

ALBRIGHT PATENTS LLP
STANDARD TERMS OF BUSINESS

Thank you for instructing Albright Patents LLP to act for you. We will provide you with confidential professional advice on intellectual property and related matters.

We will carry out all work for you under these standard terms of business, hereinafter referred to as the 'Terms'. We may also provide a letter setting out any further terms agreed between us, in which case the further Terms will take precedence.

We ask you to sign below and return to us one copy of these Terms. If we receive instructions, either oral or written, without receiving signed Terms, it will be assumed that you agree to the Terms. However, in certain cases, we reserve the right not to act on your behalf until a signed copy of the Terms has been received by us.

1 OBLIGATIONS OF THE FIRM

Our qualified staff are members of appropriate professional bodies, and will comply with their codes of conduct.

It is our responsibility to: (a) practise competently, conscientiously and objectively, putting the interests of our clients foremost while observing the law and our duty to any Court or Tribunal; and (b) avoid any conflict of interest.

We will perform the engagement with reasonable skill and care and acknowledge that we will be liable to you for losses, damages, costs or expenses caused by our negligence or wilful default.

2 INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 Unless otherwise agreed, we will assume that any person within your organisation may instruct us on your behalf, unless they clearly do not have the appropriate authority. Having said that, it is often helpful if you can nominate an individual within your organisation to act as a primary point of contact for us and keep us updated if this changes.

2.2 *Timing and form of instructions*

We rely on our clients to give us timely, complete and accurate information and instructions. We prefer where possible to have oral instructions confirmed in writing in order to avoid any possible misunderstandings. If it is unavoidable for you to provide us with oral rather than written instructions, we will confirm in writing the instructions we have received, as we understand them, where time permits.

Intellectual Property offices often impose time limits and failure to meet these limits can be fatal to the rights concerned. Whilst it is our responsibility to inform you of any relevant time limits or deadlines, we cannot accept any responsibility if you fail to provide us with instructions that are clear, complete and early enough to allow us to act within such official time limits. We will endeavour to inform you of time limits and of actions or instructions that are required, but we do not undertake to give further reminders, incur costs on your behalf, or take other action in the absence of instructions to do so. In this situation, your rights may be lost irrevocably. We therefore strongly recommend that you also operate your own diary system so that any informed time limit or deadline is not

overlooked.

If we receive late instructions we may not be able to implement them in time, in which case your rights may again be lost irrevocably. In the event of late instructions or late payments to us, urgency charges may be incurred which we shall have to pass on to you.

2.3 *Updating information*

It is important that you inform us promptly of any change in relation to: (a) any primary contact; (b) your name, address, telephone/fax numbers and e-mail address; or (c) any change of ownership of your patent or other relevant rights. Many such changes have to be officially registered. Please remember that registration of patents, trade marks and design rights can take years and that there may be little activity for long periods followed by a situation which requires immediate action. We cannot accept responsibility for any loss of rights as a consequence of your failure to inform us of such changes.

2.4 *Electronic Communications*

We will normally communicate with you by mail, e-mail, or fax. Given that e-mails sent over the Internet may lack security and jeopardise confidentiality, we cannot accept responsibility for any corruption in the information communicated to you or its disclosure to other parties as a result of the interception of such communication. Due to the very nature of the Internet, we cannot accept responsibility for non-receipt or late receipt by you of e-mail communications.

We shall be responsible for carrying out regular virus checks; however, we advise you to carry out your own virus checks on any communications (whether in the form of computer disc, e-mail, Internet or otherwise). To the extent that we have fulfilled our obligation above, we cannot accept responsibility (including in negligence) for any viruses that may enter your system or data by these or any other means. Furthermore, whilst we observe reasonable precautions, we regret that we cannot guarantee the security of our IT systems.

3 INSTRUCTION OF THIRD PARTIES TO ACT ON YOUR BEHALF

During our work for you we may need to instruct third parties (eg. foreign attorneys) to act on your behalf. We may instruct such third parties directly on your behalf, or alternatively you may need to sign a power of attorney or similar appointment to engage such third party.

Such third parties are not part of this Firm. Whilst we shall endeavour to select third parties we regard as being of good quality, we will not be liable for any default or negligence by such third parties. We shall, of course, monitor such third parties on an ongoing basis to ensure that the required service is provided and that our performance standards are maintained.

PROFESSIONAL FEES

3.1 *Our charges*

Our charges are principally based on the amount of our professional time spent on the matter, although other factors may also be taken into account. Such factors may include the size and complexity of the matter and the degree of urgency involved. We may adjust our standard charges if highly specialised knowledge is required, or if

the matter is complex and/or urgent. Fixed charges may apply in relation to specific tasks (e.g. the actual filing of a patent application).

Our hourly rates are primarily based on the seniority and experience of the professional staff involved. These rates are reviewed periodically. Our charges are calculated at the rates which are current when the work is carried out. Please ask us at any time for details of our rates.

All charges are subject to VAT, except certain official fees. This will be made clear on any invoice.

3.2 *Payment of our invoices*

We accept payment by bank transfer, cheque and cash. Please make any cheque payment payable to 'Albright Patents LLP'.

3.3 *Payment of expenses*

You will be responsible for any expenses we incur on your behalf. These expenses may include Patent Office fees, Counsel's fees, Court fees, the costs of any experts or other agents (including any translators or foreign lawyers). They may also include such items as photocopying costs, couriers, travel and meeting expenses, telephone and fax charges.

Whilst our fixed charges and hourly rates are predictable, you should appreciate that local representatives' charges and official fees are outside our control since they may be changed without notice and (in the case of foreign matters) vary with exchange rate fluctuations.

3.4 *Payment on account*

We may require payment on account, particularly in respect of large items such as charges and expenses to be incurred in foreign filings and actions. When we make such a request, we will usually not carry out any instructed work until the requested payment has cleared into our bank account, so good time (eg, at least one week) should be allowed.

3.5 *Estimates*

If requested, we will try to give estimates of future charges in good faith based on our knowledge at the time. However, as charges may be affected by matters beyond our control and the amount of work involved often cannot be accurately forecast, such estimates will not be binding. Only some classes of work are suited to a firm advance quotation.

If during the course of carrying out the work it becomes apparent to us that our actual charges are likely significantly to exceed our estimate, we will try to obtain your permission before exceeding our estimate.

If you would like to set an upper limit on the charges which may be incurred without prior reference to you then please let us know.

3.6 *Invoicing*

We would be happy to render invoices to and accept payment from another person nominated by you (eg, another company in the same group). However, please note that ultimate responsibility for making such payment will remain with you.

3.7 *Late Payments*

Payment is due on receipt of our invoice.

If a requested payment on account is not made or if an invoice remains unpaid for after the payment period on the invoice, we reserve the right to suspend all work on your behalf. This is without prejudice to our right to invoice for work undertaken before such suspension and to take legal action for the payment of our costs. You will be responsible for the consequences of the suspension of work, which may include the irrevocable loss of, or failure to obtain, rights.

Our standard period for payment is either 14 days or 30 days from issuance of the invoice, and is noted on the invoice. If remittance is not received within the stated period without prior authorisation from us, we reserve the right to charge 5% compound interest on the total amount per exceeded month. We also reserve the right to charge for our time spent chasing payment.

It is our standard policy to put collection of any unpaid invoice in the hands of solicitors following expiry of the stated period for payment without further notice. You will become liable for any legal costs incurred.

4 FILING

4.1 *Ownership of files*

Our files remain our property at all times. If you would like to transfer your work to other professional advisors, we will copy such of the files relating to your work as you request (at your expense) and release the copy file(s) when all our charges have been paid.

4.2 *Destruction of files*

It is our normal practice to destroy our correspondence files, draft documents and other papers when the file is closed, that is more than six years old. Unless you tell us otherwise, we will assume that you are content with this arrangement. Renewals are separate.

5 CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

While acting for you, we are likely to receive information which relates to you as our client. We will keep such information confidential, except where disclosure is required by law or regulation, or in other exceptional circumstances.

In general, we recommend that you restrict the release of, and maintain strict control over, any information not already in the public domain connected with instructions we receive. We would be happy to advise on the desirability of releasing confidential information to the public in specific cases.

6 DATA PROTECTION

This firm has notified under the Data Protection Act 1998 and will comply with all relevant data protection legislation. By instructing us you are consenting to our use of relevant personal data as appropriate in the course of our professional services, including any transfers of such data outside the European Economic Area and sending you information which we think might be of interest.

7 SEARCHES

Any searches you request may be carried out by ourselves, by Patent Offices or by an independent specialist searching firm. Due to the limitations and occasional errors in classifications, indices, computer databases and official records, no search can be guaranteed for comprehensiveness or accuracy. We will endeavour to point out any particular limitations when reporting search results and may recommend extending the search.

8 INDEMNITY FOR THREAT OF INFRINGEMENT PROCEEDINGS

Before we send any warning on your behalf to a third party, we will ask you to indemnify us against the risks of our being sued for making an unjustified threat of infringement proceedings. The aim of this request is to maintain our objectivity in contentious matters, which would diminish if we were to become a party to any proceedings. We may refuse to act for you if you are not able to provide the requested indemnity.

9 CLIENT'S PRIVILEGE

In general, communications between a UK Patent Attorney and his client are privileged under Section 280 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988. This means that other people, including the courts, are not entitled to discover the content of such communications where they concern professional advice. However, you should note that there are circumstances in which the privileged status of a letter or other document can be lost. Please let us know if you would like us to give you further information on this area.

10 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

We cannot act simultaneously for two clients whose interests in the matter on which we are advising conflict, unless both clients consent to such an arrangement. When potentially taking on a new client, we try to identify conflicts of interest that may preclude us from acting. It is helpful if potential new clients identify to us any firms or companies for whom they believe we will be unable to act without a conflict of interest arising.

Sometimes, conflicts arise later because, for example, our clients acquire new companies or diversify into new areas of business. In such circumstances, we reserve the right to decline to act further, at least in relation to the area of conflict, for one of the clients in question, generally the client with the shorter relationship with us. Because of obligations of confidentiality it is often not possible for us to identify the other client or the subject matter involved when we advise a client that we can no longer act for them.

11 CLIENT CARE AND COMPLAINTS

We value our good relationships with our clients. However, we accept that from time to time, difficulties and misunderstandings may arise. If you have any problems, you should feel free to discuss your concerns with the member of our professional staff dealing with your work. If, after such discussions, you feel that the matter has not been adequately dealt with, please ask that person to refer you to the senior member of our firm appointed to handle client's complaints.

If we cannot resolve the matter, you should contact the

Intellectual Property Regulation Board (IPReg) for matters relating to professional misconduct or The Legal Ombudsman for matters relating to quality of services provided.

11. CANCELLATION RIGHTS UNDER THE DISTANCE SELLING REGULATIONS 2000

11.1 Our terms and conditions which complies with the Distance Selling Regulations 2000, is as follows:

11.1.1 Subject to Clauses 11.2, 11.1.2, 11.1.3 and 11.1.4, you are entitled to cancel the contract between you and us relating to your instructions which you have provided via our website or telephone or such other distance selling means for any reason within seven (7) working days beginning with the day after the contract is concluded i.e. the date we accept your instructions and notify you that we have received your instructions provided that you have not consented to us beginning to perform the services for you i.e. carry out your instructions.

11.1.2 However, where you consent to us performing the services before the usual seven (7) working day cancellation period expires, your right to cancel ceases when the performance of the services begin.

11.1.3 You acknowledge that the notification from us to you that we are accepting your instructions would signal the commencement of the services and to this end, you consent to us commencing the performance of such services for you.

11.1.4 Therefore, upon receipt of notification from us to you that we are accepting your instructions, you no longer have a right to cancel.

11.2 This clause 11 only applies to you if you are a consumer requesting us to carry out services for you via distance selling e.g. *via* our website or through the telephone.

12 TERMINATION OF RELATIONSHIP

You may terminate our relationship at any time by writing to us. If there is a good reason which prevents us from continuing to act for you, we may terminate the relationship ourselves by giving you reasonable notice. In either case, if the relationship is terminated we will require you to pay our charges and expenses up to and including the date of such termination.

13 THIRD PARTY RIGHTS

It is not intended that any terms of our relationship shall be enforceable by a third party, whether under the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 or otherwise.

14 INSURANCE

We have professional negligence insurance. If, despite our efforts, we make a mistake (by which we mean any breach of our duty of care or other duties to you) and are liable to make a payment to you, our liability shall be limited as follows:

14.1 our maximum liability for any mistake shall be £5,000,000;

14.2 this limit shall apply whether the mistake affects just one piece of work we do for you, or several, so long as it is the same or similar mistake;

14.3 for the purpose of the overall limit, more than one mistake on a matter or transaction is considered as one mistake.

14.4 we will not be liable for indirect, special, exemplary or consequential damages, costs or losses or any damages, costs or losses attributable to lost profits or opportunities (whether or not foreseeable at the commencement of the matter);

14.5 we shall not be liable to the extent that our mistake results from something you do or fail to do (such as giving us the wrong information or not giving us information at the time we ask for it);

14.6 we shall only be liable for that proportion of loss or damage (including interest and costs) suffered by you, which is ordered against us by a court after taking account of the contribution to the relevant loss or damage of any other person responsible or liable to you for such loss or damage. For the purpose of assessing the contribution of any other person, no account shall be taken of any limit imposed on the amount of liability of such person by any agreement made before the loss or damage occurred;

14.7 where we are acting for more than one person, our liability is allocated among you in such proportions as you agree between you. You will not dispute the limit of our liability on the grounds that no such allocation was agreed.

14.8 The limitations and exclusions of liability in 14.1 to 14.7 inclusive shall not apply to any liability for death or personal injury caused by our negligence or to any other liability which cannot be lawfully excluded or limited.

15 MONEY LAUNDERING

For the purposes of preventing money laundering, we may ask you to prove your identity. This can be in the form of presentation of two separate and original pieces of identification, such as a current passport, drivers licence, and/or utility bills.

16 GOVERNING LAW AND JURISDICTION

English law shall apply to the construction and interpretation of our relationship and the English courts shall have non-exclusive jurisdiction to resolve any disputes arising in relation to it.

The above Terms will apply until varied or replaced with alternative Terms agreed with you in writing. Please note that no change to the Terms of our agreement will be valid unless agreed in writing by an authorised member of staff of this Firm.

Signed by _____

Print name and position _____

Date _____