



Protecting America's Patent System: *The First Step Towards Job Creation and Economic Growth*

The U.S. patent system is the strongest in the world. It facilitates innovation and encourages start-up and “incubator” companies to compete and grow – while protecting the interests of American manufacturers and other established business sectors. In short, our patent system helps ensure that the United States will continue to reap the benefit of innovation and advances in technology, which creates jobs and opportunity in every state and every sector of our economy.

Patents = Stronger Manufacturing: Strong patent rights and enforcement are critical to the competitiveness and survival of U.S. domestic manufacturing.

- Nearly 70% of patents filed in the U.S. come from manufacturing interests. Enforcing existing U.S. patent rights protects the interests of American employers and their workers.
- Patents drive advancement and technological change within manufacturing and other sectors, and enable American employers to improve both products and manufacturing procedures.

Patents = Commercialization of Green Technologies: The race to lead in the development of job creating technologies and industries of the future will be won by the nation that protects its intellectual property. Strong patent rights are imperative to fuel investments in R&D and for commercialization of alternative energy and other sustainable green technologies.

- Small innovative firms rely on patent rights to build businesses around alternative energy and other emerging green technologies.
- Patent rights also encourage established manufacturers to invest in green technologies to improve existing product lines. These patented technologies cover a broad spectrum of inventions including hybrid and electric vehicles and solar and wind technologies.

Patents = Small Business Innovation and Growth: Small innovative firms produce proportionately more, higher quality patents than large firms, and they rely more heavily on patents to protect their innovations. Patents also empower small firm innovators to build new businesses – and create new jobs – around emerging fields of technology, which might otherwise be ignored by large firms.

- Small innovative firms need patents to protect their innovations. Because small firms must work with others to commercialize and manufacture their innovations, they must rely on patent protection, in lieu of trade secrets.
- Small businesses produce more patents per employee than larger businesses, and small firm patents are more “innovative” and technologically important than large firm patents.
- Small firm innovators patent at a higher rate in health-related technological fields and are also active in alternative energy and other new technology-based emerging industries.

The Innovation Alliance is a coalition of entrepreneurial companies seeking to enhance America's innovation environment by improving the quality of patents granted and protecting the integrity of the U.S. patent system.

To learn more, visit www.innovationalliance.org.