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Important Information for Prospective Patent Applicants

U.S. and International Laws impose strict deadlines for applying for patents. The ultimate responsibility for complying with these requirements rests with you, the inventor. If you think you have an invention that you want to protect with a patent, be mindful of the following deadlines. Failure to comply with *any* of the following deadlines will normally prevent you from patenting your invention.

U.S. Patent Protection



If you want patent protection for an invention in the United States, you must be the actual inventor or an assignee of the invention and you must:

- file a patent application within one year (exactly 365 days) of the first offer for sale or sale, public use, publication or public disclosure of your invention, that occurs within the United States, by either yourself or another party;
- file a patent application within one year (exactly 365 days) of the first publication, patenting, or non-confidential written disclosure of the invention, that occurs anywhere in the world, by either yourself or another party.

International Patent Protection



In addition, if you want patent protection in any foreign country, you generally must not allow any sale or offer for sale, public use or disclosure, publication, non-confidential written disclosure, or patenting of the invention to occur until after you file a patent application in at least one country.

U.S. and international patent filing requirements are complex and must be interpreted properly. There are also other requirements with which you must comply. If you believe you have an invention that should be protected, contact a Registered Patent Attorney immediately. Your Patent Attorney can help you evaluate your technology and devise a legal strategy that will best protect your invention.