



Frequently Asked Questions

1. Now that I have completed my transaction, who will be my main point of contact?

You will now be assigned to a Customer Account Manager (CAM). They will be contacting you via email and telephone in order to distribute all pertinent information regarding the process. Your CAM will remain your main point of contact from project setup and completion and through the marketing process if you have purchased an invention portfolio.

2. What information will be needed from me to begin the portfolio project?

You will need to use the online account login information (previously emailed to you from support@inventionhome.com) to complete the online setup process and product questionnaire. The product questionnaire must be completed in full.

If you have chosen the Basic portfolio, you can upload your images directly from the online portal. If you have chosen a Plus or Premium portfolio, your assigned art director will contact you within the next 5-7 business days to start the art direction process.

3. What happens after my artwork or images are posted and approved?

The next step of the process is for your CAM to forward all necessary information to our technical writers. They will compile the information for the portfolio content which will be made available to review upon completion.

4. How can I complete changes to my website content?

Forward any changes to your CAM. They will then have the changes evaluated and implemented by the technical writers. If changes cannot be implemented, the CAM can explain the reasons.

5. What is the next step after I have approved the website content?

If you are filing a Provisional Patent Application, this content will be sent to the patent attorney and become a basis for their writing. They will review the information and assemble the Provisional Patent Application in accordance with USPTO guidelines. This process takes a few business days, but once your CAM is alerted of its completion they will send instructions to you on how to complete the review.

6. When will my audio enhancement be added to the portfolio?

If you purchased the audio enhancement for your website it will be sent for recording after you approve the website content. The audio script is comprised largely of text from your website, so approving website content approves the script to be sent.

7. How can I make changes to the Provisional Patent Application?

Any changes to the content of the Provisional Patent Application can be sent to your CAM. They will have the changes reviewed and implemented by the patent attorney and if they cannot be put in the application the CAM will provide an explanation as to why.

8. What happens once I approve the Provisional Patent Application?

Once the Provisional Patent Application is approved, your CAM will send a notification to the patent attorney to file the application. This process can take 1-2 business days and will also require your completion of the Micro-entity Certification with the patent attorney. Once the application is filed, the patent attorney will email you a copy of the Electronic Filing Certificate and copies of all content filed with the USPTO. Your CAM will also receive a copy of this information so they can complete any necessary tasks, such as activating your portfolio into marketing.

9. I purchased the video add-on, what do I need to provide? (The video package is different from the premium portfolio).

You will need to provide InventionHome with the video file that needs to be posted. We recommend that your video be no longer than 2 minutes. The preferred formats for your video are via a YouTube link or on a CD/DVD (.MOV, .MPG, .WMV, .AVI, .3GP, etc.). The video cannot include any contact information, such as web address, email, phone number, etc. InventionHome does not edit the videos that are submitted. Therefore, all edits need to be completed before you send the video in. If your video needs to be replaced/removed for any reason, there will be a fee.

10. Why can't I search for my invention on the iShowOnline?

Access to this site is granted only to companies who have been verified by InventionHome and are actively seeking new product ideas for license and / or distribution, and have signed our Nondisclosure Agreement to hold product information in confidentiality. The site is not intended for use by inventors or the general public in order to protect the confidentiality of our inventions.

12. If I waive the Nondisclosure Agreement (NDA) can a company "steal" my idea?

InventionHome works with established, reputable companies who respect the innovation process and the work InventionHome does on behalf of inventors. To further protect our inventors, we DO NOT release provisional patent application information, including filing date or number.

Agreeing to waive is more of a confidentiality issue than anything else- it takes away that extra layer of protection BUT it allows the opportunity for greater exposure of your Invention Portfolio.

If you decide not to waive confidentiality right away, you do have the opportunity to revisit this option any time during the process, and we will go back through our network and reach out to any companies that we were not originally able to approach.

13. How are companies typically contacted?

The Invention Portfolio is the primary tool used for sharing your invention with companies looking for new inventions to license for royalties or for new products available for wholesale or acquisition. Every company in our network uses the Invention Portfolio to evaluate inventions

utilizing our proactive and targeted system for matching and presenting your invention to prospective companies.

14. How broad is InventionHome's contact network?

We work with a large variety of companies that range from manufacturers to distributors. Our network includes companies in diverse product categories to ensure that we can cater to each product. Furthermore, we are continually adding new contacts to our network to bring ongoing opportunities for your invention.

15. How many companies will you share my invention with?

Although, there is no set number of companies, our goal is to share your invention with as many relevant companies in our network as possible. In addition, every new company that we add to our network that matches your invention will also have the opportunity to evaluate your invention.

16. If a company expresses interest, then what?

After a company expresses initial interest in an invention, they will do their homework before proceeding with a license agreement negotiation. This typically involves working with our team to gather additional information, beyond what was listed on the Invention Portfolio website. Once we have interest in your invention, a marketing representative will contact you to share the fact that we have interest, and to see what additional information you can provide as the company reviews the invention further.

17. Will InventionHome handle the negotiation and contract?

Yes. We will manage and facilitate this process and will include the inventor throughout the negotiations. Since we have negotiated and licensed a long list of inventions ([click here for list](#)), inventors benefit from our experience and knowledge in this field. We have established a well-refined and equitable license agreement, which includes terms that protect and benefit all parties of the agreement: the inventor, the company, and InventionHome. In essence, our team can save inventors thousands of dollars in potential legal fees if their inventions reach this stage.

18. Will my invention be displayed at all the tradeshow?

Each year, InventionHome attends a variety of industry tradeshow in order to cultivate relationships with companies interested in new products. While InventionHome may occasionally choose to exhibit inventions at shows, we do not guarantee this as a service to our clients. Our main goal when attending tradeshow is to grow our network and increase inventor opportunities overall. If you would like your invention to be individually showcased, we recommend that you look into renting a booth at that particular trade show in order to present your product to companies in person.

19. How long will it take to license my invention?

First, it is important to keep a level head and to be patient. Licensing a product is a challenging process and it takes time. Our own "Chilly Bone" product line took several years before it licensed and earned the first royalty check. We have had some inventions license in a few weeks and others that have taken a few years. Our process is designed as an ongoing marketing program that offers your invention continued opportunities as long as we have your portfolio site active.

Furthermore, please keep in mind that there is no way to predict or guarantee that your idea or any idea for that matter will succeed. Ultimately, it is the manufacturer or product company that makes the decision on whether to pursue your invention or not. And, they could have many different reasons for or against licensing your invention. Our goal is to give your invention as many opportunities to succeed as possible. When you profit, we profit!

20. How will you keep me up-to-date with my marketing progress?

The Marketing Activity Program (MAP) Report is an on-line summarization that provides you with ongoing updates about the marketing of your idea. This page will update every month to display recent marketing activity.

Each entry in your report represents a different company that has been contacted. Other aspects of the report reflect our efforts to expand our network, which provides benefits to all of our inventors since we are always seeking out additional companies to approach.

We also utilize this report to communicate any unique feedback a company sends to us regarding your invention.

21. The MAP Report does not provide the names of the companies that InventionHome is contacting---Can I have a list of the names?

It is our policy not to release company names or contact information unless they are interested in your invention and it becomes necessary to do so. We believe we owe the companies that we work with these privacy considerations. Many of these companies choose to work with us because we provide them with an easy and risk-free means for accessing and viewing new product ideas. This allows them to comment more candidly on inventions if they need to do so. It also eliminates occurrences of some inventors using that list as their own personal "call list" to reach out to companies and possibly create confusion for the company, the inventor, and InventionHome.

If and when a company's interest elevates to a high level and we start discussing terms of a license agreement, we will always release the company name so that the inventor can do some research and make sure that they want to enter into an agreement with that particular company.

22. Is anything happening with my invention? Why is there no feedback listed?

Most companies only offer feedback if they are interested in a product. They typically do not offer feedback if they do not have interest. Some companies can take 12+ weeks to complete their review process and won't offer feedback until that process is completed. In some instances, companies tell us upfront that they will be in contact if there is interest and ask that we not follow-up and allow the review procedure to take its course.

If we do receive any feedback or interest in your product, the Marketing Department will directly contact you.

23. I have some companies I'd like to contact on my own, is this ok?

Yes, you are welcome to market your idea and if you find a company on your own, we do not collect any royalties from you.

24. Do you submit my idea to companies in other countries?

No. We only market to companies that are based in the United States because most of the inventors we work with only have some form of US patent protection, meaning that their idea is only protected in the US.

25. Can more than one company license my invention?

While it is possible for more than one company to license a product, it is unlikely. If a company is going to put forth the time, effort, and money to develop a new product idea they typically want to avoid the chance of competition from other companies and so will require exclusivity.

26. I know my idea is great and everyone tells me they want to buy one so why hasn't my product gotten a licensing deal?

Consumer interest does not necessarily translate into company interest. The likelihood that an invention gets picked up by a company has many more factors involved than "it is a great idea". A company who licenses a product is risking a great deal by absorbing all the costs that are involved with developing, making, and distributing it. Therefore, companies base their decisions to license a product on an entirely different set of criteria than an end user might use to make a decision about purchasing a product.

27. How long does InventionHome store my information/prototype/project?

Clients are encouraged to keep copies of all documents for their own records. The company will retain documents that are related to the client's purchase of services for a period of one year after the client's account is deactivated. Please note that this applies to any documents, material or information (hardcopy, electronic or otherwise) that client may provide to the company, as well as any documents, material or information (hardcopy, electronic or otherwise) that may have been produced by the company for the client. This policy shall exclude physical prototypes/samples which may be submitted by client to the company. The company will retain physical prototypes/samples for a period of 30 days after the client's account is deactivated and shall only be returned at client's written request and expense. Otherwise, for confidentiality purposes, prototypes/samples will be purged. If an outside company requests prototypes/samples of client product, client may not receive prototypes/samples returned and company is not responsible for the return or expense of the prototypes/samples.

28. My Provisional Patent Application is expiring. What happens to my invention when it expires?

Your provisional patent application is valid for 12 months from the filing date. Once you near the end of this 12-month period, you will need to decide your next step.

Many inventors move on to file a non-provisional (Utility) patent application before expiration of their provisional application. Others decide to abandon the invention due to lack of interest during the provisional period. This is a personal choice that each inventor must face. InventionHome does not prepare or file Utility patent applications; therefore, if you have any questions regarding this type of filing, please contact a patent attorney or agent. If you need a referral, feel free to contact us and we'll be able to provide contact information for a reputable patent firm.

Our policy is that we can only market inventions that have some sort of patent protection. Once your provisional patent application expires, you will no longer be considered patent-pending,

therefore, if we have not been notified that you have moved forward with some sort of additional patent protection, we will cease all marketing efforts.

29. Is it possible to extend/re-file or renew a Provisional Patent Application?

A provisional patent application is not extendable. We suggest that you contact a patent firm for information on additional patent protection.

Please feel free to contact our office at 1-866-844-6512 or email us at support@inventionhome.com should you have additional questions.