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01. EPO's online services – issuing of new smart cards discontinued

**NEW SMART CARDS
WILL NO LONGER BE
ISSUED**

As previously announced, the European Patent Office (EPO) is changing the way users access its online services, making it even easier for applicants to conduct their EPO business online. Today, all users can use their physical smart card and/or two-factor authentication (2FA) to access our online services. In future, 2FA will become the default method, thus making the digitalized patent granting process even more convenient by rendering obsolete the need to have a smart card at hand... [Read more](#)

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02. New, simplified fee system supports small applicants with 30% discounts

**THERE WILL BE NO
BIENNIAL INFLATION
ADJUSTMENT IN 2025**

Fees for European patent applications are changing from 1 April 2024. These include reductions for small companies and even the abolition of some fees. Internal renewal fees are rising by less than the rate of inflation resulting in a decrease since 2016 in absolute terms. Following a comprehensive review of the EPO's fee system by the Administrative Council, a number of important fee changes come into force on 1 April 2024. This package of fee measures introduces dedicated fee reductions for micro-entities, simplifies the fee system, creates incentives for further digitalisation, and secures the Organisation's financial sustainability through moderate increases of procedural and internal renewal fees. Building on effective measures to support small and medium-sized applicants in obtaining patent protection and commercialising... [Read more](#)

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03. TIPO's AI Chatbot "Tipo" Goes Live on Dec. 5!

**TIPO INTRODUCED
THE AI CUSTOMER
SERVICE CHATBOT TO
PROVIDE RAPID
REPLIES TO COMMON
PATENT QUESTIONS**

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TIPO is proud to introduce "Tipo," our new AI chatbot, which went live on December 5. Tipo provides 24/7, real-time patent consultation services to meet the needs of creators, who need quick and immediate answers. Since establishing the online service center in August 2011, TIPO has been offering consultations to the public for electronic applications, online payments, and patent application procedures. TIPO fields almost 40,000 calls annually, demonstrating its unwavering commitment and service

As such, TIPO has amassed years of customer service experience and an extensive FAQ database for patent inquiries. On the basis of this foundation, TIPO introduced the AI customer service chatbot Tipo to provide rapid responses to common patent questions... [Read more](#)

04. USPTO Contributes Patent and Trademark Data to Help Launch National AI Research Resource Pilot Program

**IT IS COMMITTED TO
ADVANCING US
INNOVATION
INCLUDING AI & AI-
ASSISTED**

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This week, the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) alongside public and private sector collaborators launched the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource (NAIRR) pilot program. NAIRR seeks to advance AI discovery and innovation by making resources available from 11 different federal agencies and over 25 private companies. The pilot program was formed as a direct reaction to President Biden's 2023 AI Executive Order (specifically section 5.2(a)(i)) and targets several of the EO's broad topics including "Ensuring Responsible and Effective Government Use of AI" and "Promoting Innovation and Competition.... [Read more](#)

05.Libya Adopts New Executive Regulations of Trademark Law

THESE REGULATIONS INVOLVES THE INCREASE IN OFFICIAL FEES PAYABLE FOR ALL SERVICES

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TRIPOLI – The Libyan Ministry of Economy issued Resolution No. 26 of 2024 presenting new executive regulations for Chapter Ten regarding trademarks of Law No. 23 of 2010 on Trademarks. The executive regulations define the true nature of the trademark, the trademarks that are not registrable, registration procedures, the expiry of marks property and their mortgage, registration renewal and cancellation, and the disputes concerning trademarks registration and property and how to solve these disputes. One of the salient changes brought by the executive regulations involves the increase in official fees payable for all services provided by the Libyan Trademark Office.... [Read more](#)

06. CNIPA and DPMA Extend PPH Pilot Program

BOTH CHINESE & GERMAN INNOVATORS BY ACCELERATING THE PATENT EXAMINATION PROCESS

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The China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) have jointly decided to extend their Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program for another three years from January 23, 2024 to January 22, 2027. The established Procedures to file a request to the DPMA for Patent Prosecution Highway ("PPH") Pilot Program between the DPMA and the SIPO remains controlling the pertinent requirements and procedures governing applicants' PPH requests at the two offices.

The extension of the CNIPA-DPMA PPH pilot program will continuously advance China-Germany communication and cooperation in IP, serve both Chinese and German innovators by accelerating the patent examination process.... [Read more](#)

07. CNIPA and INAPI Extend PPH Pilot Program

**PILOT PROGRAM FOR
ANOTHER 5 YEARS
FROM JAN. 1, 2024 TO
DEC. 31, 2028**

The China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the National Institute of Industrial Property of Chile (INAPI) have jointly decided to extend their Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program for another five years from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2028. The established guideline of CNIPA-INAPI PPH request remains controlling the pertinent requirements and procedures governing applicants' PPH requests at the two offices. The extension of the CNIPA-INAPI PPH pilot program will further advance the two countries' communication and cooperation in IP, serve both Chinese and Chilean innovators by accelerating the patent examination process and continuously deepen the two offices' cooperation in patent examination... [Read more](#)

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08. Eurasian industrial design patent became the subject matter of the pledge agreement for the exclusive right to intellectual property for the first time

**PROTECT ONE'S
EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO AN
INDUSTRIAL DESIGN IN 7
COUNTRIES
SIMULTANEOUSLY**

The Eurasian patent owner, who exercised his or her right to pledge the exclusive right to industrial design, is a scientific and manufacturing enterprise in the field of LED lighting and optics manufacturing, a Skolkovo Innovation Centre resident, and the winner of the All-Russian project competition for enhancing energy efficiency and energy saving. The pledgee was the Moscow Small Business Credit Assistance Fund. Eurasian industrial design patent does not only protect one's exclusive right to an industrial design in seven countries simultaneously on the basis of one single patent. A Eurasian patent is also an intangible asset of the patent owner who is entitled to transfer... [Read more](#)

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09. Adopting the Madrid Goods and Services list

**AUSTRALIA - THE NEW
SYSTEM WILL HELP
REDUCE THE NUMBER
OF ISSUES**

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IP Australia will replace the current Trade Marks Goods and Services list (the AU picklist) with the Madrid Goods and Services (MGS) list in 2024. Portrait of Enthusiastic Hispanic Young Woman Working on Computer in a Modern Bright Office The MGS list is a database of terms used to classify goods and services for trade mark applications in the Madrid System. It's used by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and many international trade mark offices. It contains a wider range of terms than the AU picklist. Adopting the MGS list will align Australian classification standards with international best practice. This change will make it easier for Australian exporters to protect their trade marks in other countries This change is expected to take place in March 2024. At that time, we'll also be introducing a semantic search function. This update will help customers find terms on the MGS list that have a similar meaning to the term they're looking... [Read more](#)

10. Hague System – Greece and Italy ratify the Geneva Act (1999)

**PREVIOUS ACCEDED
THE 1960 HAGUE ACT
HAVE NOW ACCEDED
TO THE 1999 GENEVA
ACT**

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The Geneva Act (1999) of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs is set to take effect in Greece on February 13, 2024, followed by Italy on March 14, 2024. The ratifications by Greece and Italy bring the total number of Contracting Parties to the 1999 Geneva Act to 73. With the ratifications of the 1999 Geneva Act by Greece and Italy, a major milestone has been reached as all members of the European Union that have previously acceded to the 1960 Hague Act have now acceded to the 1999 Geneva Act... [Read more](#)