



# IPR Readiness Level – IPRL



**IPRL 9**  
Strong IPR support and protection for business.  
Patent granted in relevant countries and maintained in force

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**IPRL 8**  
IPR strategy and IP management fully implemented.  
More complete assessment of freedom-to-operate.

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**IPRL 7**  
All relevant IPR filed (e.g. additional patents).  
Patent entry into national/regional phase.

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**IPRL 6**  
IPR/patent strategy implemented and supporting business.  
Positive response on filed applications  
Initial assessment of freedom-to-operate (or landscape)

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**IPRL 5**  
Draft of IPR/patent strategy in place to use IPR for business.  
Filed first complete patent application (or other IP registrations)

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**IPRL 4**  
Confirmed if protection possible and for what (e.g. patentability).  
Decided why to protect certain IPR (business relevance).

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**IPRL 3**  
Detailed description of possible key IPR (e.g. invention or code)  
Initial search of technical field and existing IPR.

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**IPRL 2**  
Identified different forms of possible IPR that you have.  
Ownership is clarified and you clearly own/control IPR.

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**IPRL 1**  
Hypothesizing on possible IPR you might have (such as patents, software, copyright, designs, trade secrets etc.)

Level	Description
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strong IPR support and protection for business, for example using various other forms of registered IPR (trademarks, designs etc) or for example using agreements, trade secrets etc.</li> <li>- Patent granted and maintained in several countries relevant for business</li> <li>- Patent is in force/valid with no invalidation procedures</li> </ul>
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IPR strategy is fully implemented and managed. IPR is proactively used to support business, for example all IPR related agreements are professionally managed and new IP is managed.</li> <li>- First patent is granted with relevant scope for business</li> <li>- No oppositions encountered for patent grant</li> <li>- More complete assessment of freedom-to-operate</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Other forms of relevant IPR might be registered such as trademarks, designs.</li> <li>- Entry into national phase (US, EU, JP etc.)</li> <li>- Complementary or additional new patents might be filed</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More full IPR strategy in place that is validated by professional and that really links to and supports business strategy.</li> <li>- Patent strategy in place-identifying possible additional patents, country strategy, claim changes.</li> <li>- Positive response on applications from authorities and analysis of response performed.</li> <li>- If no positive response: analysis is performed together with professional with strong arguments and strategy for prosecution.</li> <li>- Initial assessment of freedom-to-operate (e.g. competitor based, narrowed product scope etc.) or landscaping. Overall purpose to get knowledge on the field, key IPR, players and activity.</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft IPR strategy- first analysis (preferably by professional) on how different IPR can be used to protect and be of value for the business.</li> <li>- Patent strategy- professional analysis on what/how to patent and how to improve/build value of patent application (e.g. supporting data, new/additional details to be filed etc.)</li> <li>- Basic agreements in place to ascertain control of IPR (e.g. assignments, ownership copyright)</li> <li>- First complete patent application (or other IPR registration) filed in cooperation with professional</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Confirmed novelty and patentability through searches/analysis by professional</li> <li>- Confirmed possibilities for protecting other forms of IPR</li> <li>- Possibly filed “provisional” patent application i.e. not professionally drafted and complete</li> <li>- Analyzed (ideally with professional) the key IPR and what the priorities should be for what to protect (e.g. patent). Decided on alternative forms of protection if patents are not suitable.</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Considered what forms of IPR are key and could/should be protected ( e.g. through patents)</li> <li>- Sufficiently detailed description of possible IPR and patentable inventions (invention disclosure)</li> <li>- Made own searches/analysis of publications, state-of- the art solutions etc.</li> <li>- Possibly initial searches by professional to find prior art within patent databases</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mapped different forms of IPR that exist or could emanate during development</li> <li>- Specific ideas for patenting exist, but are not well described and defined.</li> <li>- Agreements related to IPR are identified and ownership is clarified. IPR is verified to be under your ownership or control. Inventors are clarified. Knowledge of applicable IP policies etc.</li> </ul>
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hypothesizing results or ideas might contain possible patents or some other form of IPR</li> <li>- Some ideas on IPR e.g. for patenting may exist, but are speculative and uniqueness etc. not clear.</li> <li>- Vague description and documentation of the possible IPR</li> <li>- Limited knowledge or unclarities regarding relevant legal agreements (ownership, use-rights etc.)</li> <li>- Limited or non-existing knowledge of the technical field, state-of-the art, publications etc</li> </ul>