**Patent-related Support Services**

**Background**

The Mauritius Research and Innovation Council (MRIC; [http://www.mric.mu](http://www.mrc.org.mu/" \t "_blank)) has under S. 4 (e) of the MRIC Act 2019, the object to "*promote commercial utilisation of the results of research and development and innovation, in the national interest*."

The aim of the MRIC Technology Transfer Office (MRIC-TTO) is to provide:

1. technical support to local inventors, and
2. assistance in the identification, protection and management of Intellectual Property (IP) that can arise from their activities.

In this context, the MRIC has set up a collaborative agreement with SKS Law Associates[[1]](#footnote-1) to assist local inventors in accessing the following patent-related support services:

* examining characteristics of the inventions to identify novelty, inventive step, and industrial application;
* conducting a customised pre-filing patent search (including novelty search) to identify prior art;
* providing a Novelty Search Report;
* providing a professional/legal opinion on the patentability of inventions; and
* the preparation and drafting of patent applications.

Collaboration between the MRIC and SKS Law Associates will add to existing measures taken by the Council to promote awareness and the use of IP.

The following services are now available.

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| **S. no.** | **Particulars** | **Proposed fee per invention (MUR)** | **Estimated timeframe**  **(working days)** |
| 1 | Examining characteristics of the inventions to identify novelty, inventive step, and industrial application. | 4,500 | 7 working days.[[2]](#footnote-2) |
| 2 | Conducting a customized pre-filing patent search (including novelty search) to identify prior art. | 5,700 | 7 working days. |
| 3 | Providing a Novelty Search Report. | 9,000 | 7 working days. |
| 4 | Providing a professional/legal opinion on the patentability of inventions. | 5,000 | 7 working days. |
| 5 | Preparation and drafting of patent applications. | 50,000 | Will be dependent on the complexity of the application. |

**What to expect from the above services**

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| **S.no.** | **SERVICE(S)** | **DELIVERABLES** |
| 1 | **Examining characteristics of the inventions to identify novelty, inventive step, and industrial application.** | Depending upon whether the invention is a utility model or standard patent as provided under serial no. 4, SKS will provide a feasibility study of the Invention as to whether it is patent eligible. |
| 2 | **Prior Art Search\***  **Conducting a customized pre-filing patent search (including novelty search) to identify prior art.** | Based on the keywords and other information provided by the Inventor (please see IDF).  The Inventor shall receive a prior art search report using paid and unpaid patent databases. The report shall be in excel sheet and shall provide a list and weblinks of relevant published patent/patent applications and relevant non-patent literature.  The search report is valid for a period of 1 to 3 months since patent offices publish patent data every week. |
| 3 | **Providing a Novelty Search Report.** | Based on the Prior Art Search report generated at item no.2, SKS shall provide a report as to whether the invention is novel. The novelty search report so generated shall be provided within 7 working days but will be relevant only if the novelty search report is generated within 3 months of conducting the prior art search.  Please note that the published documents in the interim period from the date of prior art search report and the date of providing the novelty search report shall be searched gratis provided that novelty search report does not exceed 3 months’ time period. |
| 4 | **Providing a professional/legal opinion on the patentability of inventions.** | SKS shall provide a legal opinion on the patentability of the invention based on the results of prior art search report. It shall take into account the main criteria of patentability as well as subordinate criteria of patentable inventions. |
| 5 | **Complete Specification**  **Preparation and drafting of patent applications** | SKS shall provide the draft of complete specification based on the information and drawings provided by the applicant/inventor.  The specification shall include field of invention, Summary of Invention, Detailed Description of Invention, Brief Description of Drawings, claims and Abstract.  Conducting of prior art search is advisable but not mandatory if the inventor has already completed the search on his own. |

**How to apply**

1. Applicants are requested to complete an Information Disclosure Form (IDF) which will be processed by the MRIC.
2. MRIC will forward request to SKS Law Associates.
3. SKS Law Associates will reply to applicant (with copy to MRIC) confirming costs to be paid by applicant for the services requested.

**Advice to applicants**

* As a first step, applicants are encouraged to select one or more services numbered 1 to 4.
* In order to provide accurate services at serial no. 1,3 and 4, a prior art search at serial no.2 is necessary/mandatory.

The decision to seek support for service 5 relating to ‘Preparation and drafting of patent applications’ is best taken once the applicant has a sufficient understanding of the status concerning his/her innovation and should ideally be based on the outcome/recommendations made as a result of earlier request(s) for services 1 - 4.

**Structure for payment**

Structure for payment shall be as follows:

1. Applicant pays directly to SKS Law Associates through either Bank transfer or Internet banking.
2. Applicant provides the MRIC with a copy of invoices/receipts clearly indicating the total amount paid to SKS Law Associates.

**Note:** Payment should be made to SKS Law Associates within 30 days from the date of invoice; SKS Law Associates will start working on the request of the applicant upon receipt of payment.

**Refund under MRIC Intellectual Property Promotion Scheme (IPPS)**

In line with the IPPS, the MRIC will refund 50% of the total amount spent by the applicant issued under one invoice, subject to compliance with conditions for this scheme. (Please note that service no. 6 "Advise on evaluation of technology and Commercialization" is not covered under the IPPS).

The request for refund under IPPS made by the applicant should be made to the Council by email to [tto@mric.mu](mailto:tto@mric.mu) accompanied by supporting documents including (i) invoice issued by SKS Law Associates, (ii) proof of payment by applicant for services delivered (i.e., copy of Telegraphic Transfer/Internet transfer, receipt(s) provided by SKS Law Associates), and (iii) applicant’s National Identity Card.

**Note:** The request for refund under IPPS should be made within 30 days from the date of receipt provided to the applicant by SKS Law Associates.

1. SKS Law Associates, A-98 Ground Floor, CR Park, New Delhi – 110 019, INDIA ([www.skslaw.org](http://www.skslaw.org/)). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. The working days shall be as per the Official Calendar of the Indian Patent Office. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)