

NSF Policy Guidelines for IP Protection Support

1. NSF recognizes the value of IP and therefore, encourages and promotes IP protection for gaining commercial benefits according to the conditions mentioned below.
2. Based on availability of funds at NSF, IP protection is supported. Preference will be given to NSF Grantees for protection of IP originating from NSF grants.
3. Organizations, both public or private or any individual are eligible for seeking IP protection support from NSF.
4. Support may be in the form of information, application processing support or funds.
5. Support may be requested for either local or in foreign territories.
6. Filing patent applications is supported through Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)¹ system and not direct applications to different national systems.
7. Fees involved in filing applications may be provided after a thorough evaluation of the commercial potential of such intellectual property by competent professionals or NSF.
8. Fees involved in patent drafting and such fees involved in getting services of a patent agent (up to 50%) may be considered for reimbursement once the patentability information is released or patent is granted at national phases. However, penalties or similar charges are not considered for payments. could be considered for reimbursement.
9. Fees already paid seeking IP protection may also be reimbursed under condition 7 & 8 mentioned above.
10. Renewal fees may be considered at the request of the applicant subject to prevailing circumstances.
11. NSF may provide search information from patent databases or provide search facilities/filing through PCT-safe software at NSF patent help desk.
12. Beneficiaries should reimburse the NSF the total amount of funds provided by the institute facilitating their IP protection application from the point they begin to benefit from same until the entire amount is refunded.

¹ Direct entering into national phases consumes extra time and involves lot of expenditure. Filing through PCT system involves only filing fees at national phases in each country and also protection is open to any country mentioned in the PCT application.