

Intellectual Property Assist services available to Eastern Ontario SMEs through the RICs

IRAP IP Assist program

NRC IRAP has brought together three Eastern Ontario Regional Innovation Centres (RICs) to provide SMEs (small to medium enterprises) in Eastern Ontario with broad IP education and awareness, along with subject matter appropriate basic scoping of IP needs and IP landscape client briefs in an effort to help IRAP SMEs engaging in an IRAP funded R&D project with a better understanding of the IP and competitive landscape around a specific innovation. Invest Ottawa will work with its RIC partners, Launch Lab and Spark Centre, to provide innovation support to IRAP clients across the Eastern Ontario corridor. The RIC partners will deliver common IRAP IP Assist Level 1 services under a unified front.

Objectives:

1. Provide IRAP eligible SMEs in Eastern Ontario with broad IP education and awareness, along with subject matter appropriate basic scoping of IP needs (IRAP IP Assist Level 1 activities). The RICs will provide access to an IP professional for up to two hours of support for each of the anticipated 100 IP Assist Level 1 SMEs. The RICs will give the option to the SME to use one of the RICs IP advisors (with appropriate experience and/or accreditation), the SME's current IP lawyer, or an IP professional from their referral network. In addition, the RICs will provide up to three additional hours of one-on-one Level 1 support to these SMEs.
2. Provide some IRAP-supported SMEs in Eastern Ontario with an ongoing or upcoming IRAP R&D project with access to an IP Landscape Client Brief. This will provide access to an IP professional for up to \$10K per IP Landscape Client Brief engagement. In addition, between 2 to 3 hours of potential IP or business advisory will be offered by the RICs to the supported SMEs receiving IP landscape client briefs. There is a \$250 charge to the SME to have an IP Landscape Client Brief developed. The Brief would essentially provide:
 - IP landscape assessment to a defined innovation – what are the relevant publicly available documents to the defined innovation? This is essentially a keyword search of the relevant innovation - not limited to patent databases, but should also include publicly available technical publications relevant to the defined innovation);
 - Relevant competitor IP – who are the relevant competitors in this space, and what are they doing? This is essentially a search of the competitors that have IP that is relevant to the defined innovation.
 - This Brief does not provide a legal opinion, but instead provides the IRAP SME with valuable information on the IP and competitive landscape specific to the defined innovation being developed.
 - This Brief can be used by an IRAP SME to help them make guided decisions relevant to the innovation searched and the relevant innovation pipeline.
 - This Brief can also be used by the IRAP SME to help guide them in their discussions with other entities that can help them further their commercial goals.

There will be a common application form available in a week or two.

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