

Inside this Issue

<u>EPO launches new Online Filing 2.0 service</u>	2
<u>EPO-IEA study highlights innovation in clean energy technologies</u>	2
<u>Streamlining the trade mark application experience</u>	3
<u>Start of Acceptance of Eurasian Applications for Industrial Designs</u>	3
<u>Trial period for new scheduling initiative for Hearings</u>	4
<u>Canadian Trademark Registration: Use or Intent to Use no Longer Required</u>	4
<u>Belarus Joins the Hague System</u>	5
<u>National Collection of Kazakhstan, Estonian Full-Text and New NPL Now Available in Patentscope</u>	5
<u>JPO Signs a MOC in Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights with the VDMS</u>	6
<u>Working with users to improve the European patent granting process and patent documentation</u>	6
<u>China-Austria Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program Extended</u>	7
<u>China-Eurasian Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program Extended</u>	7
<u>European cooperation in the field of trade mark law – harmonisation of the decision-making practices concerning new types of mark: examination of formal requirements and grounds for refusal</u>	8

1. EPO launches new Online Filing 2.0 service

**COVERS ALL
PROCEDURES BEFORE
THE EPO, INCLUDING
THOSE BEFORE THE
BOARDS OF APPEAL.**

[GO TO TOP](#)

On 1 April 2021 the EPO launches its new web-based filing service Online Filing 2.0 [1]. The service is accessible via the EPO's website with a smart card registered for this service. The tool allows the filing of European patent applications, international (PCT) applications and other documents relating to such applications or to patents deriving from such applications in PDF format. International applications can also be filed in XML format. It covers all procedures before the EPO, including those before the boards of appeal. Online Filing 2.0 incorporates and improves the features of new online filing (CMS). It offers a more user-friendly interface, as well as a dedicated entry point for filing submissions to the boards of appeal. The new service also provid... [Read more](#)

2. EPO-IEA study highlights innovation in clean energy technologies

**THIS STUDY
HIGHLIGHTS NEED TO
ACCELERATE TO
MEET CLIMATE
GOALS**

[GO TO TOP](#)

EPO-IEA study highlights need to accelerate innovation in clean energy technologies to meet climate goals -

- Global patent data shows innovation in the past decade has been increasing faster in low-carbon energy technologies than in fossil fuels.
- Average annual growth rate of clean energy inventions in the past decade has slowed compared with 2000-13 level.
- Innovation is shifting from renewable energy supply to end-use and cross-cutting technologies such as batteries, hydrogen, smart grids and carbon capture.
- Clean energy technologies in end-use sectors such as transport, buildings and industry now account for majority.... [Read more](#)

3. Streamlining the trade mark application experience

**THIS MAKES
FILING
A NEW TRADE MARK
APPLICATION
FASTER AND EASIER**

[GO TO TOP](#)

Through the upgrade of our online services platform, we have been working hard to enhance your experience when applying for and managing your IP rights. The new platform provides a modern, intuitive, and streamlined process that makes filing a new trade mark application faster and easier.

What's changed?

We have now completed the enhancement of the trade mark application experience. The improvements include:

- *a clean and modern portal design*
- *intuitive structure to help you find what you need quickly and easily*
- *contextual guidance throughout the application... [Read more](#)*

4. Start of Acceptance of Eurasian Applications for Industrial Designs

**THE EURASIAN
DESIGN PATENTS
WILL START FROM
JUNE 1, 2021**

[GO TO TOP](#)

The Eurasian Patent Office informs that the acceptance of applications for the grant of Eurasian design patents will start on June 1, 2021. In accordance with Article 22 (4) of the Protocol on the Protection of Industrial Designs to the Eurasian Patent Convention of September 9, 1994 (Protocol), please note that Eurasian design patents will be effective on the territory of those states in respect of which the Protocol has already entered into force as of the date of filing the respective Eurasian design applications. As of June 1, 2021, such states will be the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic and the Russian Federation.

The normative legal acts of the Eurasian Patent Org... [Read more](#)

5. Trial period for new scheduling initiative for Hearings

**IPONZ NEW
INITIATIVE THAT WILL
ALLOW SOME HEARINGS
TO BE HELD AT
SHORT NOTICE**

[GO TO TOP](#)

IPONZ is currently trialing a new scheduling initiative that will allow some hearings to be held at short notice. The Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand is currently trialling a new scheduling initiative for hearings between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021. This will allow the IPONZ Hearings Office to schedule hearings for proceedings which can be heard at short notice. During this trial period, parties to a proceeding will be given an option to be added to a shortlist once their case has become ready to be heard. Shortlisted cases may then be used as back-up fixtures in circumstances where the original fixture has fallen over, or a timeslot becomes available for other reasons (such as Assistant Commissioner availability)... [Read more](#)

6. Canadian Trademark Registration: Use or Intent to Use no Longer Required

**USE OF A
TRADEMARK IN CANADA
IS NO LONGER REQUIRED
FOR AN APPLICANT TO
REGISTER
A MARK IN CANADA**

[GO TO TOP](#)

Under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the new trade agreement replacing the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), each nation is bringing its intellectual property laws in line with the new intellectual property standards in the agreement. Recently, Mexico added a use requirement for trademark owners stipulating that a trademark must be used within three years of obtaining a registration or else owners risk losing their registration. However, on the opposite side of North America, Canada recently changed its trademark laws to the opposite position: commercial use or an intention to use is no longer required to obtain a Canadian trademark registration. In doing so, Canada joins China, Europe and many So... [Read more](#)

7. Belarus Joins the Hague System

**BELARUS
BECOMES
THE 75TH MEMBER
OF THE HAGUE
UNION**

[GO TO TOP](#)

On April 19, 2021, the Government of Belarus deposited its instrument of accession to the 1999 Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement with WIPO Director General Daren Tang. Belarus becomes the 66th contracting party to the 1999 Act and 75th member of the Hague Union. The accession brings the total number of countries covered by the Hague System to 92.

Implications for resident and non-resident designers - As of July 19, 2021, companies and designers in Belarus can begin using the Hague System to protect their designs internationally by filing a single international application – covering as many as 100 designs under one set of fees – for protection in as many of the 92 countries covered, facilitating further expansion into.. [Read more](#)

8. National Collection of Kazakhstan, Estonian Full-Text and New NPL Now Available in Patentscope

**THE KAZAKHST
AN IS NOW AVAILABLE
IN WIPO'S GLOBAL
PATENT SEARCH
SYSTEM**

[GO TO TOP](#)

The national patent collection of Kazakhstan is now available in WIPO's global patent search system PATENTSCOPE. It includes over 27,400 documents, more than 21,000 of which are full-text (OCR) in Russian. This brings to 72 the number of national/regional collections available in PATENTSCOPE. About the national collection of Estonia, in addition to the front file, full-text (OCR) of some documents is now also available in PATENTSCOPE. New NPL content is now searchable in PATENTSCOPE: over 62,000 Wikipedia articles filtered using an in-house algorithm.*

**if non-relevant content from Wikipedia is displayed in the result list, the feedback button just below the top black navigation bar is available to inform the PATENTSCOPE team about... [Read more](#)*

9. JPO Signs a MOC in Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property Rights with the VDMS

**THE FIRST MOC
ON MEASURES AGAINST
COUNTERFEIT
GOODS THAT HAS
BEEN SIGNED WITH
VIETNAM**

[GO TO TOP](#)

On April 1, 2021, the Japan Patent Office (JPO) signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) in Protection and Enforcement of Intellectual Property (IP) Rights with the Vietnam Directorate of Market Surveillance (VDMS) of the Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT) of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. It is expected to lead to strengthened control over counterfeit goods in Vietnam.

Main contents agreed in the MOC are as follows:

- Jointly holding seminars and training on correctly judging the authenticity of goods
- Cooperating with market research in Vietnam and anti-counterfeit awareness activities aimed at market... [Read more](#)

10. Working with users to improve the European patent granting process and patent documentation

**THREE DIFFERENT
VIDEOCONFERENCES
WERE ORGANIZED TO
GATHER USER FEEDBACK
FROM THE SACEPO
WORKING PARTIES**

[GO TO TOP](#)

Three Working Parties of the Standing Advisory Committee of the EPO (SACEPO) met virtually in March, following the appointment of new members last January. Three different videoconferences were organised to gather user feedback from the SACEPO Working Parties on Rules, e-Patent Process, and Patent Documentation and Information. During the meetings, the following EPO initiatives were discussed: Pilot on oral proceedings by videoconference in opposition: The EPO was praised for the swift launch of this pilot in the midst of the pandemic. To date more than 2 600 oral proceedings have been conducted by VICO, efficiently reducing backlogs in opposition. Starting... [Read more](#)

11. China-Austria Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program Extended

**CHINA & AUSTRIA
WILL BE EXTENDED
FOR ANOTHER 5 YEARS
BETWEEN MAR. 1, 2021,
& FEB. 28, 2026**

[GO TO TOP](#)

According to a decision jointly made by CNIPA and APO, the PPH pilot program between China and Austria will be extended for another five years between March 1, 2021, and February 28, 2026. Relevant requirements and procedures to submit PPH requests to the two organizations remain unchanged.

China-Austria PPH pilot program was launched on March 1, 2013, and had been extended three times in 2014, 2016 and 2018.

It was to be terminated on February 28, 2021. (Translated from CNIPA Website Chinese Version)... [Read more](#)

12. China-Eurasian Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program Extended

**CHINA & EURASIA
WILL BE EXTENDED FOR
ONE YEAR BETWEEN
APRIL 1, 2021 &
MARCH 31, 2022**

[GO TO TOP](#)

According to a decision jointly made by CNIPA and EAPO, the PPH pilot program between China and Eurasia will be extended for another year between April 1, 2021 and March 31, 2022. Relevant requirements and procedures to submit PPH requests to the two organizations remain unchanged.

China-Eurasian PPH pilot program was launched on April 1, 2018, and to be terminated on March 31, 2021. (Translated from CNIPA Website Chinese Version). [Read more](#)

13. European cooperation in the field of trade mark law – harmonisation of the decision-making practices concerning new types of mark: examination of formal requirements and grounds for refusal

**THE GUIDELINES
WILL BE IMPLEMENTED
BY THE GERMAN PATENT
AND TRADE MARK
OFFICE FROM 1 JUNE
2021.**

[GO TO TOP](#)

Within the framework of what are referred to as convergence programmes, the trade mark offices of the EU member states and the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) have been making considerable efforts to achieve effective harmonisation of their decision-making practices since 2012. The German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) has been actively involved in almost all convergence projects, also in the interests of its German users. The convergence programmes support transparency, legal certainty and the predictability of the decision-making practice. Another convergence project in the trade mark sector has now been completed; the project concerns new types of mark: examination of formal requirements and grounds for refusal. Detailed information, explanations and examples are provided in the principles of Common Practice. A summary of the main results including examples is available in the pdf-Datei Common Communication (2,29 MB). [Read more](#)