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Patent and Trade Mark Attorneys

The following timeline charts the events throughout the life of a PCT or "international" application.

PCT applications are administered by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), although can be filed at the IPO.

The main benefit of the PCT application is to defer the costs of national patent protection until 30-31 months from the priority date (rather than 12 months).

Time (months)	
0	File UK patent application
12	File PCT application
16-17	International search report and written opinion issued
18	Application and search report published
18-19	File claim amendments and / or arguments without re-examination fee
22	File amendments and / or arguments with re-examination fee
27-29	International preliminary examination report issued
30-31	At the 30 / 31 month deadline the "national phase" or "regional phase" must be entered by filing in individual countries and / or regions.
	Proceed with national and / or regional phase applications. See "International patent protection filing strategy" page.

This timeline is for guidance only, and the actual deadlines will vary from case to case.