



Keltie

Reducing your IP costs Avoiding patent pitfalls

Dr Robert McDougall
UK and European Patent Attorney

Patents | Trade Marks | Designs | IP Consulting

Reducing Costs

Patents - where to find data yourself?

Some useful registers / search platforms

- Espacenet (EPO-run patent searching database – over 100 million patent documents, multiple countries)
 - <https://worldwide.espacenet.com/>
 - https://lp.espacenet.com/?locale=en_LP
- EPO register (register – looking at EP cases in detail)
 - <https://register.epo.org/advancedSearch?lng=en>
- Patentscope (looking in detail at international (PCT) applications)
 - <http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/>
- US PAIR (US register – looking at US cases in detail)
 - <https://portal.uspto.gov/pair/PublicPair>

Reducing Costs

Patents - where to search for patents?

Enter your search terms - CTRL-ENTER expands the field you are in

[<https://worldwide.espacenet.com/>]

Enter keywords

Title:

Title or abstract:

Use keywords here with Boolean algebra (AND, OR, NOT)

Enter numbers with or without country code

Publication number:

Application number:

Priority number:

Enter one or more dates or date ranges

Publication date:

Enter name of one or more persons/organisations

Applicant(s):

Inventor(s):

Enter one or more classification symbols

CPC

IPC

Use patent classification codes here

Reducing Costs

Patents - where to search for patents?

Cooperative Patent Classification

Search for

View section | [Index](#) | [A](#) | [B](#) | [C](#) | [D](#) | [E](#) | [F](#) | **[G](#)** | [H](#) | [Y](#)

« [G01W2203/00](#) [G02B](#) »

Symbol	Classification and description
<input type="checkbox"/> G	PHYSICS <input type="button" value="S"/> <input type="button" value="i"/>

INSTRUMENTS

<input type="checkbox"/> G02	OPTICS <input type="button" value="i"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> G02B	OPTICAL ELEMENTS, SYSTEMS, OR APPARATUS (G02F takes precedence; measuring instruments, <u>see</u> the relevant subclass of G01 , e.g. optical rangefinders G01C ; testing of optical elements, systems, or apparatus G01M 11/00 ; spectacles G02C ; sound lenses G10K 11/30 ; electron and ion "optics" H01J ; X-ray "optics" H01J , H05G 1/00 ; optical elements structurally combined with electric discharge tubes H01J 5/16 , H01J 29/89 , H01J 37/22 ; microwave "optics" H01Q ; combination of optical elements with television receivers H04N 5/72 ; heating arrangements specially adapted for transparent or reflecting areas H05B 3/84) <input type="button" value="S"/> <input type="button" value="D"/> <input type="button" value="i"/> <input type="button" value="⏴"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> G02C	SPECTACLES; SUNGLASSES OR GOGGLES INsofar AS THEY HAVE THE SAME FEATURES AS SPECTACLES; CONTACT LENSES (trial frames for testing the eyes A61B 3/04 ; goggles or eyeshields not having the same features as spectacles A61F 9/00) <input type="button" value="S"/> <input type="button" value="D"/> <input type="button" value="i"/> <input type="button" value="⏴"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> G02F	DEVICES OR ARRANGEMENTS, THE OPTICAL OPERATION OF WHICH IS MODIFIED BY CHANGING THE OPTICAL PROPERTIES OF THE MEDIUM OF THE DEVICES OR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE CONTROL OF THE INTENSITY, COLOUR, PHASE, POLARISATION OR DIRECTION OF LIGHT, e.g. SWITCHING, GATING, MODULATING OR DEMODULATING; TECHNIQUES OR PROCEDURES FOR THE OPERATION THEREOF; FREQUENCY-CHANGING; NON-LINEAR OPTICS; OPTICAL LOGIC ELEMENTS; OPTICAL ANALOGUE/DIGITAL CONVERTERS (optical transfer means between sensing member and indicating or recording part in connection with measuring G01D 5/26 ; devices in which mathematical operations are carried out with optical elements G06E 3/00 , { G06E 3/001 }; electrical signal transmission systems using optical means to convert the input signal G08C 19/36 ; information-recording by electric or magnetic means and reproducing by sensing optical properties G11B 11/00 ; static stores using optical elements G11C 13/04 ; transmission systems employing electromagnetic waves other than radio waves, e.g. light, infra-red radiation, H04B 10/00 ; optical multiplex systems H04J 14/00 ; pictorial communication, e.g. television H04N) <input type="button" value="S"/> <input type="button" value="D"/> <input type="button" value="⏴"/>

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Applicant(s):

Inventor(s):

Enter one or more classification symbols

CPC

IPC

Use keywords here with Boolean algebra (AND, OR, NOT)

Patents for 'Optics' typically have CPC code:

G02

Patents for Agriculture typically have CPC code:

A01

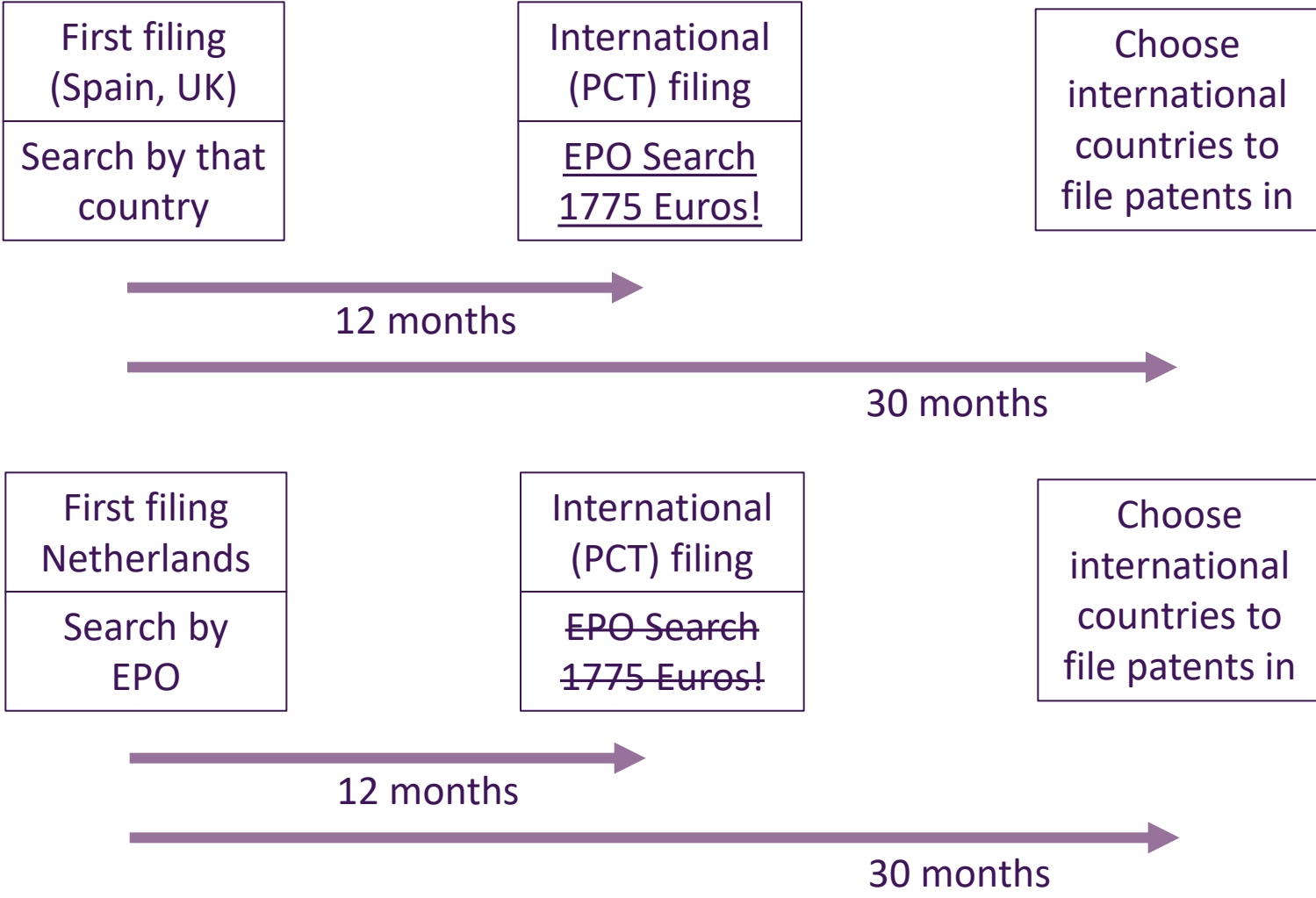
Patents for Food stuffs typically have CPC codes:

A21-A24

Use patent classification codes here

Reducing Costs

Cost saving by filing patents outside of your country first



General pitfalls: DON'T

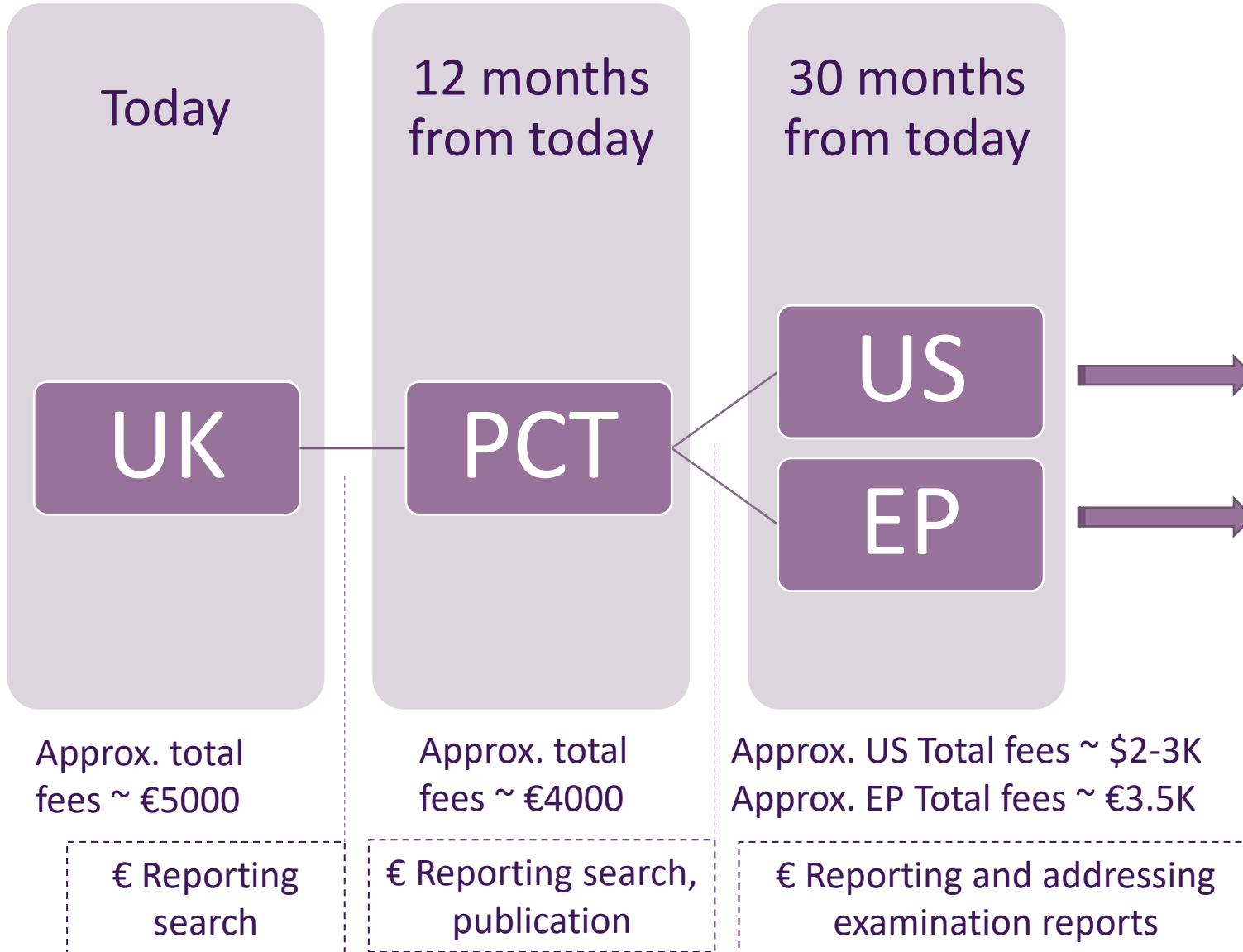
- Assume that every country treats IP in similar ways
- Underestimate the 'patentability' potential of what you have done
- Send threatening letters, of any sort, to people without checking with a legal representative first

General pitfalls: DO

- Have good communication with your patent attorney
- Keep an invention secret until at least your first patent application is filed for it
- Keep good records and take notes on who said what in all meetings
- Budget properly

Budgeting

[These are 'roughly' what some of the fees could be at these particular times, for this particular example of a patent filing strategy. You should always get a proper cost estimate from your attorney before instructing any work]

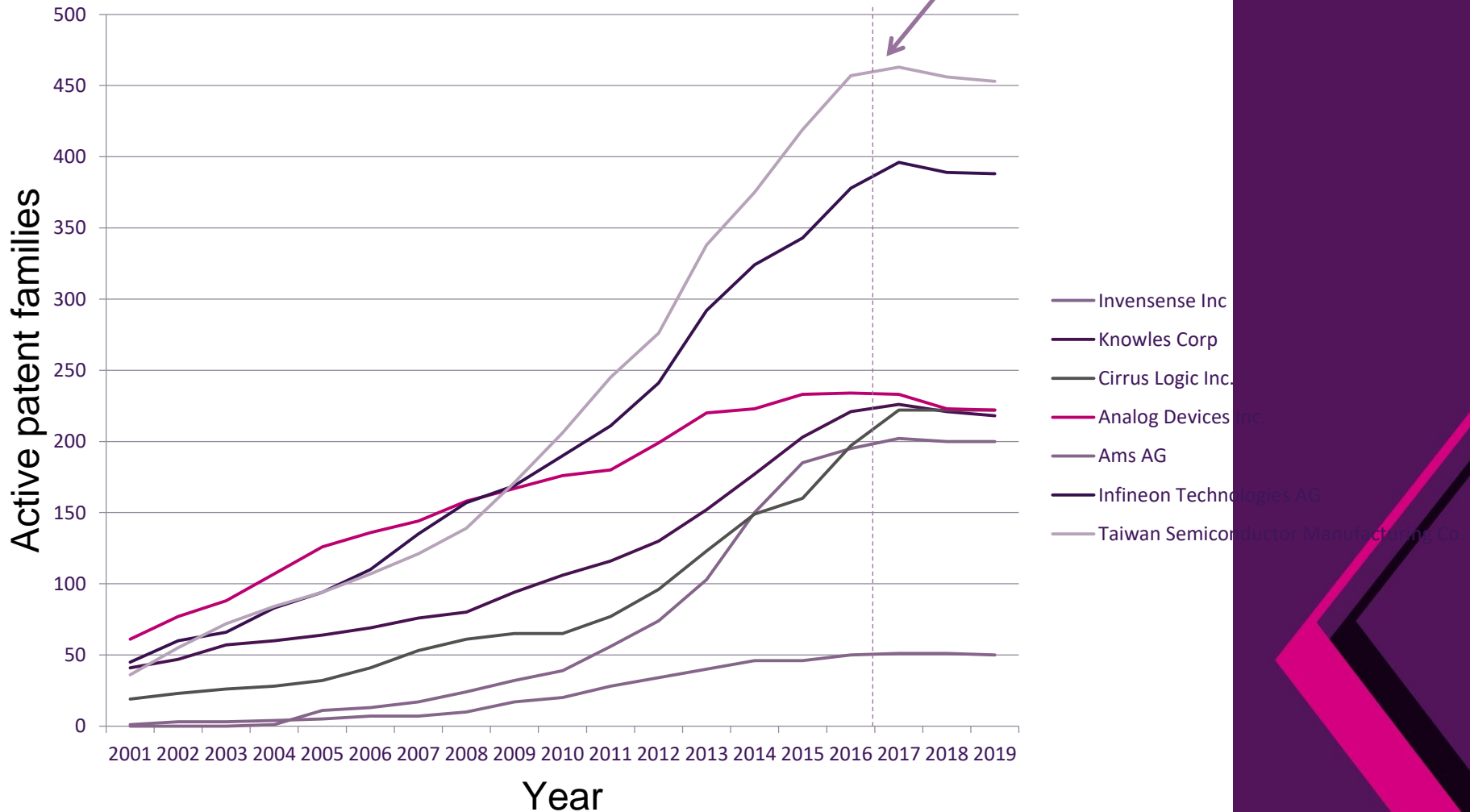


Look at patent trends

Example: Acoustic MEMS devices

- Do we invest time/money in research?
- Where can other the other companies block us?

Has the market already matured for this technology?





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