

Inside this Issue

<u><i>EPO Publishes Blockchain Conference Report</i></u>	2
<u><i>European companies and inventors file more patent applications in 2018</i></u>	2
<u><i>Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (PCT Translations and Other Measures) Regulations 2019</i></u>	3
<u><i>China Trademark Office Attempts to Curb Bad Faith Filings</i></u>	3
<u><i>EU court limits pharma's scope for patent extensions</i></u>	4
<u><i>WIPO 2018 IP Services: Innovators File Record Number of International Patent Applications, With Asia Now Leading</i></u>	4
<u><i>The Biologic Patent Transparency Act: Proposed Revisions to Purple Book</i></u>	5
<u><i>USPTO Proposes new rule requiring foreign trademark applicants to be represented by US licensed attorney</i></u>	5
<u><i>China to reduce patent review period by 15%</i></u>	6
<u><i>Canada Joins Three Key WIPO Trademark Treaties</i></u>	6
<u><i>International Trademarks are now accessible to more countries</i></u>	7

1. EPO Publishes Blockchain Conference Report

**"PATENTING
BLOCKCHAIN"
CONFERENCE, THE EPO
HAS PUBLISHED A
CONFERENCE REPORT
ENTITLED "TALKING
ABOUT A NEW
REVOLUTION**

[GO TO TOP](#)

As a follow-up to its "Patenting Blockchain" conference, the European Patent Office (EPO) has published a conference report entitled "Talking about a new revolution: blockchain" to provide insight into the impact of this technology on the patent system. Held at the EPO in The Hague in December last year - the conference was the first event organised by an IP5 office on this topic. The new publication provides a summary of the event and reproduces the various speakers' views and opinions. It starts by looking at what defines this all-pervasive technology, and setting out the impact of blockchain on the patenting landscape. The report also explains how the EPO and examiners from other major patent offices around the globe carry out patent.... [Read more](#)

2. European companies and inventors file more patent applications in 2018

**BUSINESSES
AND INVENTORS
CONTINUED TO FILE
LARGE NUMBERS OF
PATENT APP. AT THE
EPO, WITH THE FIVE TOP
FILING REGIONS**

[GO TO TOP](#)

The number of patent applications filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) grew by 4.6% last year, reaching a new high of 174 317 (2017: 166 594). The EPO's Annual Report for 2018 shows an increase in patents filed from all major industrial regions but European companies maintained the lead in their home market, with 47% of all patent applications at the EPO originating from the 38 EPO member states. Asian companies also held their ground, with the combined share of China, Japan and the Republic of Korea rising moderately to 22.6% (2017: 22.1%). The US remained the top country of origin, accounting for 25% of total filings, followed by Germany, Japan, France and.. [Read more](#)

3. Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (PCT Translations and Other Measures) Regulations 2019

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWS AMENDMENT (PCT TRANSLATIONS AND OTHER MEASURES) REGULATIONS 2019

[GO TO TOP](#)

CANBERRA - The Intellectual Property Laws Amendment (PCT Translations and Other Measures) Regulations 2019 ("the Regulations") were registered on the Federal Register of Legislation on March 25, 2019, according to the official website of IP Australia. The Regulations will simplify the filing of translations of patents documents with IP Australia, and make other technical improvements to the Patents Regulations 1991 ("Patents Regulations") and Designs Regulations 2004 ("Designs Regulations"). With effect from 25 September 2019, Schedule 1 to the Regulations amends provisions of the Patents Regulations governing the filing of translations of patents docu... [Read more](#)

4. China Trademark Office Attempts to Curb Bad Faith Filings

CTMO AND THE CHINESE IP COURTS BEGAN TO IDENTIFY CERTAIN FILING AND REGISTRATION PATTERNS

[GO TO TOP](#)

On February 12, the China Trademark Office (CTMO) published a draft regulation titled "Several Provisions on Regulating the Application for Registration of Trademarks" for public comment. This draft is the first attempt at providing a vetting system to spot and reject fraudulent trademark applications by malicious squatters and punishing bad actors and their trademark agents for such activity.

The Bad Faith Boom :- China is a first-to-file trademark system. In recent years this, among other factors, has allowed for the proliferation of professional squatters, i.e. companies, trademark agents and individuals that file the unregistered trademarks of others in bad faith with the sole intent of holding th... [Read more](#)

5. EU court limits pharma's scope for patent extensions

**COURT OF
JUSTICE OF THE EU
(CJEU) CLARIFIED
PATENT EXTENSIONS
LIMITED**

[GO TO TOP](#)

Supplementary protection certificates (SPCs) are not available for formulations of medicines that contain substances previously authorised for use in the EU, the EU's highest court has ruled. The Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU) clarified that the EU's SPC Regulation precludes owners of pharmaceutical patents from obtaining SPCs to extend their rights in those products if they concern new formulations of old active ingredients. SPCs serve to extend the life of a patent by up to a maximum of five years with respect to products which are authorised under the relevant regulatory framework in the field of medicinal and plant products. SPCs are provided for under EU regulations which are directly applicable across the whole of the EU, although the... [Read more](#)

6. WIPO 2018 IP Services: Innovators File Record Number of International Patent Applications, With Asia Now Leading

**ASIA-BASED
INNOVATORS FILED
MORE THAN HALF OF
ALL INTERNATIONAL
PATENT APPLICATIONS
VIA WIPO FOR THE FIRST
TIME IN 2018**

[GO TO TOP](#)

Asia-based innovators filed more than half of all international patent applications via WIPO for the first time in 2018 on significant growth from China, India and the Republic of Korea, capping another record-setting year for WIPO's global intellectual property (IP) services. "Asia is now the majority filer of international patent applications via WIPO, which is an important milestone for that economically dynamic region and underscores the historical geographical shift of innovative activity from West to East." WIPO's Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) passed a record-breaking quarter-million (253,000) filing mark in 2018, a 3.9% increase over 2017, while WIPO's Madrid System... [Read more](#)

7. The Biologic Patent Transparency Act: Proposed Revisions to Purple Book

**FTC REQUESTED
THE FDA "IMPROVE
THE PURPLE BOOK" BY
ADDING AMONG
OTHER THINGS
PATENT INFORMATION**

[GO TO TOP](#)

Earlier this month, a bipartisan group of six senators introduced the Biologic Patent Transparency Act ("BPTA"), which the senators say will "help increase patent transparency, promote biosimilar competition, bring needed biosimilar treatments to patients faster, and ultimately, lower drug prices for consumers." The sponsors further state that the bill will impose "transparency requirements that are similar to what are required for small molecule drugs under the Hatch-Waxman framework, which has proven successful in promoting the development and use of generic drugs." The BPTA will require holders of approved products (including biosimilars approved under 351(k)) to dis... [Read more](#)

8. USPTO Proposes new rule requiring foreign trademark applicants to be represented by US licensed attorney

**USPTO HAS
RECENTLY ISSUED A
NOTICE OF PROPOSED
RULEMAKING THAT
WOULD REQUIRE ALL
FOREIGN-DOMICILED TM
APPLICANTS**

[GO TO TOP](#)

The United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has recently issued a notice of proposed rulemaking that would require all foreign-domiciled trademark applicants, registrants, and parties to TTAB proceedings to be represented by a US licensed attorney. The proposed rule is designed to protect the integrity of the US Trademark Register and address the uptick in the number of flawed and fraudulent applications being filed pro se. The majority of these applications appear to be coming from Chinese applicants motivated by subsidies provided by local municipalities in China. The Chinese government itself has disclaimed responsibility. What other changes are included in this proposed rule?- Aside from requiring foreign-do.... [Read more](#)

9. China to reduce patent review period by 15%

CHINESE OFFICIAL HAS SAID THAT THE COUNTRY IS TO "CUT THE TIME NEEDED FOR PATENT REVIEW" BY AT LEAST 15%, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED

[GO TO TOP](#)

A senior Chinese official has said that the country is to "cut the time needed for patent review" by at least 15%, it has been reported. Gan Shaoning, deputy head of the National Intellectual Property Administration (SIPO), made the announcement at the 20th China Development Forum on Saturday, March 23, according to state news agency Xinhua. The period for reviewing trademark applications is also set to fall to "within five months", Gan said. The reports did not confirm whether the "patent review period" refers to the amount of time it takes to obtain a patent from the date of the application. WIPR has sought clarification from SIPO. Chinese law firm CCPIT says that it takes on average 22 months to obtain a patent in China. Shaoning also.. [Read more](#)

10. Canada Joins Three Key WIPO Trademark Treaties

CANADA JOINS THREE WIPO TREATIES THAT PROMOTE THE WORLDWIDE USE OF TRADEMARKS

[GO TO TOP](#)

Canada has joined three WIPO treaties that promote the worldwide use of trademarks, giving a boost to Canadian brand owners as well as consumers and underlining Canada's strong multilateral engagement with the World Intellectual Property Organization. WIPO Director General Francis Gurry received Canada's instruments of accession to the Madrid Protocol, Nice Agreement and the Singapore Treaty from Canadian Ambassador Stephen de Boer, Permanent Representative to the World Trade Organization. The treaties will enter into force for Canada on June 17, 2019. "We are absolutely delighted that Canada, one of the world's largest economies, has acceded to the international trademark system as well as other key trademark... [Read more](#)

11. International Trademarks are now accessible to more countries

**INTERNATIONAL
TRADEMARK
SYSTEM IS COMPOSED
OF 103 MEMBERS OR
CONTRACTING
PARTIES THAT
REPRESENT 119
COUNTRIES**

[GO TO TOP](#)

In recent years there has been a considerable increase of countries and organizations that have joined the International Trademark System. In 2013, Mexico, India and Rwanda joined in and Tunisia came back although it had belonged to the system previously. In year 2015, it was the turn of Cambodia, Gambia, Zimbabwe and the OAPI/AIPO, an Organization comprising 17 African countries i.e. Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoro Islands, Congo, Ivory Coast, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, the Central African Republic, Senegal and Togo. In 2016, Laos joined in and in 2017 Brunei Darussalam and Thailand did. The first new member in 2018 was Indonesia, which was followed by Afghanistan and Malawi. In 2019 is the accession of Samoa already effective and the longed-for accession of Canada is expected by the end of the year.

Currently, the international trademark system is composed of 103 members or Contracting Parties that represent 119 countries. The updated full list is available in: www.wipo.int/madrid/en/members.

With very few exceptions, a registered international trademark can be the object of an enlargement of its protection by means of a territorial extension to the new countries or regions that have joined the system. This is a practical and cost-effective procedure since it allows progressively broadening the worldwide protection of the mark on the basis of the international regi... [Read more](#)