

Maine Patent Program
Center for Law and Innovation
University of Maine School of Law
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Request for Maine Patent Program Services Form

1. Contact Information:

Name: _____

Name of Inventor (if different from applicant) or Additional Inventors: _____

Address: _____

Primary phone: _____ Type of phone: _____

Alternate phone (optional): _____ Type of phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Business Name (if applicable): _____

(Note: Only include business information if your disclosure is related to your business.)

Business Type (if applicable) (S Corp, C Corp, LLC, etc.): _____

Business Website (if applicable): _____

Position/Title (if applicable): _____

Please specify how you found out about the Maine Patent Program: _____

8. What items exist that are currently used for the same or similar purpose? Please enclose any relevant documents, marketing materials, etc., that describe these items.

9. What advantages does your invention have over items currently in use for the same or similar purpose? _____

10. Who is your target market for this product? (be specific): _____

11. Who are likely to be your biggest competitors?

12. Status of Invention Please indicate which of the following have been completed for the invention: (Check all that apply.)

- Created/maintaining an inventor’s log or notebook
 - Basic conceptual engineering
 - Technical drawings
 - Prototype construction in progress
 - Prototype completed and proof of concept demonstrated
 - Basic market research
 - Product engineering and development
 - Product ready for sale
 - Preliminary patent search
 - Preliminary competitive product search
 - Sought intellectual property legal counsel (If applicable, indicate who provided you with legal counsel. Do not include the staff of the Maine Patent Program.): _____
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13. Describe any screening or searching you have done, or any knowledge you have, to determine whether anyone else has already sold, patented, or used your invention in public. (Attach all relevant documents.)

14. Have you disclosed your idea to the public? (Do not include the Maine Patent Program staff, patent professionals, co-inventors, business counselors with a duty or understanding of confidentiality, or anyone who has signed a non-disclosure agreement. Do include trade show appearances, offers for sale, public uses, etc.)

Yes _____ No _____ If yes, state when: _____

If yes, how and to whom was your idea disclosed:

15. Are you planning to pursue a patent application for this invention?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, have you filed a provisional or utility patent application with the USPTO for this invention?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please attach a copy and list the filing date here: _____

16. Have you been involved in the preparation of any other patent application submitted to the USPTO (whether or not you were listed as an inventor)?

Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please list any such patent applications or issued patents:

17. Please describe how you plan to commercialize your invention. Please include a copy of your business plan, if any.

18. Is your ultimate goal to:

_____ grow a business

_____ license the invention

_____ other (If other, please explain): _____

19. Please describe all financing sources you have secured or are in the process of securing to test, develop and market your invention:

20. Have you applied for grant funding through any state, federal, or private institution (e.g. Maine Technology Institute, NASA, FDA, etc.)?

Yes _____ No _____ If yes, to whom? _____

If an award has been made, please state the granting agency, the award date, and its intended uses:

The Maine Patent Program (“Program”) provides intellectual property education and counseling to inventors, entrepreneurs, research scientists, and small businesses in Maine. In general, services are provided without cost and may take the form of workshops and seminars, as well as one-on-one meetings with the Program director and/or other patent specialists. The Program may provide inventors with additional legal services such as innovation screening, patent and product searching, patentability evaluations, and other services as Program resources allow. Under certain circumstances, the Program may be unable to provide services to a new applicant if a conflict of interest is found to exist.

While services are provided to applicants without charge, costs incurred by the Program are required to be reimbursed by applicants. As examples, applicants are responsible for fees related to producing and mailing a video tape or DVD of the Program’s Patent Basics Seminar and fees for obtaining any necessary file history from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Applicants should note that the depth of services that can be provided by the Program are limited, and applicants may require the services of a private attorney or agent to file patent applications and provide other more complex legal services. Applicants are encouraged to seek funding assistance from the Maine Technology Institute to pay for these services. Inventors may also be responsible for the costs of services provided by the Program if products related to the services are licensed or manufactured outside of Maine. (See 10 M.R.S.A. § 1921 for specific details concerning expenses incurred by Applicant.)

I acknowledge that I meet the following criteria of the Program:

1. I am a Maine resident or own a company located in Maine.
2. I am an owner of the proposed invention described in this Request for Services application.
3. I have attended a workshop sponsored by the Program pertaining to intellectual property law and commercialization, or at a minimum viewed a video of a Patent Basics seminar.
4. I have completed the Program’s Request for Services form to the best of my ability.
5. I have provided details of the invention sufficient to enable preparation of a patent application.
6. I have the intention of pursuing the necessary steps toward commercialization of my invention.
7. I will investigate and give preference to developing, manufacturing and/or licensing the innovation in Maine.
8. I will participate in Program-approved surveys related to gauging the Program’s performance and, specifically, complete a state-sponsored survey sent to me for up to five years from the last date of receiving Program assistance.
9. I will inform the Program of the filing of a patent application, the issuance of a United States Patent, and/or commercial production and sales of products covered by a resulting patent.

The Program is administered by the Center for Law and Innovation (“Center”), a division of the University of Maine School of Law within the University of Maine System, all of which are publicly-funded agencies of the State of Maine. The Program will provide services by qualified professionals who are experienced in the areas of patents and intellectual property. I acknowledge that the Program may employ attorney-supervised law students to help provide my services. I understand that given its limited resources and the preliminary nature of the services it provides, the Program makes no warranties as to the accuracy or completeness of any prior art search or opinion. Likewise, I understand that that the Center, the Program, the School of Law, and their employees, are *not* covered by professional malpractice insurance.

Materials submitted to the Program should be marked “confidential” and will not be disclosed to third parties without the inventor’s permission, except when required by law or court order.

Having read the above, I am requesting intellectual property counseling and information from the Program. Unless otherwise indicated, I give permission to the Program to use the contact information provided in this form on a limited basis to notify me of workshops, seminars, and other matters that may be of interest to me.

Signature

Date

Printed Name: _____

Title of Invention: _____

All information in this request will be held in confidence by the Maine Patent Program.