

Patent Protection For Software: Your Options In Europe

Background



Patent protection of software-related innovation is often overlooked, partly due to misconceptions about patentability.

We would always recommend that the option is investigated and are able to help our clients make informed decisions about whether it is a viable option.

What can be protected in Europe?

Protection can be obtained for product or process improvements facilitated through software, as well as improvements to computer systems themselves.

Key consideration

Our key consideration is ensuring that the patent claims are not excluded from patentability, the parameters of which can vary in different countries around the world, most notably between Europe and the USA.

What can we do?

We are able to implement the appropriate patent strategy for clients to address these issues – it involves time spent with clients understanding the inventions and the commercial opportunities, and then preparing patent applications that are not excluded by patentability restraints.

Our practice ensures these are supported by drawings, flowcharts and appropriate terminology to best describe the invention and that the application is structured to take account of specificities in the handling of software-related inventions by patent offices in Europe.



For international clients, for example in the US, we can adapt their patent applications to suit European practice, although the earlier we are involved the more scope there is to 'shape' the application to secure the best result in Europe.

Can we help you?

We would be pleased to provide more detailed information and to discuss individual cases – we take a very proactive approach to help overseas clients and their outside counsel get the best out of European IP systems and we welcome being able to provide early, and commercially useful, input to decisions on protection strategies in Europe.

Please **contact Avir Patel** for further information on how we can assist your business.



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