Your intellectual property assets are of great value to you. To help you to secure, protect and exploit them, you need technical experts who are also creative problem solvers. You need a team of specialists working together to pool their knowledge and resources in support of your business goals.

J A Kemp is a leading UK and European Patent and Trade Mark Attorney firm that combines independent thinking with collective excellence.

Chemistry is relevant to inventions in many areas of industry. Almost all new product designs rely on properties of the materials used to execute them, and materials inventions underpin much new mechanical and electronic technology. We have both core chemical and pharmaceutical knowledge and a broad range of specialist skills in related fields.

We will help you to protect and exploit your intellectual property, whether you operate in the area of general chemistry, polymers, pharmaceuticals, materials, metallurgy, agrochemicals or any other chemical field.

Our chemical and pharmaceutical client base includes technology transfer organisations, research organisations, startups, spinouts, SMEs and multinational corporations.

We will work with you to devise a patent filing programme appropriate to your resources and commercial aims. If cost is a major concern, we can help you to obtain small-scale local patent protection.

At the other end of the scale, we are experienced in obtaining world-wide protection and helping our clients to navigate the differences in patent filing and prosecution between different countries. Our clients often require us to coordinate the work of local attorneys to achieve a consistent outcome.

We are highly experienced in oppositions and appeals before the European Patent Office. We are also expert in obtaining Supplementary Protection Certificates in both pharmaceutical and agrochemical sectors.

J A Kemp is capable of handling large volumes of patent cases in all technology areas. We never have to turn work away because of a lack of expertise, and we frequently handle multiple filings simultaneously for clients.

“J A Kemp boasts one of the UK’s most highly qualified collections of attorneys.”
Our specialisms of particular relevance to clients in the chemistry and pharmaceuticals field include the following areas.

CLEANTECH
Technology is playing a crucial role in addressing sustainability in many areas, perhaps most obviously in power production, natural resource use and recycling. Clean technology is becoming an ever more economically important sector and we have attorneys with a wide range of backgrounds who have significant experience in this field, with startups, universities and research institutions and multinational corporations.

We have dealt with inventions in areas as diverse as fuel cells, renewable energy generation (in particular wind and wave energy, solar power and bio-reactors), biofuels, recycling, water treatment and combustion engine management.

We have experience of using the UK-IPO ‘Green Channel’ to accelerate the examination of UK patent applications relating to clean or green technology.

MATERIALS AND METALLURGY
Our multi-disciplinary team of attorneys, including materials scientists, physicists, chemists and manufacturing engineers, deals with inventions relating to all aspects of the materials cycle and the application of materials.

We handle inventions relating to new materials themselves, such as steel compositions and composites; new extraction methods such as mining and flotation; new processing techniques such as casting, thermomechanical working, and deposition/thin film growth techniques; and new materials applications such as bio-materials, nano-technology, shape memory alloys and superconductors.

Our work covers inventions relating to the whole spectrum of materials from ceramics to metals to polymers to semiconductors, for clients as diverse as medical device manufacturers, universities and other research institutions, steel and superalloy manufacturers and construction material suppliers.

PHARMACEUTICALS
Pharmaceutical patents present unique challenges. New chemical entities must be protected robustly, and our specialists frequently lecture on best practice in drafting generic formulae for such inventions.

We are also experienced in drafting and prosecuting patent applications for new formulations, processes and polymorphs and new combinations of known active ingredients. Patents in this latter category are often challenged in European Patent Office proceedings and/or litigated in national courts. We are frequently involved in both attacking and defending patents across Europe.

One particular challenge is the variation in patent office practice throughout the world. For example, different Patent Offices take different approaches to medical use claims, to the amount of supporting data required in the specification as filed and to new supporting data filed during prosecution of an application or during opposition proceedings. For a given invention, it is common for us to file and prosecute applications in all of the world’s major industrial countries. We have developed an in-house resource specifically to capture our up-to-date experience of best practice before Patent Offices throughout the world allowing us to coordinate prosecution in spite of the variation in local approach.

We are acknowledged experts in obtaining Supplementary Protection Certificates for pharmaceutical products, and we also work closely with our colleagues working in the vaccines, antibodies and biologics areas.

PLANT SCIENCE AND AGRICULTURE
We have been closely involved with patenting in the agricultural sector for several decades, beginning with work for major players in the plant protection sector and, since the early 1990s, in plant biotechnology. We are European Patent Attorneys for one of the world’s largest seed businesses and we also act for a variety of other clients including companies and universities in relation to food crops and to other plants.

Agriculture is an increasingly technology-driven sector in which multiple technical disciplines are integrated. We have expertise in, for example, plant science including transgenic technology and plant breeding, herbicide/pesticide chemistry and engineering aspects such as farm and laboratory equipment, as well as in biotechnology relating to animal breeding.

We obtain many Supplementary Protection Certificates for plant protection products. We also have expertise in plant variety rights.

“J A Kemp’s patent group provides timely and succinct advice and its technical and professional expertise is completely comprehensive.”

The Legal 500
ABOUT THE FIRM

We are one of the largest UK and European Patent and Trade Mark Attorney firms, with offices in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Paris and Munich.

The firm is known for the breadth and depth of its technical knowledge relevant to patents. There are over 60 science and technology graduates in J A Kemp, including at least 30 PhDs, and no area of science or technology is outside its scope.

Our trade marks team is led by senior professionals with backgrounds in major international law firms. The team has the expertise and resources to handle any trade marks matter.

We are equipped to handle contentious intellectual property matters in the UK Courts, the Unified Patent Court and the UK and European Intellectual Property Offices, including the EPO. Our litigation and dispute resolution team combines in-depth knowledge of patents, trade marks and designs with the litigation skills of its solicitors, patent attorneys and an in-house barrister to achieve successful outcomes for our clients.

We handle all aspects of design protection in the UK, Europe and worldwide, and we can advise you in other specialised areas such as plant variety rights.

We work for a large variety of clients, from startups, spinouts and SMEs through to some of the largest corporations and most prestigious academic institutions in the world.

WHAT WE ARE KNOWN FOR

We commissioned a market research firm to ask 50 of our clients and professional contacts what they thought of J A Kemp. The firm was described as:

“Highly regarded and respected as a leading player in its field”

“Known for quality, reliability, technical excellence and professionalism”

“Considered to be responsive, trusted, friendly and approachable”

“Known for its particular expertise in complex work”

“A firm with a reputation for timeliness and efficiency”

For specific contacts relevant to the work of the Chemistry and Pharmaceuticals Group or related specialist areas, please refer to our website.

POLYMERS

We have had much work in the polymer field for many years and have extensive experience in obtaining patent protection for such materials. Cases that we handle in this area can relate to polymers themselves, methods for their production and downstream processes which involve manufacturing articles from polymeric materials.

Patent applications can also be concerned with the material science of polymers and their application in fields which range from electroluminescence through packaging and paints to medicine.

We have been heavily involved in post-grant procedures involving polymers, in particular in opposition and appeal proceedings before the European Patent Office, where we have acted on behalf of both Patentees and Opponents.

One particular issue which is of relevance to the patenting of polymeric materials is that, unlike small molecules, they can be difficult to define simply in terms of their structure. Instead, the materials can only be adequately defined by reference to their properties. We have extensive experience of defending claims which depend on such features.

“Commentators praise J A Kemp’s partners for their ‘intelligence, creativity and ingenuity’, and are delighted with the consistently high quality of their work.”

Chambers & Partners