Evalueserve IP and R&D

APRIL 2025

IPR&D SPARK NEWSLETTER

We can't wait to spark your imagination and fuel your journey as an IP expert!

02

WELCOME TO THE APRIL EDITION OF IPR&D SPARK!

IPR&D Spark Newsletter aims to spark your creativity, ignite your curiosity, and keep you informed on industry trends, legal updates, and insightful analyses. Dive in and explore the fascinating world of IP and R&D with us! This newsletter isn't just about staying informed; it's about fostering a community of passionate minds.

Share your ideas at: Iprdsparknewsletter@evalueserve.com and let's navigate the ever-evolving landscape of IP and R&D together.

CONTENTS

03

Techno Spotlight

04

LEGAL WATCH

How AI will Naturally Affect Patentability

Contributor: Subin Khullar

Mar' 25: Artificial Intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing patent law, particularly in determining patentability. Recent focus has been on whether AI-generated inventions can be patented. In 2022, the Federal Circuit ruled in Thaler v. Vidal that only humans can be inventors, rejecting a patent application for an AI-generated invention. However, AI's impact on human inventors' entitlement to patents is less discussed. As AI capabilities grow, fewer inventions may be patentable. Patents are a constitutional bargain, granting exclusive rights in exchange for public disclosure. An invention must not be "obvious" in view of prior art to be patentable. The Supreme Court in KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc. emphasized that patent protection should not be granted to advances occurring without real innovation.

AI's role in determining obviousness is crucial. The hypothetical "person of ordinary skill in the art" now includes AI as a common tool. AI can iterate and optimize techniques, making certain advances routine and obvious. For example, semiconductor and biotech companies use AI to design improved products and molecules, potentially making these breakthroughs non-patentable due to their routine nature.

AI can also strengthen patents for fundamentally new technologies by aiding in the enablement requirement. AI tools can help rapidly experiment and apply principles of groundbreaking discoveries, reducing the need for extensive experimentation. Moving forward, AI's impact on patentability will be profound, influencing obviousness and enablement inquiries significantly (Source).

05 LEGAL WATCH

European Patent Office Declares CureVac mRNA Patent Valid

Contributor: Rani Holani

Mar' 25: The European Patent Office upheld a patent owned by CureVac after a challenge from BioNTech. This decision led to an 11.8% rise in CureVac's U.S.-listed shares. The Regional Court of Düsseldorf will now determine if the amended patent has been infringed, with a hearing set for July 1. This ruling is a significant development in the patent dispute between CureVac and BioNTech, involving six intellectual property rights related to mRNA technology. CureVac's mRNA-based COVID-19 vaccine efforts were unsuccessful during the pandemic, while BioNTech and Pfizer achieved over $40 billion in vaccine sales in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, a German court invalidated another CureVac patent following a challenge by BioNTech, and last year, Pfizer and BioNTech succeeded in invalidating CureVac's UK COVID vaccine patents (Source).

Amazon & Nokia Settles International Patent Dispute

Contributor: Christy Titus George

FMar' 25: Nokia announced it had settled a global patent dispute with Amazon over the alleged misuse of Nokia's streaming video technology in Prime Video and Twitch. The companies resolved all patent litigation, including Amazon's countersuit in the U.S. alleging Nokia infringed its cloud computing patents, under confidential terms. They signed a multi-year patent agreement. Nokia had sued Amazon in 2023 across multiple jurisdictions, including the U.S., Germany, India, the UK, and the European Unified Patent Court, claiming Amazon misused its technology for efficient high-quality video streaming. Amazon counter-sued Nokia in Delaware federal court, accusing Nokia of using Amazon Web Services (AWS) technology without a license. A German court ruled last year that Amazon misused Nokia's technology without a license. Despite the ruling, Amazon stated in February that German Prime Video users would not be affected (Source).

US Jury Says Lululemon Infringed Nike Shoe Patent

Contributor: Subin Khullar

Mar' 25: A New York federal jury awarded Nike $355,450 after finding that Lululemon's Chargefeel, Strongfeel, and Blissfeel shoes infringed Nike's patent on sneaker structures. The jury rejected similar claims related to a second Nike patent. Nike had sought at least 5% of Lululemon's shoe revenues in damages. Lululemon called the damages "nominal" and was pleased with the noninfringement verdict on the second patent, intending to appeal the infringement ruling. Nike sued Lululemon in 2023, alleging patent violations, which Lululemon denied, arguing the patents were invalid. Nike also sued Lululemon in 2022 over the Mirror Home Gym, claiming it infringed patents related to exertion targeting, competition, and performance recording technology. This case is still ongoing (Source).

INDUSTRY NEWS

USPTO Tightens Control on Patent Challenges—Director Now Leads Discretionary Denials

Contributor: Ravish Kumar

Mar' 25: In a major procedural change, USPTO Acting Director Coke Morgan Stewart is now taking charge of whether patent challenges move forward, signaling stronger protection for patent owners. This new interim process gives the Director authority to decide if inter partes review (IPR) or post-grant review (PGR) petitions should be denied based on discretionary grounds—before the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) considers the case on its merits. The decision will be made after consulting with three PTAB judges. To accommodate this change, the USPTO now allows separate briefing on the discretionary denial issue. Patent owners have two months to file, with petitioners allowed one month to respond. Key factors include prior litigation outcomes, legal changes, reliance on expert testimony, and national interest considerations. The move revives elements of the earlier Fintiv framework and is seen as a big win for patent owners. It's designed to bring consistency, cut down appeal delays, and rebalance proceedings that critics say have tilted too far toward challengers (Source).

07 INDUSTRY NEWS

USPTO Scraps Biden-Era Strategy Amid Policy Shifts

Contributor: Utkarsh Sharma

Mar' 25: In a significant policy reversal, the USPTO has officially withdrawn its AI strategy released in January 2025 during the Biden administration. The move comes under the leadership of Acting Director Coke Morgan Stewart, citing that the previous strategy was partially influenced by now-revoked Biden-era executive orders. This decision aligns with a broader federal pivot following President Trump's January 23, 2025, executive order titled "Removing Barriers to American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence." The Trump administration's new directive marks a stark departure from earlier themes of AI safety and trust, opting instead to champion American supremacy in global AI innovation. This signals a more aggressive, industry-leaning AI policy stance, likely influencing IP strategy, regulatory expectations, and innovation funding in the AI space. Stakeholders should prepare for a regulatory environment focused more on competitiveness than caution(Source).

Germany Holds Strong as China Surges in European Filings

Contributor: Nikita Jayaswal

Mar' 25: Germany maintained its status as the second-largest filer of European patent applications in 2024, submitting over 25,000 filings—12.6% of the total. Leading firms like BASF, Bosch, and Siemens underscore Germany's innovation strength. Meanwhile, China reached a record 20,081 applications, more than doubling its 2018 total, with Huawei ranking second overall at the EPO. Key growth areas included computer technology, AI, and battery innovations. China led a 79% rise in battery tech filings, with four companies entering the EPO's top 15 in this field. Germany and China are clearly shaping the future of clean energy and digital tech through patent activity (Source 1; Source 2).

Unitary Patent Gains Traction as Europe's Innovation Engine Stays Strong

Contributor: Dinesh Sharma

Mar' 25: Despite global uncertainties, European innovation remained strong in 2024, with patent applications to the EPO holding steady at 2023 levels. Applications from EPO member states rose slightly (+0.3%), while non-European filings dipped marginally (-0.4%). Key growth areas included computer technology (+5.9%) and electrical machinery (+8.9%), with battery-related patents surging 24%. Switzerland and the UK led in growth among EPO countries, while Spain and Ireland also posted notable increases. Large firms dominated filings, but 22% came from SMEs or individuals, showcasing the patent system's appeal across company sizes—further supported by EPO's fee reductions. Samsung topped the applicant list, followed by Huawei and LG. Meanwhile, the Unitary Patent saw a 53% increase in uptake, simplifying protection across 18 EU countries. SMEs and universities embraced the system, with a 57.5% uptake rate. The data highlights Europe's resilience and evolving support structures for scaling innovation (Source).

R&D and Innovation

08

TECHNO-SPOTLIGHT

Coconut Oil and Soap: New Chemistry Method to Reduce Drug Costs and Support Sustainability

Contributor: Rachna Gupta

March' 25: Researchers at the University of Missouri have developed an innovative electrochemistry method to create new molecules using micelles derived from natural amino acids and coconut oil. This new method uses engineered "soapy" water, micelles made from natural amino acids and coconut oil, combined with electricity to drive chemical reactions in a safer, more sustainable way. Unlike traditional electrochemical processes that rely on toxic solvents and electrolytes, this approach offers a non-toxic alternative. It also shows promise in tackling environmental challenges, such as removing persistent "forever chemicals" like per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) from water. Micelles can be used to develop clean energy technologies by helping split water into hydrogen and oxygen (Source).

Artificial Photosynthesis: Scientists Crack Nature's Code for Clean Energy

Contributor: Rachna Gupta

March' 25: Artificial photosynthesis holds the key to cleaner energy and carbon capture, but replicating nature's process is no easy feat. Professor Frank Würthner from Julius-Maximilians-Universität (JMU) Würzburg in Germany and his team has successfully mimicked a key step in photosynthesis, using stacked dye molecules to transfer light energy efficiently. This breakthrough could lead to artificial photosynthesis systems capable of reducing CO2 and generating sustainable fuels. They have succeeded in synthesizing a stack of dyes that is very similar to the photosynthetic apparatus in plant cells – it absorbs light energy at one end, uses it to separate charge carriers, and transfers them step by step to the other end via a transport of electrons. The structure consists of four stacked dye molecules from the perylene bisimideclass(Source).

Unlocking Secret to Safer, More Powerful Batteries

Contributor: Rachna Gupta

March' 25: Scientists in Saudi Arabia have made a significant breakthrough that could enhance the performance and reduce the cost of lithium-metal batteries by integrating nylon into their design. The studies by the KAUST researchers found that nylon, the same polymer used in clothes, can be dissolved in mild lithium solution to act as an additive for lithium-metal batteries. The result was lithium-metal batteries that were more efficient, had longer lifespans, and showed few parasitic reactions (Source).

Researchers Warn: Chewing Gum Could Be Adding Thousands of Microplastics to Your Body

Contributor: Rachna Gupta

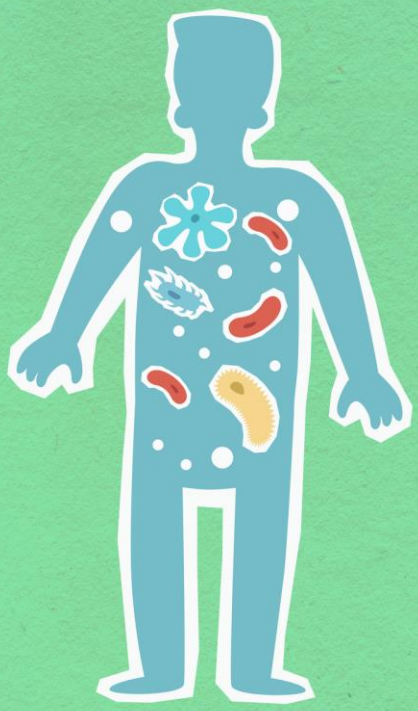
March' 25: A UCLA study found that chewing gum can release thousands of microplastics per piece, contributing significantly to human exposure. Both natural and synthetic gums were equally likely to shed plastic particles during chewing. Chewing gum can release thousands of microplastics into saliva potentially leading to ingestion (Source).

Key M&A/Strategic Alliances

Contributor: Rachna Gupta

March' 25 (Source 1; Source 2; Source 3):

- **WE Soda's** acquisition of **Genesis Alkali** makes it world number 1 ahead of Solvay
- **Honeywell** to acquire **Sundyne** to expand critical equipment portfolio and aftermarket services
- **OMV** reaches agreement with **ADNOC** on key commercial terms for a combination of Borealis, Borouge and NOVA



Fighting *C. difficile* with Engineered Microbiomes

Contributor: Sakshi Kumari

Mar' 25: Penn State researchers have developed a synthetic microbiome therapy that protects mice from severe *Clostridioides difficile (C. difficile*) infections. Unlike traditional fecal transplants, this treatment uses specific bacterial strains linked to suppressing C. difficile, offering a safer and more targeted alternative. It proved as effective as fecal transplants without using donor stool. The therapy could pave the way for new probiotic strategies to treat this life-threatening infection in humans. The study was published in Cell Host & Microbe, with a patent application filed (Source).

New Drug Shows Potential to Slow Progression of Aortic Valve Stenosis

Contributor: Asish Kumar Patra

Mar' 25: Ataciguat, a repurposed drug originally studied for other conditions, may significantly slow the progression of aortic valve stenosis (AVS), potentially delaying or preventing the need for valve replacement surgery. This breakthrough stems from a collaboration between the Mayo Clinic and the Institute for Therapeutics Discovery and Development (ITDD), supported by the Minnesota Partnership for Biotechnology and Medical Genomics. The partnership highlights the success of drug repurposing and interdisciplinary collaboration, offering new hope for millions affected by AVS worldwide (Source).

FDA Approval of the First Generics of Rivaroxaban

Contributor: Bhoomika Sharma

Mar' 25: The FDA has approved the first generic versions of Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) 2.5 mg tablets, developed by Taro Pharmaceuticals and Lupin. These generics are indicated to reduce major cardiovascular events in adults with coronary artery disease (CAD) and vascular events in patients with peripheral artery disease (PAD), including those post-revascularization. Originally approved in 2011, rivaroxaban is a widely used anticoagulant. This approval is expected to improve accessibility and affordability for patients needing blood-thinning therapy to manage serious cardiovascular conditions (Source).

Zydus Betting Big on MedTech

Contributor: Rani Holani

Mar' 25: Zydus Lifesciences, a major Indian pharmaceutical company, is expanding into MedTech as part of its strategy to become a comprehensive healthcare solutions provider. In a significant move, Zydus is acquiring an 85.6% stake in France-based Amplitude Surgical SA, a leader in lower-limb orthopedic solutions, for ₹2,446.5 crore (approx. €300 million). The acquisition is financed through internal funds and minimal debt. This step strengthens Zydus's presence in a sector where India largely depends on imported medical devices and implants (Source).

Scientists Develop Dog-inspired Robot that Runs Without Motors

Contributor: Mukesh Kumar

Mar 25: Scientists from TU Delft and EPFL have developed a motorless quadruped robot that mimics a dog's gait using only passive mechanics. Inspired by nature—like a dead fish swimming using body mechanics—they designed the robot to move efficiently without active energy input. By analyzing canine movement through machine learning, the team optimized springs and cables to enable adaptive, treadmill-driven locomotion. This breakthrough, published in Nature Machine Intelligence, could revolutionize energy-efficient robotics (Source).

Smart Textiles and Surfaces: How Lightweight Elastomer Films are Bringing Tech to Life

Contributor: Mukesh Kumar

Feb' 25: At Saarland University, Professors Stefan Seelecke and Paul Motzki have created ultra-thin dielectric elastomer (DE) films that flex, move, and provide tactile feedback with very low energy use. Thinner than cling film, these smart materials are being built into wearables, industrial gloves, and display surfaces for haptic feedback and gesture recognition. The films double as actuators and sensors—moving when voltage is applied and detecting touch through self-sensing. Their wide potential includes VR, smart textiles, noise-canceling tech, and energy-saving speakers. A new project, TransDES, is now working on flexible, high-voltage PCBs with built-in actuators to advance soft, smart electronics (Source).

Feeling the Future: New Wearable Device Mimics the Complexity of Human Touch

Contributor: Mukesh Kumar

Mar' 25: Engineers at Northwestern University have developed a wireless haptic device that simulates complex touch sensations—like pressure, stretch, slide, and twist—far beyond basic vibrations. Compact and skin-friendly, it offers precise, multidirectional movement for a highly realistic tactile experience. Published in Science, the device connects via Bluetooth to VR headsets or smartphones and runs on a small rechargeable battery. It can be worn anywhere on the body, used in arrays, or integrated into wearables. Applications include immersive VR, online shopping, and assistive tech for people with visual or hearing impairments—paving the way for programmable, full-spectrum tactile feedback (Source).

Liquid Robot can Transform, Separate and Fuse Like Living Cells

Contributor: Mukesh Kumar

Feb' 25: A joint research team led by Seoul National University and Gachon University has developed a next-generation soft robot made from liquid, published in Science Advances. Encased in dense hydrophobic particles, this "liquid robot" combines the deformability of fluids with the resilience of solids—able to recover its shape after extreme compression or impact. Inspired by the T-1000 from Terminator 2, it can pass through tight spaces, capture foreign objects, and merge with other robots, all while moving across water and solid surfaces. Controlled via ultrasound, it holds promise for biomedical uses like targeted drug delivery and complex tasks in disaster zones or rugged environments (Source).

Hershey Expands Snack Portfolio with LesserEvil Acquisition

Contributor: Saumya Jaithlia

Apr' 25: Hershey is making a strategic move to expand its presence in the healthier snacking space with the acquisition of LesserEvil, a well-known brand specializing in organic and minimally processed snacks. This purchase reflects Hershey's broader ambition to diversify its portfolio beyond confectionery and enter the better-for-you snack market, a segment experiencing significant growth.

LesserEvil, recognized for its clean-label products are made with organic ingredients, which aligns well with Hershey's efforts to cater to evolving consumer preferences. The reported $750 million deal includes retaining LesserEvil's leadership team, ensuring continuity in brand identity, innovation, and manufacturing processes (Source).

L'Oréal Pushes for Accessible Beauty Shopping Amid Security Concerns

Contributor: Saumya Jaithlia

Apr' 2025: L'Oréal is advocating for improved store shelf accessibility to support Walmart's beauty acceleration strategy. CEO Nicolas Hieronimus highlighted concerns over anti-theft measures, which negatively impact impulse purchases and overall sales.

While Walmart remains a key partner for L'Oréal in North America, the company is working closely with the retailer to address these challenges and optimize the shopping experience. Hieronimus emphasized that restrictive security measures could hinder beauty sales, and L'Oréal is engaging in discussions to find solutions that balance security with accessibility (Source).

Mondelēz Faces Setbacks in Sustainable Packaging Goals

Contributor: Saumya Jaithlia

Apr' 25: Mondelēz International has released its latest Snacking Made Right sustainability report, highlighting challenges in reducing virgin plastic usage. The company disclosed that its rate of recyclable packaging stagnated in 2024, while efforts to cut virgin plastic use reversed, increasing by 4.6% over 2020 levels. Despite setbacks, Mondelēz continues to push for sustainable packaging solutions, focusing on reducing packaging waste, incorporating recycled materials, and improving collection systems. The company remains committed to net-zero waste packaging by 2050, though it acknowledges obstacles such as fragmented global policies and supply chain complexities. Mondelēz has made some progress, including increasing recycled plastic content in packaging and eliminating plastic trays in Southeast Asia. However, it has not confirmed whether it will meet its 2025 sustainability goals or if adjustments will be necessary (Source).

NIQ Launches AI-Powered Innovation Screener for CPG Brands

Contributor: Saumya Jaithlia

Apr' 2025: NielsenIQ (NIQ) has launched BASES AI Screener, an AI-powered tool that helps CPG brands assess innovation ideas quickly and affordably. Using Generative AI (GenAI) and NIQ's consumer panel data, it creates synthetic respondents who mimic real purchasing behaviors, providing instant feedback and prioritization insights.

The platform speeds up decision-making with a DIY workspace, delivering results in minutes. It also integrates AI-driven personas, ensuring responses reflect real consumer trends. NIQ sees this tool as a major step in expanding AI-driven innovation testing (Source).

Are Your Glasses Hiding Harmful Chemicals?

Contributor: Akshay Jawale

Mar' 2025: The Danish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has assessed the health risks of chemicals found in plastic spectacle frames. Their recent study tested 19 different frames and found allergy-causing dyes in 11 of them. Four other chemicals—drometrizole, 4-tert-amylphenol, triethyl citrate, and ATEC (a plasticizer)—were flagged for deeper investigation due to their potential toxicity. In six frames, chemical migration tests were done. Two of them showed safety concerns, especially due to ATEC, which may cause allergic reactions and other harmful effects (Source).

FDA Approves Nivolumab and Ipilimumab for Advanced Colorectal Cancer in Patients Aged 12+

Contributor: Tanzil Asif Khan

Apr' 2025: The FDA approved nivolumab (Opdivo) and ipilimumab (Yervoy) for treating unresectable or metastatic MSI-H or dMMR colorectal cancer in patients aged 12+. This approval also converts nivolumab's accelerated approval to regular approval. The CHECKMATE-8HW trial showed improved progression-free survival. Common side effects include fatigue, diarrhea, pruritus and abdominal pain (Source).

Uplizna Becomes First FDA-Approved Treatment for Rare Immunological Disorder

Contributor: Pooja Meher

Apr' 2025: Uplizna (inebilizumab) is the first FDA-approved treatment for Immunoglobulin G4-related disease (IgG4-RD), affecting around 20,000 people in the U.S. It reduces flare-up risks by targeting a protein on B cells involved in inflammation and organ scarring. Uplizna is not recommended for patients with a history of severe infusion reactions, active hepatitis B, or untreated latent tuberculosis (Source).

Behind Closed Doors: FDA Sets Recommendations for 2025–26 Flu Vaccine Strains

Contributor: Basharat Ahmad Sofi

Mar' 2025: The FDA announced its 2025–2026 flu vaccine strain recommendations following a closed-door meeting with other U.S. health agencies, replacing the usual public VRBPAC meeting that was abruptly cancelled. The agency assured there would be no delays in vaccine availability and aligned its recommendations with WHO's. However, experts and lawmakers voiced concern over the lack of transparency, especially amid ongoing scrutiny during FDA leadership confirmation hearings. The selected strains largely mirror last year's, tailored for different vaccine platforms, with an added B/Yamagata lineage for quadrivalent vaccines (Source 1; Source 2).

Wiley Unveils Updated LC-HR-MS/MS Library for Enhanced Toxicology Analysis

Contributor: Sakshi Kumari

Apr' 2025: Wiley released the second edition of the Maurer, Meyer, Helfer, Weber: LC-HR-MS/MS Library, a crucial resource for toxicologists and forensic scientists. Developed by Hans H. Maurer's team, it includes over 5,500 mass spectra for 2,300 drugs and poisons, and 3,200 metabolites. Available via Wiley's KnowItAll subscription, it supports multiple instrument formats for enhanced LC-MS analysis (Source).

Streamlining Development and Assessment of Biosimilar Medicines

Contributor: Bhoomika Sharma

Apr' 2025: The EMA is exploring new approach to streamline the development and evaluation of biosimilar medicines, potentially reducing the clinical data required while maintaining EU safety standards. The draft aims to improve patient access and make Europe an attractive market for biosimilars. The approach leverages extensive experience and advances in analytical methods to ensure safety and efficacy (Source).

Breakthrough in Liver Organoid Growth: Placenta-Derived IL1α Boosts Progenitor Cell Expansion

Contributor: Sakshi Kumari

Apr' 2025: Researchers at The University of Tokyo found that placenta-derived IL1α under hypoxic conditions significantly boosts the growth of human liver organoids. This discovery enhances liver progenitor cell expansion, advancing organoid models and regenerative medicine, and potentially improving disease research, treatment testing, and organ transplantation (Source).

GLDH Proposed as a Liver-Specific Biomarker for Improved Detection of Hepatocellular Injury

Contributor: Shahla Thasni C

Mar' 2025: C-Path researchers propose glutamate dehydrogenase (GLDH) as a more liver-specific biomarker than ALT/AST. Unlike ALT, GLDH is unaffected by muscle injury, offering better specificity. The study confirms GLDH's sensitivity, specificity, and faster clearance, supporting its use in diagnosing and monitoring liver injury. FDA review is underway for its use in clinical trials (Source).

Tata Motors Patents EV Avinya's Steering Wheel

Contributor: Nitesh Kumar

Mar' 2025: Tata Motors showcased the updated Avinya X concept at the Bharat Mobility Global Expo 2025 and patented its two-spoke steering wheel. The luxury EV SUV, debuting in 2026, features a coupe-like design, advanced ADAS, a dual-tone cabin with a large infotainment system, and a 500 km range. It will be available in rear-wheel and all-wheel drive options (Source).

Foxconn Will Build EVs for Two Unnamed Japanese Automakers

Contributor: Sachin Patel

Mar' 2025: Foxconn is close to designing and manufacturing electric vehicles for two unnamed Japanese companies, with potential cooperation with Nissan. Chairman Young Liu mentioned plans to sign agreements within two months. Foxconn aims to expand its EV operations, led by former Nissan executive Jun Seki, and will start producing its Model C EV in North America by year-end (Source).

Ferrari Patents Engine With—oval-shaped Pistons?

Contributor: Nitesh Kumar

Mar' 2025: Ferrari is developing a unique V12 engine with oval-shaped pistons, as revealed by a European patent. This design could create a more compact engine, beneficial for hybrid setups, allowing electrification without a long powertrain. The innovation may help retain V12 engines in future Ferrari models, offering packaging and center-of-gravity advantages. However, patented ideas often don't reach production (Source).

Bridgestone's New Lunar Rover Tire

Contributor: Sachin Patel

Apr' 2025: Bridgestone is developing second-generation lunar rover tires made entirely of steel for small and medium-sized rovers. These metal tires feature flexible support structures and tread to withstand harsh lunar conditions, unlike rubber. The designs balance weight, durability, and capability. Bridgestone will showcase these tires at the 40th Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, April 7-10, as part of the Japan Space Industry's display (Source).

Lawmakers Seek Clarity on Patents Withdrawal from EU Industry Commissioner

Contributor: Chandandeep Kaur

Mar' 25: Lawmakers from the European Parliament's Legal Affairs committee have requested clarity from European Commission regarding unexpected decision to withdraw a proposal on SEPs. The proposal, published in April 2023, aimed to improve transparency and predictability in SEP licensing, benefiting industries like automotive and smart energy. Despite the Parliament adopting its negotiating position, the Commission announced in February its intention to scrap the proposal due to a lack of foreseeable agreement. This decision surprised many, including some EU member states who were negotiating a compromise. The Commission has until August to finalize the withdrawal after consulting with member states and the European Parliament (Source).

InterDigital AV1/VP9 Patent Challenge Instituted

Contributor: Chandandeep Kaur

Mar' 25: On March 13, 2025, the Central Reexamination Unit (CRU) granted Unified's request for an ex parte reexamination of U.S. Patent 10,080,024, owned by InterDigital VC Holdings. This patent, which is essential to SISVEL's AV1 and VP9 patent pools, focuses on improving video encoding efficiency by dividing a block of pixels into groups and applying different intra-planar prediction methods to each group. The reexamination was initiated by Unified as part of their ongoing efforts in the SEP Video Codec Zone (Source).

Sad Day for Legal Certainty: Munich Court Ignores Calls for Consistent EU Law Application

Contributor: Chandandeep Kaur

Mar' 25: The Higher Regional Munich Court's decision in VoiceAge v HMD ignored the European Commission's advice and ruled in favor of VoiceAge EVS, a patent assertion entity. Court dismissed Commission's call for a preliminary ruling from the CJEU, disregarding the 2024 amicus curia on EU law interpretation. This decision undermines predictability and fairness in standard essential patent licensing, highlighting the need for an EU regulatory solution to address inconsistencies. The proposed SEP Regulation aims to resolve such disputes fairly and transparently, eliminating obstacles for various industries in Europe and fostering connectivity technology development (Source).

Velos HEVC/H264 Video Codec Patent Confirmed Invalid by PTAB

Contributor: Chandandeep Kaur

Mar' 25: The PTAB confirmed the final rejection of all claims in the ex parte reexamination of U.S. Patent 10,390,013, owned by Velos Media, an NPE. The patent relates to encoding syntax elements indicating tile information into a slice header. Velos Media's patents are part of the Avanci Video patent pool, which covers AV1, H.265 (HEVC), H.266 (VVC), MPEG-DASH, and VP9 technologies. Unified was represented by in-house counsel Jessica L.A. Marks and Michelle Aspen (Source).

Cover Photo: A Kite in the Sky, a Thought on the Rise

Evalueserve is a global professional services provider offering research, analytics and consulting services across a wide range of industries and business functions.

We leverage our service design approach to understand your business requirements and to create a customized solution that meets your strategic objectives.

We support our clients in achieving maximum impact by integrating data analytics and research-driven insights into our delivery, innovation and automation solutions.

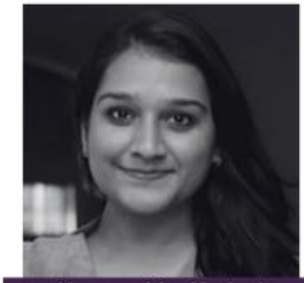
Contact Us

iprd.evalueserve.com

OUR SPARK TEAM

18

Christy T George
Founding Editor



Hansprabha Mudgal
Co-Editor

Chandandeep Kaur
Section Editor
(Standard Essential Patents)

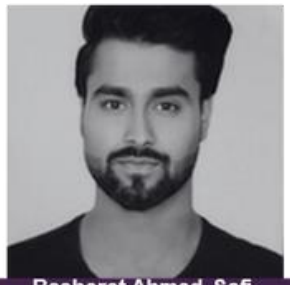
Mukesh Kumar
Section Editor
(Hi-Tech)

Nitesh Kumar
Section Editor
(Automobile, e-mobility & Mechanical)

Rachna Gupta
Section Editor
(Chemicals & Materials)

Rani Holani
Section Editor
(Life Sciences)

Subin Khullar
Section Editor
(Legal Watch & Industry News)



Basharat Ahmad Sofi
Section Researcher
(Chemical Safety & Regulatory Affairs)

Harjinder Singh
Section Researcher
(Chemical Safety & Regulatory Affairs)

Sachin Patel
Section Researcher
(Automobile, e-mobility & Mechanical)

Saumya Jaithlia
Section Researcher
(Consumer Goods)

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUR RECENT EDITIONS?

March' 2025

February' 2025

January' 2025

December' 2024

November' 2024

October' 2024

September' 2024

August' 2024