

# Innovators need Early Certainty



The pace of innovation is fast.



Developing new technology can be costly.



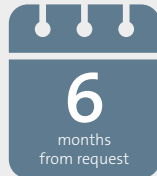
The EPO gives inventors confidence that they can rely on timely quality information and strong legal protection for investment, licensing or enforcement.



ISO 9001 certified!

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## Know what's ahead



### Search

We deliver search reports within 6 months of receipt.



#### Comprehensive search

Our examiners – highly qualified scientists & engineers – find the most relevant prior art for any new invention to deliver timely comprehensive search reports.



#### Best Prior art databases

The largest databases of any office, contain over 600 million documents from all over the world.

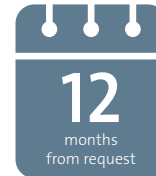


#### A unique added service

We also provide a thorough opinion on the likely chances for success or problems of an application so that innovators take the right decisions.

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## Reliable rights on time



### Examination

We are reducing examination times to just 12 months on average by 2020.



#### Fast processing

Applicants, competitors and the public will know quickly which technologies are protected or not.



#### Triple check

Only at the EPO do *three* examiners check every case before grant or refusal.

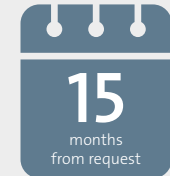


#### 100% transparency

Anyone can freely inspect files online & submit evidence against pending applications.

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## Challenges resolved faster



### Opposition

We aim to conclude oppositions to newly granted patents in just 15 months on average.



#### Earlier legal certainty

Uncertainty in the market is greatly reduced with speedier conclusion to opposition disputes.



#### Maintain the right to be heard

The streamlined procedures ensure both patent owners and opponents still have plenty of opportunity to submit evidence and arguments.

The Quality Management System for the EPO's **entire patent process** has been certified as ISO 9001 compliant.

Re-engineered processes assure quality throughout – with fewer errors the EPO can improve timeliness for all.