



Symes TV Consulting, LLC

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT PATENTS CAN HURT YOU!

In-House Seminars for Company Management and Engineers

These seminars are intended for small to medium-sized technology-related businesses, typically without inside Patent Counsel. They are intended to familiarize management and engineers with the fundamentals of patents, the need for a patent strategy, and how to choose that strategy.

Do you want to patent your inventions for licensing, to enhance the value of the company, or just for defense? How do you get the most useful patents, and where should you file and maintain your patents?

Peter Symes has worked with patent portfolios and patent attorneys for many years. He is not an attorney or patent agent, and does not offer legal advice. One section of the seminar addresses the need for legal advice; how to choose a patent attorney or agent, and how to maximize the value of professional advice and representation.

Seminars can be customized to suit the needs of the client. A typical seminar would include a session for senior management to discuss strategic directions. A second session would be targeted at engineers/technologists and their management. This would focus on issues of patentability, and the skills needed to work effectively with a patent attorney or agent.

See over for a detailed outline.

Symes TV Consulting, LLC <http://symestv.com> **also offers ...**

- Standards Representation
- Expert Witness Services
- Technical Writing
- In-House Training

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MANAGEMENT SESSION

Intended for Corporate and Engineering Management. Provides an overview of patents and associated strategies, how to decide on a patent strategy, and the elements of implementation at the management level.

Overview of Patents

- i. What is a patent?
- ii. What can be patented?
- iii. Requirements for a patent?
- iv. What does a patent cost?
- v. What does a patent provide?
- vi. What does a patent not provide?

Reasons to Obtain Patents

- i. Offensive – licensing others, or restricting their activity
- ii. Defensive
- iii. Company value
- iv. Patents and standards participation

Obtaining New Patents

- i. What can be patented?
- ii. What is the patent intended to achieve?
- iii. When to file?
- iv. Where to file?
- v. Employee incentive schemes?
- vi. Beware “professional inventors”

Professional Advice

- i. Choosing a patent attorney or agent
- ii. Subject expertise, accessibility
- iii. Working with a law firm
- iv. Partners, Associates, experience

On the Defensive?

- i. Inquiry or suit?
- ii. Get legal advice!
- iii. Is a reasonable settlement an option?
- iv. Involve the engineers
- v. Beware “willful infringement”!

ENGINEERING SESSION

Intended for engineers who may be inventors, and for engineering managers who will need to oversee the patent application process

Overview of Patents

- i. What is a patent?
- ii. What can be patented?
- iii. Requirements for a patent?
- iv. The elements of an application
- v. The application process

Engineers’ Notebooks

- i. Use approved notebooks
- ii. Complete regularly
- iii. Sign and date
- iv. Archive

Claims

- i. What is a claim?
- ii. Elements of a claim?
- iii. Venn diagram of a claim
- iv. Independent claims and dependent claims?
- v. Claim negotiation with the Patent Examiner
- vi. Beware “easy-approval” claims

Inventors

- i. Assessing contributions to the invention
- ii. Who should be a “named inventor”?

Working with a Patent Professional

- i. What to expect from your professional advisors
- ii. They are the experts on process and law
- iii. You are the expert on your invention
- iv. Be prepared to “push back”
- v. Aim to develop an effective working relationship
- vi. If it’s not working, ask for a change