

Mathys & Squire LLP

Mathys & Squire LLP is a full-service intellectual property firm with industry-leading expertise in patents, trade marks, design protection and IP litigation that operates across all technology fields. We have a dedicated chemistry team of highly experienced attorneys holding higher degrees and research or industrial experience. We are passionate about innovation in the chemical field and bring our in-depth technical knowledge to bear in the work we do in advising our clients.

We understand the global importance around a green agenda for big business and that many leading companies are rising to the challenge. In a sector that demands constant innovation, we have a strong record of assisting companies in obtaining protection for their intellectual property in the UK and overseas which is critical to their growth, particularly in connection with green chemistry. Our chemistry and cleantech expertise spans multiple areas including the development of new biofuels, water treatment technologies, renewable

energy solutions, green solvents, renewable polymers and composites, and numerous other environmentally friendly solutions. We regularly assist clients in fast-tracking their patent applications before the UKIPO using the Green Channel.

Our chemistry team is also particularly experienced in collaborating across technical specialisms, allowing us to harness the full range of technical expertise across the firm to handle hybrid technologies effectively, without duplicating costs for our clients.

We work with a varied client base, including multinational corporations, SMEs, start-ups, spin-outs, and universities and we are able to apply our expertise in a tailored manner. Our Scaleup Quarter offering provides strategic advice to start-ups and scale-ups and our sister company, Mathys Consulting, provides IP valuation services and expertise that can be invaluable for securing investment.



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Did you know that the UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) offers a free scheme to speed up prosecution and grant of patent applications to environmentally friendly technology?

The UKIPO's 'Green Channel' allows applicants to request accelerated processing of a patent application. No official fees are required and all that the applicant must do is make a reasonable assertion to the UKIPO explaining the invention's environmental benefits. The criteria for what the UKIPO will consider to be an environmental benefit is relatively generous. Even relatively subtle environmental benefits, such as increasing overall energy efficiency or reducing environmentally unfriendly by-products of a known process, are often sufficient. Indeed, applications to the 'Green Channel' appear to be mostly refused when they are very clearly unfounded (the example given by the UKIPO is claiming a perpetual motion machine).

In our experience, use of the 'Green Channel' can speed up the grant of a patent to under two years, which is much faster than the three to four years that applicants might usually expect. This can be particularly useful to applicants who wish to have rights granted in the UK to leverage as soon as possible – whether to deter potential infringers, negotiate more favourable licensing terms, assist a company's asset valuation, or to attract external investment – whilst obtaining patent protection overseas on a slower track, to help manage costs.

Additionally, the UKIPO publishes a list of patent applications successfully entered into the 'Green Channel'. Having an official UKIPO endorsement of your invention's green credentials may help showcase your business's environmental prowess and validate your company's green agenda.