Provisional Patent Application Filed
A provisional application is filed if and when data supports a filing. Provisionals must be filed within one year of a public disclosure. Establishes a priority date.

US Only
- Non-provisional Patent Application Filed
  A non-provisional US patent application is filed within one year of the provisional application. This application will be examined by the USPTO. 6 months
- Patent Application Published
- First Office Action Received
  The patent examiner provides notification of which claims in the application have been rejected or accepted along with reasoning. 3 months
- Respond to Office Action
  Patent Attorney issues response to USPTO in three months, extensions possible, but costly. 3-12 months
- Additional Office Actions Received
- Patent Issued

International
- PCT Patent Application Filed
  PCT patent application filed within one year of provisional, if seeking international protection. Public disclosures eliminate the possibility of foreign protection. 6 months
- International Search Report Received
  The International Searching Authority issues a report detailing their prior art search and preliminary opinion on patentability. 1 year
- Patent Application Published
- National Stage Entered
  Countries in which patent protection is desired are selected and separate patent applications are filed for each. Due to cost, proceeding with foreign patent protection requires a license. 1 year
- National Examinations
  Patent is examined independently by examiners from the patent office in each selected country. 3-12 months
- Patent Issued

Total Time (years)
0 1 2 3 4 5