



Passerine allows its drones to fly for longer with a bird-like design

Challenge:

Passerine sought an IP partner that could file a crucial patent weeks before fundraising, at a rate that would work for them as a startup, without disrupting the flow of the engineering team at a critical time.

Outcome:

Cognition IP filed a provisional patent for Passerine at twice the speed of a traditional law firm and at half the cost, providing the company with a significant advantage during fundraising. Passerine partnered with Cognition IP to submit for a non-provisional at the end of the year.

Introduction

Passerine's drones are addressing the limitations that usually stop commercial drone delivery

Passerine Aircraft is built on a vision of transforming the commercial drone industry. The startup is developing a bio-inspired vertical take-off drone that doesn't need to hover, thus avoiding the least efficient point of flight. This new technology eliminates the need for a battery and enables aircraft with longer ranges and larger payloads. It also allows for landing and take off from rough terrain that lacks a runway.

The company's unique technology includes a powered landing gear that launches the aircraft into flight in a similar way that birds jump into the air. The initial jump provides enough lift to get the plane airborne from a cold start, stationary position. This means that the aircraft avoids the complexities of VTOL rotors or the need for a runway. The aircraft is perfect for use in the South African bush, the company's home country, where drones need to be launched from rough, unimproved terrain. The aircraft can also land in rough terrain by

performing a flared landing with its landing gear, similar to birds.

"Modern drones are not capable of the performance needed to truly unlock the commercial drone market. Passerine Aircraft was created to address the needs that cargo delivery and logistics companies have."

Cognition IP met Passerine's critical fundraising timeline with key patent filings

Matthew Whalley is the Founder and CEO of Passerine Aircraft. *"I have been passionate about aircraft for as long as I can remember,"* states Matthew. Even as a child, Matthew voraciously read books about winged birds and airplanes. He later graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand with a Masters degree in Aeronautical Engineering.

Upon graduating, Matthew decided to take his passion to the next level by founding his startup. Passerine Aircraft is a small aerospace company based on a really big idea: develop a jumping aircraft that can mimic the take-off and landing of a bird.

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Matthew Whalley
- Founder and CEO, Passerine Aircraft

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“As a startup in the hardware space, IP is especially valuable, as this is what differentiates you from other companies. As you don’t have the manufacturing capability of larger corporations, having a unique and core IP is what allows you to provide unique benefits to customers and compete with established firms.”

Following this logic, Matthew’s mission was clear: protect the company’s IP by patenting its core technology. Beyond that, filing a patent in a timely and cost-effective manner was of major importance to the startup founder. Cognition IP was able to deliver on quality, speed, and cost. *“We wanted to get a patent filed as quickly and as cost-effectively as possible. Cognition IP prepared the application quickly and got it filed without causing a major distraction from our core development.”*

Passerine Aircraft’s patent application was drafted by the Cognition IP team within 3 weeks. The efficiency in filing influenced both investor relations and fundraising at a critical time for the company. Says Matthew, *“Getting a patent filed quickly gave us an advantage in fundraising as well as a tangible asset to point out to investors.”*

“IP is core to the development of new technology, especially in the hardware space. Cognition IP’s ability to prepare and file patents quickly and easily makes them an obvious choice for protecting our IP in the future.”