



## IPR Support Program

### IPR Support Program Sonoda & Kobayashi IP Law

The EU-Japan Technology Transfer Helpdesk is working together with Sonoda & Kobayashi IP Law to provide an IPR Support Program aiming to help inventors, entrepreneurs and start-ups in protecting their inventions by providing advice on, and assistance with, the registration of IP rights, which is often the first step in building a foundation for a sustainable business.

The Program offers a **complimentary** and **confidential** 30 minute consultation on intellectual property rights, during which you will get the opportunity to explain your situation and invention to one of Sonoda & Kobayashi's experienced patent attorneys. The consultation takes place either at the office of Sonoda & Kobayashi, or, for convenience, can be conducted online. Sonoda & Kobayashi's patent attorneys will give your invention a basic review and will analyze your intellectual property needs. Together, you will then decide on the next steps to best protect your invention in Japan, and proceed with your business.

What we offer during our free 30 minute consultation:

- Explanation of different IP rights (patents, trademarks, designs, utility models), each category's requirements and costs;
- Suitability evaluation (identifying what IP right fits your invention best);
- Quick search on similar inventions (has someone already registered a right for a similar invention?) (Please note that this will be limited to a basic search and will be performed prior to the 30 minute consultation); and
- Explanation of infringement options (what you can do if you already have a right and think you are getting infringed).

Our 30 minute consultation will help you begin to answer the following fundamental questions:

- Can I get a patent right or any other protection for my invention?
- What documents do I need for this process?
- How long will it take?
- What will be the cost? and
- What are my options against an infringer?

After our consultation, you will have gained an initial overview of how the Japanese IP system can best be used to support your business objectives and you will be able to choose from a range of suitable options, timelines and indicative costs.

As of 1 October 2018, applicants eligible to the IPR support program must be companies, universities, and research centres with registered legal entities headquartered in one of the COSME area countries (EU 28 + 11 associated countries having signed agreements with the EU to benefit from certain COSME services) or in Japan or individual inventors who are citizens from one of the COSME area countries or from Japan.

To apply, and/or for more info, please send a **non-confidential** e-mail to the Project Manager of the EU-Japan Technology Transfer Helpdesk, Mr. Luca Escoffier at [luca.escoffier@eu-japan.gr.jp](mailto:luca.escoffier@eu-japan.gr.jp).

This service is a part of Sonoda & Kobayashi's efforts to advance IP rights. While we would like to respond to as many requests as possible, please note that the attorneys at Sonoda & Kobayashi dedicate a limited amount of pro-bono hours every week and therefore reserve the right to reject requests.