Key Principles for Patenting in the Land of LENR

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Patenting Truths No 1
A patent by itself does not provide success. You must have a successful application of technology before a patent becomes relevant.

If you have such a success, patents can enhance the profitability
Patents enhance profitability by allowing producers to charge customers more for the product.
Patents cannot enhance profits if the product itself is not a success.
What patenting cannot achieve
Bad news 1)
- You can't exclude competitors from selling anything previously available to the public.
Bad news 2).

- Patents cannot exclude competitors from inventing something that you didn't think of.
Bad news 3).

- A patent can only exclude competitors to the extent of the primary "claim" coverage as drafted by you,
Bad News No 3

Your proposed patent claims may not be effective in excluding others from competing; They may be inadequately drafted,
Key Question to ask your attorney
"Am I going to get value for the money that I am paying you?"
Andrea Rossi was granted a US patent on August 25, 2015, filed in 2012.
1. An apparatus for heating fluid, said apparatus comprising a tank, an electrical resistor, and a fuel wafer,
wherein said tank is configured for holding fluid to be heated,
wherein said fuel wafer is configured to be in thermal communication with said fluid,
wherein said fuel wafer includes a fuel mixture that includes reagents and a catalyst,
wherein said electrical resistor is in thermal communication with said fuel mixture and said catalyst, wherein said said resistor is configured to be coupled to a voltage source.
wherein said apparatus further comprises a controller in communication with said voltage source, and a temperature sensor,

wherein said fuel mixture comprises lithium, and lithium aluminum hydride,

wherein said catalyst comprises a group 10 element,

wherein said controller is configured to monitor a temperature from said temperature sensor, and, based at least in part on said temperature, to reinvigorate a reaction in said fuel mixture,

wherein reinvigorating said reaction comprises varying a voltage of said voltage source.
Key question: whether others can compete without falling within the language of this claim.

In other words, does this claim have any loopholes?
Consider

- eliminate either lithium or lithium aluminum hydride as part of the fuel mixture.
Consider using lithium borohydride?
Consider

- “reinvigorate” the reaction by providing heat from burning combustible gas.
Florida litigation
Leonardo Corporation versus Industrial Heat
March, 2016
Will there ever be a controlling patent in the field of Cold Fusion?
There can never be a patent on a theory or on the abstract concept of exploiting a theory.
Patents issue for

“arrangements” that are new & unobvious and which deliver useful results.

“Arrangements” means physical structures or procedures for manipulating physical things.
Fleischmann and Pons obtained a European patent on May 22, 1996.
The European patent lapsed on 23 October 1998 for failing to respond to an Opposition proceeding initiated against the patent by Clean Energy Technologies, Inc. of Sarasota, Florida, USA.
Study Claims 1 and 16 from the viewpoint of a competitor who wishes to exploit a competing system in the marketplace, applying the principles outlined above.
Summary

Why obtain a patent?

To profit from having a monopoly!
If you're going to obtain a patent, then do it right. Close the loopholes! Work closely with your patent attorney to understand the process. And think like your competitor.
Offering workshops on managing Intellectual Property
A valid patent can be commercially worthless:

- you can always patent a triviality

- if it is new, unobvious and your disclosure is adequate, the patent will be valid
A patent on a triviality will not stop competitors from competing.
3. There is no point in patenting if other existing alternatives are just as good.
There is no point in patenting if other existing alternatives are just as good:

- does the world need a new padlock that operates on a different principle?
4. There is no point in patenting if others can imitate your invention with future innovations.
You should think of second and third best alternate versions.

You should think of what your competitors would do.

You should invent ahead of your competitors to block them.
1. You can always get a patent

2. A valid patent can be commercially worthless

3. There is no point in patenting if other existing alternatives are just as good

4. There is no point in patenting if others can imitate your invention with future innovations
Further Key Point Summary
Patents can be valuable.
The value starts with: a working invention that will serve people's needs.
If an invention is a success, a patent can enhance the profitability of exploiting that success.

But patents cannot make an invention succeed. It all starts with the invention.
Having a patent will not make your product better.

Having a patent will not help customers choose your product.
You can only patent an arrangement that contains a feature that is new and unobvious:

the Golden Rule of patent law: Novelty!
You are stuck with the reality of the prior art.

Live with it.
A good invention combined with a good prior art situation must be supported by a properly prepared patent disclosure, otherwise a valuable opportunity may go to waste.
- Make a good invention
- Locate a good patent agent/attorney
- Conduct extensive searches as to what has been done before; read the results
- Accept what you cannot patent
- Understand the patent claims that your agent/attorney drafts

- Think of what your competitors will do. Expand your patent to cover them

- Invent and patent the alternatives to your invention that are equivalent before they do
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