The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), a statutory board under the Ministry of Law since April 2001, is the lead government agency that advises on and administers intellectual property (IP) laws, promotes IP awareness and provides the infrastructure to facilitate the development of IP in Singapore.
As an IP regulator and policy advisor, IPOS is committed to maintaining a robust and pro-business IP regime for the protection and commercial exploitation of IP.

IPOS' mission is to provide the infrastructure, build expertise and grow the ecosystem in support of the greater creation, protection and exploitation of IP.
The Registries Group of IPOS is responsible for granting rights for all registrable IP in Singapore. They are namely, Patents, Trade Marks, Designs and Plant Varieties.

Being the main regulatory arm that provides the core functions for all registrable IP rights in Singapore, the Registries Group ensures a balanced IP framework to support Singapore's national economic growth through regular reviews of policies, procedures, service standards and systems.
Filing a Patent in Singapore

File in SG

Filing Date Accrued

Preliminary Examination

18th month publication

Search & Examination

Patent Grant

PCT filed in SG as a receiving Office

PCT (SG) National Phase Entry (30 Months)

SG is a member of:
- Paris Convention
- Budapest Treaty
- PCT
Search & Examination Options in Singapore

**LOCAL ROUTE**
Local Search & Examination

**MIXED ROUTE**
Reliance on corresponding Search Results + Request For Local Examination

**FOREIGN ROUTE**
Reliance on corresponding Search & Examination Results (Patent Offices = AU, CA*, JP, NZ, UK, US, KR, EPO*)
Reliance on PCT ISR & IPRP
Local Search and Examination are outsourced to be carried out by one of our three Examiners:

- Danish Patent and Trademark Office
- Austrian Patent Office
- Hungarian Intellectual Property Office

IPOS is setting up an indigenous patent search and examination capability
Future Direction of Patent System

• Moving away from the current self assessment system to a positive grant system

• A more robust patent system, with increased quality of Singapore patents

• Only applications meeting patentability requirements will be allowed to proceed to grant

• New
  • Supplementary Examination
  • Examination Review
**Work-Sharing Initiatives**

**Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)**  

**ASEAN Patent Examination Co-Operation (ASPEC)**  
Launched ASPEC in 2009

9 participating ASEAN Member States:

- Brunei
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Viet Nam
<table>
<thead>
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<th>Number of Patent Applications</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<th>2011</th>
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ePatents architecture

ONLINE INTERNET SERVICE (OIS)

REPLICA SERVER (REPLICATION PROCESS)

FEE PROCESSING & ACCOUNTING (FPA)

DATA CAPTURE (DCS)

PATENT ADMINISTRATION (PAS)

GENERAL HOUSEKEEPING (GHS)

REPORT (RPS)

PUBLICATION (PBS)

FILE REGISTRY (FRS)

ENQUIRY (EQS)

BACK FILE CONVERSION (BCS)

digitizing past docs

ePATENTS (web front-end)

ePatents (backend)
What is ePatents?

An e-Services website that

- allows patents-related searches and downloads
- brings online-filing to patent agents, corporations and members of the public
- provides 45 forms for online filing, out of a total of 72 patent forms
- http://www.epatents.gov.sg

A one-stop website for electronic filing of patent transactions and patent search
Patent Information & e-Services

- SG’s patents database at ePatents portal
- Quick links to other features and e-services of the portal
- Provides latest updates/announcements on any ePatents matters
Patent Information & e-Search

- Main search facility for SG’s patents information
- Publicly accessible (Free-of-charge)
- Offers various modes of searches
  - Simple search
  - Advanced search
  - Specification search
• Patents register details can be retrieved.

• Specification documents (including drawings and abstracts) can be downloaded.
Patents e-Journals

- Offer downloads of the monthly Patents Journals
- Available online for the past 3 months of the journals
e-Filing Services

- Web-based e-filing services
- System validation checks to reduce errors
- Safe and secure, using Netrust digital certificates.
Benefits to users

User Convenience
– able to file beyond office hours
– filing from the comfort of offices/homes

Instant Validation
– online guides & checks reduce errors during filing

Security & Reliability
– digital Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) certificates & Secure Socket Layer (SSL) server certificates enable encryption of documents & provide secure online payments
New IT system

- Harmonized IP system for all the 3 registries (Patents, Trademarks, Designs)
- Customer-centric focus
- Unified & streamlined processes
- 100% e-filing
- Enhanced e-Comms for faster communications & turnaround time
Thank You