



Peter A. Nieves  
Direct dial: 603.627.8134  
Fax: 603.641.2353  
pnieves@sheehan.com

#### Practice Areas

Patents  
Intellectual Property and  
Technology  
Commercial Contracts - Domestic  
and International  
International Law

## Ask The Expert - Mass High Tech

**With the U.S. Patent and Trade Office commonly taking over two years to issue a patent, is seeking patent protection worth the wait?**

**Wednesday, November 30, 2005**

Yes. A patent issued after the prosecution of a well-drafted patent application should maintain its value throughout most, if not all, of its lifetime. Preparation of a patent application requires knowledge of technology associated with the apparatus, system, or method being protected; an understanding of equivalents to such technology; and an understanding of the progression of such technology. Well-written claims of a patent application will cover difference exemplary embodiments of the invention, while the specification will provide a detailed description of each exemplary embodiment. By incorporating difference exemplary embodiments of the invention, which anticipate progression of technology, and properly drafting claims, a patent application maintains its strength over time. In addition, patents filed on or after June 8, 1995, have a lifetime of 20 years from filing.

Additional information for this attorney  
may be found on our website.

SHEEHAN PHINNEY BASS + GREEN PA  
[www.sheehan.com](http://www.sheehan.com)

Manchester, NH | Concord, NH | Hanover, NH | Boston, MA  
800-625-SPBG (7724)