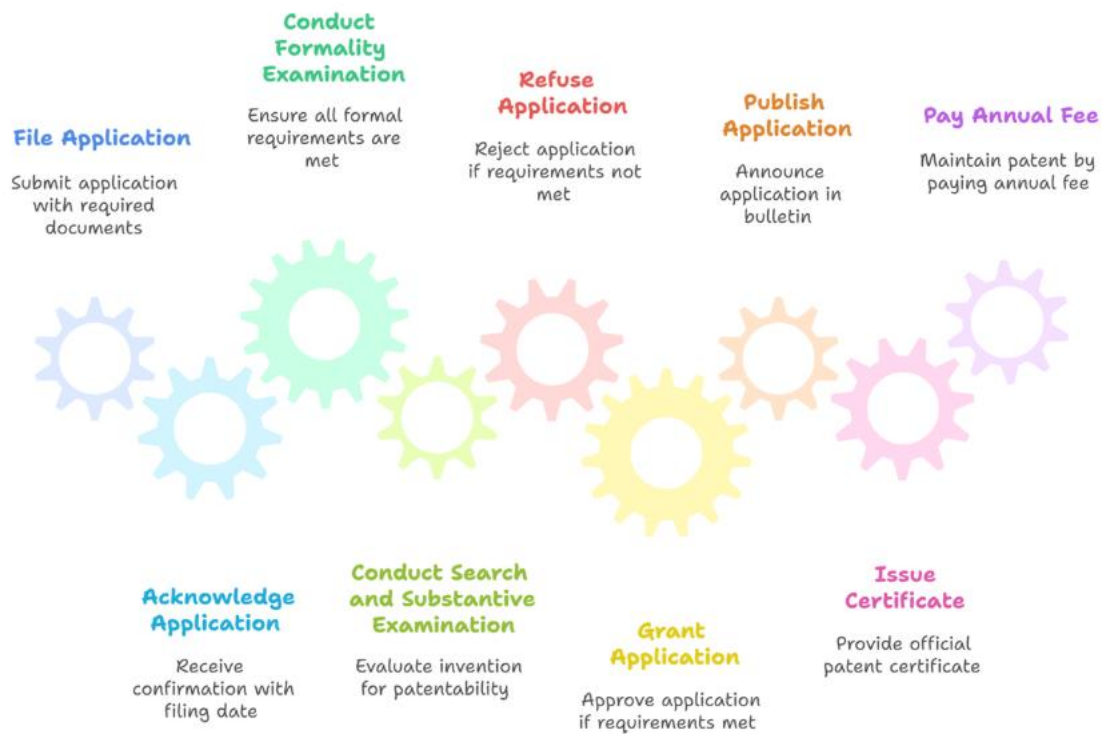


Figure 1: Patenting guidelines

Upon understanding how the process works in Ghana, we also looked into filing for a provisional patent for the time being as we advance in the levels of our technology readiness assessment. The provisional patent gives a 12-month grace period, which gives us even more time to fully advance our solution after iGEM, so we can make a strong case when we file our formal patent.

Regarding our current progress, we are gathering documents relating to the idea that we want to patent and are in talks with members of the TTO at Ashesi University to ensure that all documents are ready and clear before we start the process. But before we started any of this, we ensured that our idea ticked the three key boxes for filing for a patent with Google Patents and the WIPO Patent and Trademark Database, which affect the production in both the cement manufacturing industry and construction firms. It was then confirmed that filing a patent was completely possible and achievable.

We are actively engaging with mentors and advisors to make this a reality, and they expressed the great possibility of us attaining a patent.

The communications with the Intellectual Property Monitoring Committee (IPMC) lay out the process by which our patented technology can be licensed to our customers. Having identified our stakeholders and engaged with them, we are optimistic that obtaining a license

is highly achievable after significant work has been done in the research and development phase of our product development.

Below is a simplified breakdown of interactions

1. The Invention is made
2. A write-up called an invention disclosure for the full invention is written down, and it is often submitted to the university's TTO (Our team is currently at this stage of the process)
3. The school's TTO determines if the invention is patentable. Once that has been agreed upon, the office handles the filing process with the school's IP attorney. (Our team, however, will be exploring a US provisional patent since that gives us the 12-month grace period after the iGEM Grand Jamboree in Paris)
4. After the patent has been successfully filed and received, the technology transfer now begins.
5. Potential clients (licensee) are sought through a collective effort by both the team and the office.
6. Once these customers have been secured, license agreements are written out and signed by the inventor (s) to them so revenue can come in the form of a one-time payment or royalties.

Technology Transfer Process

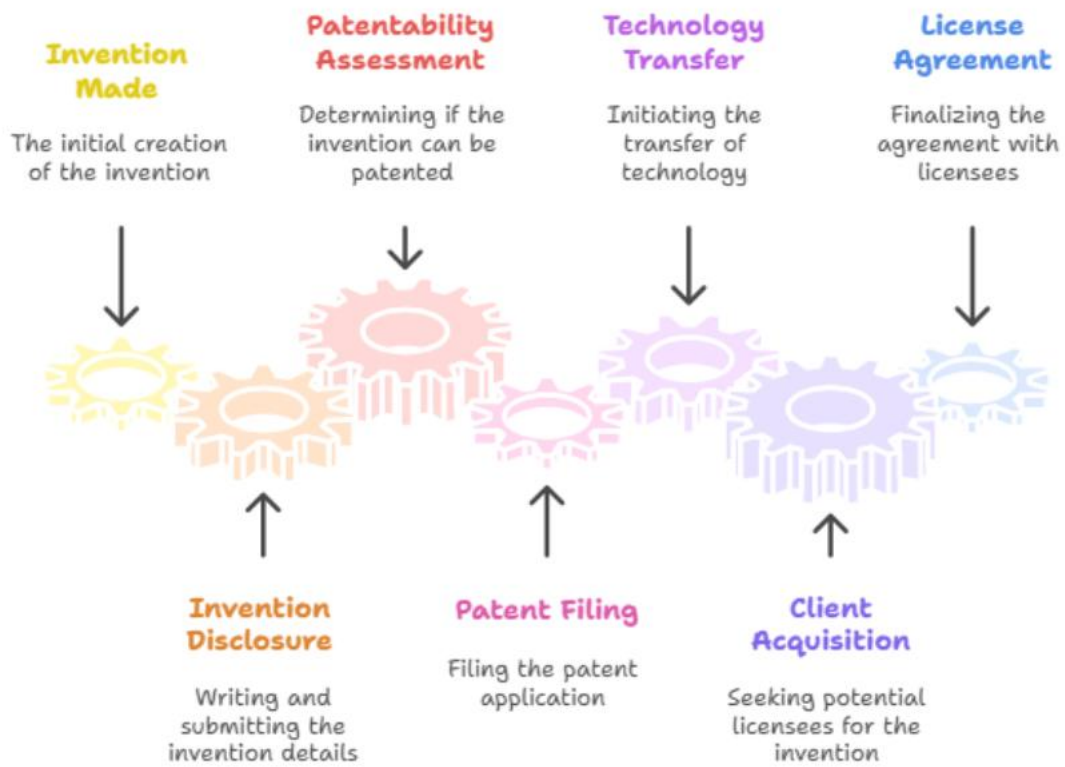


Figure 2: Technology Transfer Process