Utility Patent Process

The Lifecycle of Patent Prosecution Over 2-6 Years

- **Invention Disclosure**
  - Provisional Patent Filed 12 mos.
- **Marketing/Commercial Partners/Filing Strategy**
- **Total Examination 12-48 Months**
  - Office Action Received 6-18 months
  - Response Due Office Action 3-6 months
  - Final Office Action Patent Rejected
- **U.S. Total Examination 12-48 Months**
  - Patent Issued
  - Maintenance Fee 3 ½ years
  - Maintenance Fee 7 ½ years
  - Maintenance Fee 11 ½ years
  - Patent Issued
- **Europe Total Examination 12-48 Months**
  - Final Office Action Patent Rejected
- **Other Countries Total Examination 12-48 Months**
- **Search Report/Written Opinion**
  - 16 months
- **Elect Countries Nat’l Phase**
  - 30 months
- **PCT/US App Published**
  - 18 months
- **PCT (Int’l & U.S.)**
- **Patent Term**
  - 20 years

Annuities & Maintenance Fees