

MB *Milestones* Special Edition

Corona Crisis



From Jochen Kilchert (Partner)

A. Meissner Bolte business as usual

The health of the employees and clients of Meissner Bolte is our highest priority in the current situation. The measures we have implemented to deal with this, are based on government regulations and recommendations in order to delay the transmission of infections and to protect the higher-risk groups. These measures include, first and foremost, supporting our employees and encouraging them to work from home. Meissner Bolte has been supporting these working practices for many years, meaning that no special adjustments are necessary at our company. In addition, from the very start of the Corona crisis, we reduced travel to only the necessary minimum, and have routinely held internal and external meetings via audio or video conference. The continued functionality of each of our office locations is thus ensured.

We are fully confident that we shall handle the current crisis by continuing to provide our clients with the service they are accustomed to at Meissner Bolte.

B. Intellectual Property offices support applicants

In order to prevent the Corona crisis from having a negative impact on proceedings before intellectual property offices, the European Patent Office and the German Patent and Trademark Office are cooperating with Applicants and Attorneys. The European Patent Office has announced that all due dates, including PCT deadlines, which fall due from today will be extended to 17 April 2020. The German Patent and Trademark Office also announced that the current situation would be taken into account appropriately within the framework of the legal possibilities when conducting IP proceedings. The Office responsible for European Trade Marks and Designs (EUIPO) will also extend all due dates that expire between 9 March 2020 and 30 April 2020 to 1 May 2020.

In this way, the main IP offices in Europe are making their contribution to alleviating the current, already difficult, situation for Applicants and the economy. ■

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