

## Discounts for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises

The Japan Patent Office (JPO) has reduced fees for both domestic and foreign small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), provided the SME satisfies a certain set of criteria.

The discounts apply to "Requests for Examination" filed between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2018 and "Patent Annuities" for applications in which the request for examination will be completed and submitted within the above time frame.

The request and submission of documents certifying that an applicant's company, institute, university, organization, etc., is qualified to receive a Request for Examination and/or an Annuity discount, should be made directly to the JPO at the same time the request for examination is filed or an annuity payment is made.

Researchers at R&D SMEs, national, state, or private colleges and universities, technical colleges and research institutions jointly used by national, state, or private colleges and universities, and venture companies are invited to apply for these discounts.

**Small businesses:** a 66% reduction in the request for the examination fee, annuities (1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> year), search fees, and preliminary examination fees is possible.

**Individual inventors:** a 50% reduction in the request for the examination fee and annuities (1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> year) is possible for patents. Utility models may receive a 50% reduction in the request for a technical assessment or a three year grace period for the registration fee.

**R&D SMEs, national, state, or private colleges and universities, and technology licensing organizations (TLOs):** a 50% reduction in the request for examination fee and annuities (1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> years) is possible.

Restrictions

The above program is restricted to enterprises that satisfy both 1) and 2) below.

1) Number of employees

Small businesses or corporations with fewer than 20 employees or companies involved in the trade and service industries having fewer than 5 employees.

Small businesses which have been operating for fewer than 10 years.

Businesses or corporations in business for 10 years, but with less than 300 million yen (\$2,727,271) in capital.

2) Capital

Construction, manufacturing, or transportation companies having less than 300 million yen (\$2,727,271) in capital.

Retailers having less than 50 million yen (\$454,545) in capital.

Wholesale corporations having less than 100 million yen (\$909,091) in capital.

Please note that the above stated fees are the processing fees required by the JPO. Separate attorney's fees and translation fees are required to prepare a Japanese application for submission at the JPO.

For your reference: ¥110 = \$1 US (Rate as of May 2018)