



START-UP ADVENTURES NAVIGATING THE PCT PROCES FOR DEEPTECH TECHNOLOGY

THE INNOVATOR: SYGNIS

Sygnis SA is a Polish SME, based in Gdansk and Warsaw founded in 2012. Sygnis started conducting researches in 2017 and became a pioneer in the commercialization of modern hardware deeptech solutions in the area of advanced technology industry – photonics and materials engineering. Their ambitious goal is to transform the high-tech industry with their hardware innovations

THE PCT JOURNEY

I. Challenges with patent agents – small firm, big frustration

Based on recommendations for its personalised approach, Sygnis started works on the PCT application with a small patent firm. Unfortunately, the cooperation did not prove to be successful for a lack of technical depth and administrative rigor required for a flowless patent application for an advanced technology. When the drafting process stagnated but the expenses kept growing, Sygnis terminated the contract and looked for a bigger player.

II. Transition to a larger patent firm – not all gold that glitters

Sygnis moved the PCT application process to a well-established patent agency, boasting offices across multiple cities. The collaboration seemed promising, with a strong onboarding process and clear communication but soon enough the company ran into new issues.

- The communication was not smooth enough that resulted in delayed critical updates and responses that ultimately jeopardized the submission timeline.
- The patenting budget of Sygnis suffered with hidden costs and unforeseen expenses that were not clearly communicated to the company earlier.
- Large patent firms manage the portfolio of bigger clients and prioritize their applications which resulted in a lack of focus on the application of Sygnis.

SYGNIS

SPÓŁKA AKCYJNA

THE INNOVATION: SYGLASS

SYGLASS is a game-changer in photonics offering unique properties with strong commercial applications. These features make patent protection essential in order to secure exclusive rights for the exploitation of the invention.

Sygnis was aware that a robust patent portfolio can be a powerful tool to demonstrate market potential and attract investors and partners, so based on a favourable prior art analysis a PCT application was filed.



It required a significant internal effort from the team of Sygnis to overcome these difficulties and ensure the compliance with timelines and quality standards, but the PCT application was filed at last. However, Sygnis did not stop here.

III. Keep the ball rolling – securing investor interest during PCT

The company was aware that filing the PCT application was only the first step of the journey. Recognising the key role of patents in attracting investors, and having taken the first steps towards patenting the invention, Sygnis immediately realised the benefits.

With a tool in hand that could secure market exclusivity, Sygnis engaged potential investors demonstrating control over an innovative technology. Their proactive approach and active participation signalled to investors the company's readiness to capitalise on commercial opportunities and ultimately reflected their high growth potential.

Furthermore, despite its smaller size, the company's business attitude established Sygnis as a serious player in the competitive field of additive manufacturing technology. By filing a PCT application, Sygnis not only strengthened its market position but also significantly enhanced its ability to secure strategic investments that could enable scaling its operations in the future.

CURRENT STATUS AND REFLECTIONS

The SYGLASS patent application is currently under examination. Taking advantage of the possibilities granted by the PCT procedure, SYGNIS is making the most of the time available and is continuing to work on minor corrections that may contribute both to a successful outcome and to well-considered decisions on the geographical scope of the final patents in the national phase of PCT.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The experience gained from the challenging application process provided Sygnis with critical insights in navigating the patenting landscape:

- Proactive participation in the patenting process is crucial: the expertise of external patent professionals is not enough to guarantee success. Internal vigilance and active involvement in the process is crucial to ensure that deadlines are met and quality is maintained.
- Finding the right patent professionals can be a game changer: the success of the close cooperation required for a patent application can only be completed by the careful selection of the right patent expert, who not only has the necessary expertise, but is also able to align its priorities with those of the company.
- Patents are not merely legal shields but strategic assets that boost investor confidence: securing IP protection for SYGLASS was a crucial step for Sygnis in demonstrating the value of its innovation, consolidating its technological leadership, and laying the foundations for future growth.

The Sygnis story confirms that the patenting process, even tough challenging, is an invaluable investment in both technological and commercial success.

The simple recipe of Sygnis for getting the most out of its investment in obtaining patent protection involves three ingredients:

Proactive participation

Finding the right patent expert

Using patents as strategic asset