

Inside this Issue

<u>USPTO reiterates commitment to detect and prevent fraudulent foreign trademark applications</u>	2
<u>New EPO-EUIPO study shows link between SME growth and use of IP</u>	2
<u>Search Matters 2019: Insight for searchers and patent information professionals focuses on AI</u>	3
<u>Temasek Rice Ready to Take on Global Market after Grant of Plant Varieties Protection</u>	3
<u>Joint EPO-EUIPO study finds strong link between growth of SMEs and their use of IP</u>	4
<u>France: Inventive step becomes a patentability requirement at the French patent office</u>	4
<u>INTA President Calls on the Global Trademark Community to Join the Battle against Counterfeiting En Masse</u>	5

1. USPTO reiterates commitment to detect and prevent fraudulent foreign trademark applications

**USPTO HAS
RECENTLY REITERATED
ITS COMMITMENT TO
STEMMING THE TIDE OF
INACCURATE AND
FRAUDULENT TM APPLI.
FROM CHINA**

[GO TO TOP](#)

The United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") has recently reiterated its commitment to stemming the tide of inaccurate and fraudulent trademark applications originating primarily from China. On May 9th, the Director of the USPTO, Andrei Iancu, testified before the U.S. House Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, and fraudulent foreign trademark applications took center stage. Specifically, Director Iancu acknowledged that the number of fraudulent applications is "an increasing problem" noting that the USPTO has done "a number of things and can do more" to stem the tide of fraudulent applications. What steps is the USPTO... [Read more](#)

2. New EPO-EUIPO study shows link between SME growth and use of IP

**NEW EUROPEAN
PATENT OFFICE-EUIPO
STUDY SHOWS LINK
BETWEEN SMALL AND
MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
GROWTH AND
USE OF IP**

[GO TO TOP](#)

According to a new study released today by the European Patent Office (EPO) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), small and medium enterprises (SMEs) that apply for patents, trade marks or designs have a greater probability of experiencing high growth than SMEs that do not. While SMEs are a fundamental pillar of the European economy, contributing to 57% of the EU's GDP, a large proportion of this contribution comes from a small amount of high-growth firms (HGFs). HGF firms are defined as those that have had an average growth rate than 20% per year over three consecutive years, and who have at least 10 employees at the beginning of the growth.... [Read more](#)

3. Search Matters 2019: Insight for searchers and patent information professionals focuses on AI

**INSIGHT FOR
SEARCHERS AND
PATENT
INFORMATION
PROFESSIONALS
FOCUSES ON AI**

[GO TO TOP](#)

The EPO has held its annual Search Matters conference at its headquarters in Munich. The three day event, which has run for 31 consecutive years, offered training to patent search professionals from around the world. The programme focussed heavily on search strategies and techniques used by the Office. The event was multi-faceted and comprised various learning formats, including at-the-desk sessions, interactive workshops as well as plenary lectures provided by EPO examiners and external experts. For the first time in the history of Search Matters, the programme featured a panel discussion that delved deeper into artificial intelligence (AI) and its implications in..... [Read more](#)

4. Temasek Rice Ready to Take on Global Market after Grant of Plant Varieties Protection

**TLL RECEIVED A
BOOST WHEN IT WAS
GRANTED PLANT
VARIETIES PROTECTION
(PVP) FOR TEMASEK RICE
BY THE IPOS**

[GO TO TOP](#)

SINGAPORE – Temasek Life Sciences Laboratory (TLL) received a boost when it was granted Plant Varieties Protection (PVP) for Temasek Rice by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS). According to IPOS, the PVP distinguishes Temasek Rice – a “bred in Singapore” rice variety – from more than 40,000 varieties of the *Oryza sativa* species globally. A top quality, non-genetically modified rice variety, Temasek Rice is highly aromatic and produces more yield than its original variety. It also has unique characteristics, including stronger resistance against bacterial and fungal diseases, as well as extreme weather conditions. Temasek Rice has already obtained patent and trademark protection for the technology related to the cultivation of the rice... [Read more](#)

5. Joint EPO-EUIPO study finds strong link between growth of SMEs and their use of IP

**JOINT EPO-EUIPO
STUDY 2019 HIGH-
GROWTH OF SMES AND
THEIR USE OF
INTELLECTUAL
PROPERTY LAUNCHED
TODAY**

[GO TO TOP](#)

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that apply for patents, trade marks or designs have a greater probability of experiencing high growth than SMEs that do not. That's according to a new study released today by the European Patent Office (EPO) and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). SMEs represent 99% of all businesses in the European Union (EU), and contribute 57% of the EU's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). However, a large proportion of the value generated by SMEs comes from a small number of high growth firms (HGFs), which are often very innovative. Today's study shows that SMEs that have filed at least one IP right are 21% more likely... [Read more](#)

6. France: Inventive step becomes a patentability requirement at the French patent office

**INVENTIVE
STEP BECOMES A
PATENTABILITY
REQUIREMENT AT THE
FRENCH PATENT
OFFICE**

[GO TO TOP](#)

Law No. 2019-486 on growth and transformation of enterprises or "PACTE" Act was promulgated on May 22, 2019, making inventive step a ground for rejection of a domestic French patent application (new Article 612-12, I, 7° of the French Intellectual Property Code) at the examination level by the French patent office ("INPI"). This provision will come into force one year after the promulgation of the PACTE Act, i.e. May 22, 2020, and will be applicable to domestic French patent applications filed as of this date. Previously, only clear lack of novelty allowed INPI examiners to reject a domestic French patent application. Inventive step was therefore checked only post-grant by judicial courts. This weakened the value and the quality of French.... [Read more](#)

7. INTA President Calls on the Global Trademark Community to Join the Battle against Counterfeiting En Masse

**INTA PRESIDENT
CALLS ON THE GLOBAL
TRADEMARK
COMMUNITY TO JOIN
THE BATTLE AGAINST
COUNTERFEITING EN
MASSE**

[GO TO TOP](#)

BOSTON, Massachusetts – International Trademark Association (INTA) President David Lossignol called on the global trademark community to attack the worldwide proliferation of counterfeit products in a big way, by sending the message that counterfeiting is “socially unacceptable.” He also specifically challenged Association members to proactively educate young consumers about the dangers of fake goods, according to INTA.

Lossignol, Head of Trademarks, Domain Names and Copyrights at Novartis Pharma AG in Switzerland, urged this large-scale initiative in his remarks at the Opening Ceremony of INTA’s 2019 Annual Meeting, which is taking place in Boston, Massachusetts through May 22. The gathering of brand owners and intellectual property (IP) professionals has drawn a record 11,300+ registrants from more than 150 countries. After describing how INTA is working to address the production and supply of counterfeit products, Lossignol said more needs to be done to address consumer demand for fake goods.

“This is an impossible undertaking if we only address the supply. It is critical but we must also fight this battle on the demand side,” he said. “This requires us to rethink and reinvent our approach to counterfeiting. We need to change perceptions and attitudes toward IP and counterfeit goods.”

“We have an opportunity here to make counterfeiting socially unacceptable on a global scale,” Lossignol declared. [Read more](#)