

FAQs

Idea Portal



Q Why does Oatey use a website for Idea Submissions?

A An online idea submission system enables us to manage this process efficiently, accurately gather all the key information needed for review, and respond to submitters in a timely manner.

Q Once I submit my idea, what happens next?

A We have a 4 Phase process that is outlined in our “How It Works” section above.

Q Are there other ways to present ideas to Oatey?

A No. Oatey requires that all unsolicited ideas be submitted through this website. Oatey does not accept in-person submissions. Any telephone calls or emails with idea submissions will be re-directed to this website for submission. This process helps ensure the submission is received and will be properly assessed by the correct functional team members. In addition, it helps protect both parties’ rights and confidentiality.

Q Is it possible to arrange a meeting to present my idea or product?

A At the appropriate time in the review process, a representative may contact you to arrange a meeting. If a video, prototype or other materials are available, please make sure you note that on the submission form.

Q Will Oatey return materials provided with or related to this submission?

A In the initial phases of the process, Oatey is not obligated to return anything submitted to them as part of the initial idea submission. Please do not submit anything that you wish to have returned. However, once we have entered into a non-disclosure agreement with the submitter, agreements can be made for the return of prototypes, samples and other materials.

Q How long does it take for a product to be commercialized and launched in the market?

A Many factors influence the time it takes to commercialize and launch a product. It is not uncommon for the process to take one or more years depending on industry codes, regulations, market launch timetables and other factors.

Q Will Oatey keep my information private and confidential, or will Oatey disclose my information to others?

A Personal information will be held private within the evaluation team, and used for business actions only. However, nothing submitted on the initial idea submission form shall be considered confidential. Oatey's innovation process is designed to produce solutions that address common frustrations and needs of our end users. Consequently, Oatey often seeks customer feedback early in the innovation process to determine the value of these new products and features. In order to effectively evaluate your idea submission, it is possible that it will be shared with third parties. Do not disclose anything to Oatey that you do not wish to be disclosed to any third parties. See the Idea Submission Form for additional details.

Q What is a provisional patent and how does it differ from a regular patent?

A Under United States patent law, a provisional patent application is a type of national patent application filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), but which is not examined and does not mature into an issued patent unless further steps are taken by the applicant. A provisional patent application can be characterized as a place holder for a conventional patent application and is not published.

Q Will Oatey pay for any of my patent and/or patent application fees?

A If your submission enters into a licensing, development or other agreement, the parties responsible for patent fees and costs would be negotiated and detailed in that agreement.

Q If Oatey wants to move forward with my submission, how much will I be paid for it?

A Compensation is an important component of any business deal, but there is no standard amount. The value is determined through discussions between Oatey and the party which controls the rights to the intellectual property and its practice.

Q What if I just have some feedback or improvements on a product and not necessarily an idea for the development of a new product?

A We still value your feedback, but the Idea Portal is not the correct process for sharing your thoughts and experiences. Please share you feedback with our Customer Service team.