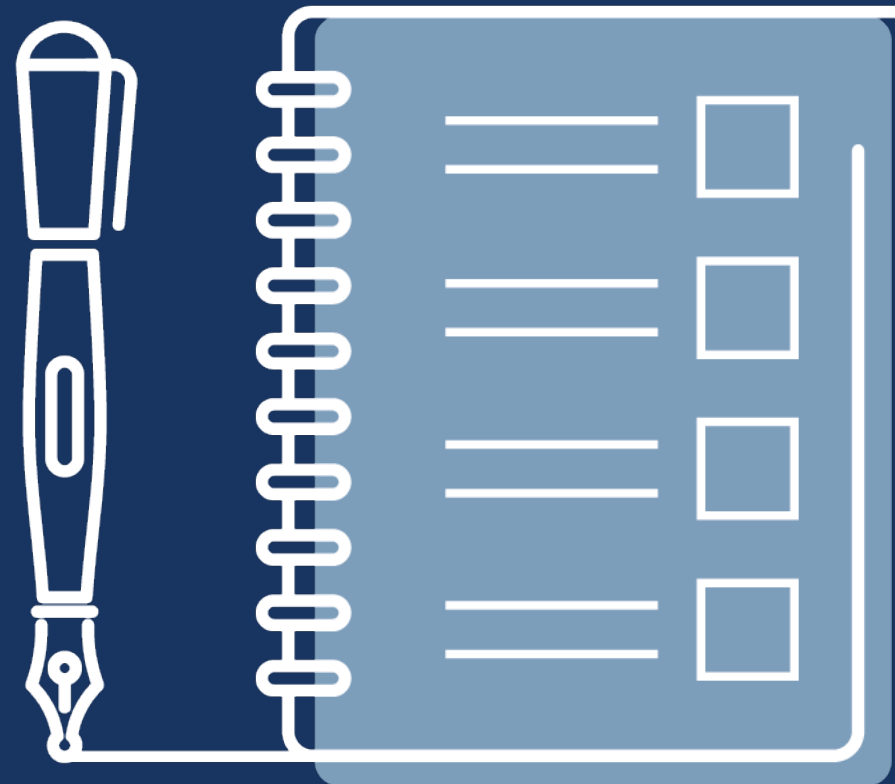


UK Intellectual Property Office's support for businesses

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IPO Business Support Policy Team

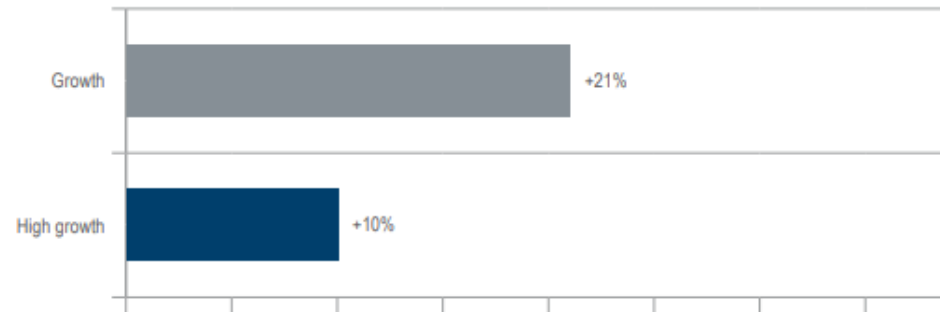
- The Intellectual Property Office is the official UK government body responsible for IP rights. We're responsible for:
 - IP policy
 - educating businesses and consumers about IP rights and responsibilities
 - supporting IP enforcement
 - granting UK patents, trade marks and design rights
- We work across national and regional ecosystems.
- Our goals are to make sure businesses:
 - **Recognise** IP as a valuable asset
 - **Understand** IP as an essential element of their business strategy
 - **Make effective leadership decisions** about managing and using their IP to help their business thrive and grow.



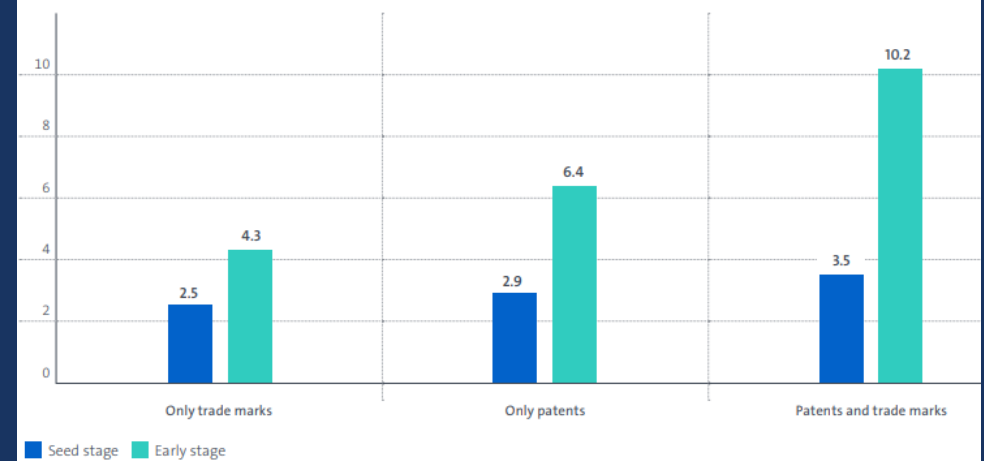
SMEs with prior IPR activities are more likely to grow

- Correlation between IP ownership and growth
- Prior IPR = Higher chance of investment
- Sign of an SMEs innovation and ability to sustain growth

Figure 1:
Increase in odds of growth with prior IPR use



Increase in odds of funding for startups with prior patent or trade mark applications



Key Challenges For The IPO/regional

- Access to businesses early
- Complex processes
- Deterrent costs





IP Support for SMEs



- Free online business support [tools](#)
- Free training for business advisers through Masterclass
- UK Patent Libraries
- Free workshops for SMEs
- IP Advance funding scheme (delivered through Innovate UK)
- International IP Service to help SMEs protect rights abroad including attachés



Strategy

SME Vision: *The IPO empowers SMEs to make informed IP decisions for their business and shapes an environment for them where creativity and innovation thrives, so the economy and society prospers.*

Knowledge:

We will provide trusted, easy-to-access, up-to-date information on IP for SMEs

Finance:

We will boost SME's ability to protect IP and use it to access public and private sector finance.

Trust:

We will increase SME's confidence that the IP system is fair and balanced and will work for them.

Regional Aims:

- To work with business support providers across the region who have access to SMEs at early stage.
- Build up general capability in the region to ensure that SMEs have access to up-to-date information on IP
- Build IP into business support programmes across the region