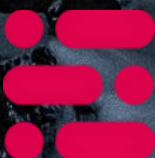


# IPR&D SPARK NEWSLETTER

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





## WELCOME TO THE JANUARY 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: [lprdsparknewsletter@evaluateserve.com](mailto:lprdsparknewsletter@evaluateserve.com) and let's navigate the ever-evolving landscape of IP and R&D together.



# CONTENTS

# 03

## **Legal Watch**

- Patent Grants for 2024
- US Justice Department Examining Foreign Funding of Patent Lawsuits
- US Trade Tribunal Finds Lenovo Smartphones Infringe Ericsson Patents
- R.J. Reynolds Loses Appeal in \$95 Million Altria e-cigarette Patent Case

## **Industry News**

- USPTO to Increase Patent Fees from January 2025
- NASA and USPTO Join Forces to Fast-Track Tech Innovations
- Costa Rica Becomes Central America's First to Validate European Patents
- TM5's Annual Meeting in Japan: Shaping the Future of Trademarks

## **Techno Spotlight**

### **Chemicals & Material**

- Breakthrough in Carbon Capture Technology-Double Carbon Capture Efficiency
- Super-Strong, Eco-Friendly Plastic That Bacteria Can Eat
- Key M&A/Strategic Alliances
- Catalyst Turns Methane Menace into Valuable Polymers
- New Material Transforms Heavy Oil into High-Value Fuels

### **Life Sciences**

- New Database Launched - Recombinant Antibodies & Mimetics
- Drug Giant Co-managing a Fund with an Existing Venture Capital Firm
- Semaglutide Opened a New Area for Pharmaceutical Startups
- EU Pharma Leaders are Advocating for a Rapid Transition to Digital Package Inserts

### **Hi-Tech**

- Nvidia Focuses on Robots Amid Stiffer AI Chip Competition
- Scientists Discover a Way to Shrink Quantum Computer Components by 1000x
- NEOM Investment Fund Ventures into Automated Robotic Technology for its Construction Projects
- New Solar Tracker Algorithm Boosts Captured Energy on Cloudy Days

### **Tobacco Industry**

- Altria's New Product
- PMI Expands in Medical Cannabis
- KT&G Files Second Legal Action Against EM-Tech Over Patents
- ITM Semiconductor Co. Ltd. to Develop E-Cigarette Devices for KT&G
- Vaporesso Launches First-Ever Solar Vape
- Altria Group's NJOY LLC. Wins Lawsuit, Prohibiting 4 Retailers from Selling ELFBAR
- Reynolds Tobacco Loses Appeal in Altria Patent Infringement Case

### **Consumer Goods**

- Greenway has Acquired Multiple Cannabis Brands to Improve CPG Presence in Canada
- D2C Personal Care Brands are Increasingly Seeking Strategic Buyouts in India
- Versatile Ingredient, Brown Sugar is 2025's Flavor of the Year
- Reliance Consumer Enters the Hydration Beverage Category with RaskikGluco Energy

### **Chemical Safety & Regulatory Affairs**

- FDA Welcomes 2025 with Groundbreaking Dual AI Framework Targeting Drug and Device Development
- FDA Proposes Rule for Asbestos Testing in Talc Cosmetics
- ICH Adopts E6 (R3) Guideline on Good Clinical Practices
- FSSAI Elevates Packaged Water to High-Risk Food Category
- FDA Expands Medical Device Shortage Alert System
- Fluoride Exposure and Children's IQ: A Closer Look
- Choose Wisely: The Hidden Risks in Your Smartwatch Wristband
- Smart Supplementing: NAC Dosage Guidelines

### **Automobile, e-mobility, and Mechanical**

- Cummins Made a New Turbocharger for Hydrogen Engines
- GM Wants to Beam Holographic Images Directly to Your Eyeballs
- RealMotion Enhances Self-driving Cars with Smarter Navigation and Safety
- Single-crystal Electrode Breakthrough Boosts EV Battery Life

### **Standard Essential Patents**

- Why 2024 was Pivotal for SEPs in Europe and What to Expect from 2025
- Panasonic, SPT, and Xiaomi Executed Patent License Agreement for Cellular Communication Standards
- United States: SEPs and FRAND - Litigation, Policy and Latest Developments
- Sharp and Samsung Sign Cross License Agreement Covering Patents Essential to 5G Standards

# LEGAL WATCH

## Patent Grants for 2024

**Contributor: Subin Khullar**

Dec' 2024: The trends in patent issuance reveal significant insights. There is a clear upward trend in utility patents granted in recent years, indicating increased interest in innovation and intellectual property protection. More inventors and businesses are seeking patents for their inventions. Additionally, 2024 is seeing near-record weekly patent issuance, suggesting that the USPTO is processing applications more efficiently.

The 2024 data is slightly influenced by a calendaring anomaly, as this year has 53 Tuesdays instead of the usual 52, giving the USPTO an extra day for patent issuance, which accounts for about a 2% increase in opportunities. This anomaly contributes to the overall rise in patent counts, highlighting the importance of considering calendar variations in annual patent evaluations. In summary, the trends indicate a robust patent system with increasing issuance, influenced by occasional calendar factors ([Source](#)).

# LEGAL WATCH

## US Justice Department Examining Foreign Funding of Patent Lawsuits

**Contributor: Sonia Buntel**

Dec' 24: The U.S. Department of Justice is investigating potential foreign financing of U.S. patent lawsuits aimed at stealing trade secrets, according to a GAO report. Concerns arise over foreign investments in litigation that could compromise proprietary information. Although no active investigations have been confirmed, third-party litigation funding has surged, with U.S. funders managing \$15.2 billion in assets in 2023. Supporters argue it aids small patent owners, while critics believe it raises defense costs for weaker claims. Some judges require disclosure of external funding, and Congress is considering mandatory rules. The GAO report highlights that countries like China, Saudi Arabia, and France have funded U.S. patent litigation, prompting national security worries, though safeguards exist to protect confidential information ([Source](#)).

## US Trade Tribunal Finds Lenovo Smartphones Infringe Ericsson Patents

**Contributor: Subin Khullar**

Dec' 24: The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) recently ruled that smartphones made by Lenovo's Motorola Mobility infringe on patents owned by Ericsson, specifically related to 5G wireless technology. This initial ruling could lead to a ban on U.S. imports of these smartphones if the decision is upheld. The ITC judge's preliminary decision marks a significant victory for Sweden-based Ericsson in its international patent licensing dispute with China-based Lenovo. The full commission is expected to issue a final ruling on Ericsson's allegations in April. Ericsson's complaint, filed last year, claims that Motorola's Moto G, Edge, and Razr phone lines violate its wireless communication patents. Lenovo has denied these allegations. Beyond the U.S., the companies are also engaged in patent lawsuits in South America, the United Kingdom, and North Carolina. Ericsson has already won preliminary court orders banning the sale of Lenovo smartphones in Brazil and Colombia ([Source](#)).

## R.J. Reynolds Loses Appeal in \$95 Million Altria E-cigarette Patent Case

**Contributor: Eeshan Mishra**

Dec' 24: A U.S. appeals court upheld a \$95.2 million jury verdict in favor of Altria in a patent dispute with R.J. Reynolds (RJR) over e-cigarette technology. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit confirmed a North Carolina jury's decision that RJR's Vuse line of vaping devices infringed on three Altria patents. Altria, based in Richmond, Virginia, sued RJR in 2020, seeking royalties for the infringement. In 2022, a Greensboro jury awarded Altria \$95.2 million in damages. RJR argued that its products did not infringe, the patents were invalid, and the damages were excessive, but a three-judge panel rejected these claims. U.S. Circuit Judge William Bryson partially dissented, suggesting a new trial on damages unless Altria reduced the award by half ([Source](#)).



# INDUSTRY NEWS

## USPTO to Increase Patent Fees from January 2025

**Contributor: Chetan Sharma**

Dec' 2024: The USPTO has announced a patent fee increase effective 19 January 2025, with an average hike of 7.5% and 52 new fees introduced. This adjustment aims to ensure sufficient funding for the agency's operations, enhance patent examination quality, and achieve pendency goals. Strategic objectives include promoting innovation, aligning fees with service costs, and supporting small and micro-entities through discounted fees under the Unleashing American Innovators Act.

The fee increase will support modernization efforts, including advanced IT systems, while bolstering the USPTO's 14,000+ workforce. Applicants should strategize filings to avoid higher costs post-deadline. For instance, consider fast-tracking filings or optimizing portfolio management to mitigate impacts. While this may challenge budgets, the changes reinforce the USPTO's mission to drive U.S. innovation and global competitiveness ([Source](#)).

# INDUSTRY NEWS

## NASA and USPTO Join Forces to Fast-Track Tech Innovations

**Contributor:** Christy George

Dec' 24: NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) have signed an agreement to improve the transfer of federally-developed technology to the private sector. This partnership aims to streamline the process of moving NASA's innovative technologies into public use, boosting the economy and benefiting society. Clayton Turner, associate administrator of NASA's Space Technology Mission Directorate, highlighted the importance of this collaboration in advancing NASA's mission and supporting economic growth. The agreement includes a comprehensive study of technology transfer best practices across universities and federal labs, aiming to overcome barriers and promote inclusive innovation. This initiative is expected to foster ongoing dialogue and knowledge sharing within the tech transfer community, ultimately benefiting the public ([Source](#)).

## Costa Rica Becomes Central America's First to Validate European Patents

**Contributor:** Jitendra Prakash Shreemukh

Dec' 24: Costa Rica has signed a significant validation agreement with the European Patent Office (EPO), becoming the first Central American country to allow European patents to be validated within its jurisdiction. This agreement enhances international cooperation and strengthens intellectual property protection. The validation system allows applicants to obtain patent protection in Costa Rica using the same procedure as in the EPO's member states. Upon request and payment of the prescribed fee, European patents can be validated in Costa Rica, giving them the same effect as national patents. This milestone will streamline processes for European patent holders and foster innovation and economic growth in Costa Rica ([Source](#)).

## TM5's Annual Meeting in Japan: Shaping the Future of Trademarks

**Contributor:** Dinesh Sharma

Dec' 24: The 13th Annual Meeting of the Five Trademark Offices (TM5) took place in Hakone, Japan, from December 9-11, 2024. Representatives from the Japan Patent Office (JPO), USPTO, EUIPO, CNIPA, and KIPO discussed 15 ongoing cooperative projects and a new initiative to harmonize and improve trademark procedures. Key topics included addressing new trademark issues under emerging technologies like AI and enhancing user services. The TM5 offices agreed to hold a joint workshop at the INTA Annual Meeting in May 2025 and continue efforts on the "Bad Faith Trademark Project." The meeting concluded with plans for the USPTO to host the 2025 TM5 Meeting, emphasizing ongoing collaboration to protect and utilize trademark rights effectively ([Source](#)).



**TECHNO-SPOTLIGHT**



## Breakthrough in Carbon Capture Technology- Double Carbon Capture Efficiency

**Contributor: Rachna Gupta**

Dec' 24: Researchers at Oregon State University have synthesized new molecules that efficiently capture large amounts of carbon dioxide from the air – a crucial step in fighting climate change. Scientists have synthesized molecules using titanium peroxides to capture carbon dioxide, advancing direct air capture technology. Their findings suggest that titanium-based compounds could offer a more affordable and efficient solution for carbon capture compared to older methods. The molecules release oxygen gas upon capture of carbon dioxide, creating a spongelike substance that enables reactivity throughout the crystals, not just on the surface ([Source](#)).

## Key M&A/Strategic Alliances

**Contributor: Rachna Gupta**

Dec' 24 ([Source 1](#); [Source 2](#); [Source 3](#); [Source 4](#); [Source 5](#)):

- **ADNOC** takeover offer for **Covestro** successful. The Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) has acquired a majority stake in the German polymer manufacturer Covestro.
- **Evonik** to Sell Superabsorbents Business to **ICIG**, an experienced chemical investor based in Frankfurt am Main, Germany
- **Perstorp**, a leading global specialty chemicals innovator acquires OQ Chemicals Nederland B.V.
- **Hyosung TNC**, a South Korean textile and yarn maker acquires Hyosung Chemical's specialty gas unit for \$642 Mn
  - Construction giant **Saint Gobain** has acquired a UK-based chemicals firm **Kilwaughter** – which manufactures facade mortars in the UK and Ireland.

## Super-Strong, Eco-Friendly Plastic That Bacteria Can Eat

**Contributor: Rachna Gupta**

Dec' 24: Researchers at the Weizmann Institute have developed a biodegradable composite material that could play a significant role in addressing the global plastic waste crisis. They have created a strong, flexible biodegradable plastic using cellulose and tyrosine crystals. The material, which can degrade with bacteria, shows promise for industrial use and may help combat the plastic waste crisis ([Source](#)).

## Catalyst Turns Methane Menace into Valuable Polymers

**Contributor: Rachna Gupta**

Dec' 24: MIT chemical engineers created a catalyst that converts methane into polymers, potentially reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Operating at room temperature and atmospheric pressure, this system uses enzymes and zeolites for a cost-effective and scalable polymer production method ([Source](#)).

## New Material Transforms Heavy Oil into High-Value Fuels

**Contributor: Rachna Gupta**

Dec' 24: **ZMQ-1**, a novel aluminosilicate zeolite with interconnected meso-microporous channels, addresses limitations of traditional zeolites by enhancing stability and catalytic efficiency. Researchers have developed a groundbreaking aluminosilicate zeolite, ZMQ-1, designed with a distinctive intersecting meso-microporous channel system. This innovation is poised to significantly improve catalytic processes in the petrochemical industry. This breakthrough addresses long-standing challenges in zeolite design, including limitations in pore size, stability, and catalytic efficiency ([Source](#)).

## New Database Launched - Recombinant Antibodies & Mimetics

**Contributor: Ganesh B**

Jan' 25: The Centre for Human Specific Research has launched a new Recombinant Antibodies & Mimetics Database, which organizes information on the origins, discovery, and production of recombinant antibodies and mimetics. This database highlights the role of animal-derived biomaterials in their creation and uses a color-coded system to classify them based on their discovery methods. The initiative aims to enhance human-specific research through awareness, education, and collaboration among organizations and individuals in the field ([Source](#)).

## Drug Giant Co-managing a Fund with an Existing Venture Capital Firm

**Contributor: Rani Holani**

Jan' 25: Eli Lilly has partnered with venture capital firm Andreessen Horowitz to launch the \$500 million Biotech Ecosystem Venture Fund, a unique collaboration in the pharmaceutical industry. This fund aims to invest in innovative therapeutic platforms and technologies to advance healthcare and improve patient outcomes.

While many drug companies have their own venture funds, co-managing a fund with a VC firm is uncommon. This marks a significant shift in how pharmaceutical investments are approached and could be trending in 2025 ([Source](#)).

## Semaglutide Opened a New Area for Pharmaceutical Startups

**Contributor: Rani Holani**

Jan' 25: In 2024, the use of Ozempic and Wegovy surged for treating type 2 diabetes and obesity. However, the active ingredient, semaglutide, presents various side effects that complicate its long-term use. This prompted a rise in startups developing new drug candidates targeting obesity and metabolic diseases, aiming to provide safer alternatives. The trend reflects a growing interest in innovative treatments amid concerns over the sustainability and safety of existing medications.

Verdiva Bio, with its base of operations in London, made its debut to shake up the already-crowded obesity space. The company's lead asset is a potentially first-in-class oral GLP-1 receptor agonist that has the potential to be dosed weekly ([Source](#)).

## EU Pharma Leaders are Advocating for a Rapid Transition to Digital Package Inserts

**Contributor: Rani Holani**

Jan' 25: Trade associations representing the European pharmaceutical sector are urging regulators to expedite the implementation of electronic product information (ePI). Through a series of position papers, the associations have laid out a framework for the phased rollout of ePI and patient leaflets as a replacement for traditional paper-based inserts over four years ([Source](#)).



## Nvidia Focuses on Robots Amid Stiffer AI Chip Competition

**Contributor: Mukesh Kumar**

Dec 24: Nvidia, facing stiff competition in the AI chip sector, is pivoting towards robotics. The \$3.3 trillion company plans to launch Jetson Thor, a compact computer for humanoid robots, in early next year. Deepu Talla, VP of robotics, emphasizes the imminent "ChatGPT moment" for physical AI. Despite competition from AMD, Google, and Amazon, Nvidia is investing in the robotics field, notably through a funding round with Microsoft and OpenAI that valued Figure AI at \$2.6 billion. While robotics currently contributes less revenue than data centers, Nvidia is focused on growth. Concurrently, MIT's new AI system, PRoC3S, aims to improve warehouse robots' capabilities amid rising automation demands in eCommerce ([Source](#)).

## Scientists Discover a Way to Shrink Quantum Computer Components by 1,000x

**Contributor: Mukesh Kumar**

Dec' 24: Researchers at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore) have developed a breakthrough method to make quantum computing more compact by producing entangled photon pairs using ultra-thin materials just 1.2 micrometers thick. This innovative approach eliminates the need for bulky optical equipment, significantly simplifying the setup. The new method, led by Prof Gao Weibo, uses niobium oxide dichloride flakes to generate linked photons efficiently, paving the way for smaller, scalable quantum technologies. This advancement could revolutionize quantum computing by enabling faster, more efficient calculations and secure communication. The NTU team plans to further optimize their design to enhance photon pair production, potentially transforming the future of quantum computing ([Source](#)).

## NEOM Investment Fund Ventures into Automated Robotic Technology for its Construction Projects

**Contributor: Mukesh Kumar**

Dec' 24: NEOM, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia - 12 December 2024: NEOM has signed a landmark investment agreement with GMT Robotics, a European leader in advanced construction technology. Led by the NEOM Investment Fund (NIF), this partnership aims to accelerate NEOM's capital projects using construction robotics, enhancing efficiency and sustainability.

Majid Mufti, CEO of NIF, emphasized the investment's role in driving transformative technologies and creating high-skilled jobs. GMT Robotics, based in Copenhagen, specializes in robotic rebar cage assembly, significantly improving safety and productivity. This collaboration will localize technology in NEOM, opening new opportunities for Saudi engineers and supporting NEOM's vision of becoming a global innovation hub ([Source](#)).

## New Solar Tracker Algorithm Boosts Captured Energy on Cloudy Days

**Contributor: Mukesh Kumar**

Dec 24: PV Hardware USA introduced a solar tracker algorithm called Diffuse Control, which can boost energy collection by up to 20% in overcast conditions. It optimizes panel tilt using real-time weather data to maximize irradiance capture while minimizing motor energy use. The algorithm assesses diffuse irradiance levels from both global and direct horizontal irradiance. Additionally, their Dynamic Step algorithm reduces motor movements and energy consumption by 30% by adjusting panel positioning only when beneficial. Oscar Cabrero highlighted the importance of measuring irradiances for optimizing panel tilt in poor weather, with empirical testing validating these models' effectiveness in increasing energy production ([Source](#)).



## Altria's New Product

**Contributor: Neha Negi**

Dec' 24: Altria starts the test marketing of its proprietary heated tobacco device, SWIC, in the UK through online sales. SWIC works exclusively with KETLE Capsules and provides up to 14 sessions per charge. The device features vibration haptics as well as an informative screen for battery life and remaining capsule content ([Source](#)).

## PMI Expands in Medical Cannabis

**Contributor: Neha Negi**

Jan' 25: Avicanna Inc., a commercial-stage, international biopharmaceutical company based in Canada, announced a "scientific and medical affairs" collaboration agreement with Vectura Fertin Pharma, a subsidiary of Philip Morris International (PMI) ([Source](#)).

## KT&G Files Second Legal Action Against EM-Tech Over Patents

**Contributor: Neha Negi**

Jan' 25 : KT&G has initiated a second round of legal proceedings against former partner EM-Tech regarding the patent for their heated tobacco device "Lil". In October 2024, KT&G lost the first round of a patent transfer lawsuit and subsequently filed an appeal in November ([Source](#)).

## ITM Semiconductor Co. Ltd. to Develop E-Cigarette Devices for KT&G

**Contributor: Neha Negi**

Jan' 25: Under the contract, ITM Semiconductor is expected to supply KT&G with four devices, including strategic export models, in addition to the currently mass-produced "Lil Hybrid," by 2025 ([Source](#)).

## Vapresso Launches First-Ever Solar Vape

**Contributor: Neha Negi**

Jan' 25: At the center of this initiative lies the industry's first solar-powered open-system vape—ECO NANO SOLAR. Crafted from 70% eco-conscious materials, the innovative device features a modular structure with interchangeable components, extending product life while promoting resource efficiency and long-term sustainability, according to a press release. This pioneering ECO innovation combines degradable photovoltaic technology with a recyclable modular design. Its solar panel achieves remarkable light-to-electricity efficiency and is over 80% biodegradable, advancing clean energy adoption while significantly reducing environmental impact ([Source](#)).

## Altria Group's NJOY LLC. Wins Lawsuit, Prohibiting 4 Retailers from Selling ELFBAR

**Contributor: Neha Negi**

Dec' 24: Four California retailers, including Aroma Avenue Vape Shop, Cigarettes N More, Cloudhaven Vapors, Inc., and Z Vapor Room, have been ordered to stop selling the ELFBAR e-cigarette ([Source](#)).

## Reynolds Tobacco Loses Appeal in Altria Patent Infringement Case

**Contributor: Neha Negi**

Dec' 24: British American Tobacco subsidiary Reynolds Tobacco (R.J. Reynolds Vapor Co.) failed to overturn a jury's ruling in North Carolina, USA that its Vuse Alto e-cigarette infringed on three e-cigarette patents belonging to Altria (Altria Group Inc.). The compensation awarded amounts to a staggering \$95.2 million. The appeals court rejected Reynolds Tobacco's lawsuit. Altria is seeking damages from Reynolds Tobacco for infringing on the patent used in their Vuse Alto e-cigarette sales ([Source](#)).



## Greenway has Acquired Multiple Cannabis Brands to Improve CPG Presence in Canada

**Contributor: Saumya Jaithlia**

Jan' 25: Greenway Greenhouse Cannabis Corp. has entered into an asset purchase agreement with Choice Growers Cannabis Inc. to acquire all of Choice Growers' consumer packaged goods (CPG) brands. This acquisition includes brands such as Grapefruit God Bud, The Jeffrey, Watermelon Pebbles, Pink Lemonade, Duke Nukem, Tangerine Dream, and Blackberry Cheesecake. The deal involves Greenway taking on the debt owed by Choice Growers and providing a royalty payment based on net revenue over six years. This marks Greenway's first acquisition of brands from another licensed cannabis producer under the Cannabis Act (Canada). The acquisition aims to expand Greenway's presence in the Canadian cannabis market by increasing their product offerings and reaching new consumers ([Source](#)).

## D2C Personal Care Brands are Increasingly Seeking Strategic Buyouts in India

**Contributor: Apoorv Nayal**

Jan' 25: Multiple reports have come into the picture about D2C personal care brands in India that they are looking out for strategic buyouts.

One of the most interesting news consists of Hindustan Unilever Limited's (HUL) potential acquisition of the popular skincare brand Minimalist for about Rs 3,000 crore (~\$350 million). This move can provide a decent exit for Minimalist's investors, with the company last valued at roughly \$80 million when it raised funding over three years ago.

Earlier, The Economic Times had reported that GIC-backed Wow Skin Science is up for sale. The Good Glamm Group is also in the market to sell some of its brands to raise money amid a cash crunch, according to a report by MoneyControl.

According to the investors and industry executives, there is an increasing appetite among D2C brands for an acquisition by traditional fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) companies amid a general slowdown in the personal care space ([Source](#)).

## Versatile Ingredient, Brown Sugar is 2025's Flavor of the Year

**Contributor: Saumya Jaithlia**

Dec' 24: The Food and Beverage Trends Report by T. Hasegawa has named brown sugar as the 2025 Flavor of the Year. Known for its rich, complex flavor profile, brown sugar is set to expand its presence in various culinary applications, from baked goods and sauces to specialty drinks. This versatile ingredient, which owes its distinct hue and moisture to molasses, has already gained popularity in cafes with brown sugar lattes and milk teas, and is now making its way into craft cocktails and mainstream meals. The report also highlights other emerging trends, such as the use of nootropics and adaptogens for mental health, increased fiber and prebiotics for digestive health, and a nostalgic return to retro flavor combinations ([Source](#)).

## Reliance Consumer Enters the Hydration Beverage Category with RaskikGluco Energy

**Contributor: Apoorv Nayal**

Jan' 25: Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL), the FMCG arm and a wholly-owned subsidiary of Reliance Retail Ventures Ltd (RRVL), had acquired beverage brand, Raskik in 2023. On 6th January, Reliance Consumer Products Ltd (RCPL) launched Raskik Gluco Energy, marking its entry into the mass-market hydration category.

RCPL is re-positioning Raskik as a master brand for juices and functional beverages. Raskik Gluco Energy will be rolled out pan-India and priced at ₹10 per single serving. The product will soon be available in a home consumption pack of 750 mL.

RCPL has been acquiring a clutch of homegrown and overseas companies to build a sizeable packaged consumer products business. In 2022, RIL had acquired Campa Cola, a once-popular substitute for established cola brands, from the New Delhi-based Pure Drinks Ltd ([Source](#)).

## FDA Welcomes 2025 with Groundbreaking Dual AI Framework Targeting Drug and Device Development

**Contributor: Basharat Ahmad Sofi and Megha Walia**

Jan' 2025: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has released draft guidance for the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in drug development and medical devices, aiming to standardize its application while ensuring safety and effectiveness. The guidance includes a risk-based credibility assessment framework for pharmaceuticals and advocates for a Total Product Lifecycle approach for medical devices, focusing on robust development and risk evaluation. The FDA invites industry feedback to enhance these guidelines further ([Source 1](#); [Source 2](#); [Source 3](#)).

## FDA Proposes Rule for Asbestos Testing in Talc Cosmetics

**Contributor: Sakshi Kumari**

Dec' 2024: The US FDA has proposed a regulation that would require standardized testing methods for the detection of asbestos in talc-containing cosmetic products. This initiative is designed to safeguard consumers from exposure to asbestos, which is recognized as a carcinogen. Under this proposal, manufacturers will be required to utilize designated analytical techniques or to present a certificate of analysis from their talc suppliers. This initiative is in accordance with the Modernization of Cosmetics Regulation Act of 2022 (MoCRA). Furthermore, the FDA is inviting public commentary for a period of 90 days following the publication of this proposal in the Federal Register ([Source](#)).

## ICH Adopts E6(R3) Guideline on Good Clinical Practices

**Contributor: Latika Sharma**

Jan' 2025: The International Council for Harmonization (ICH) has adopted the E6(R3) guideline, updating the frameworks for clinical trials. This revised guideline enhances data governance with eight new subsections addressing data retention, computer system security, and validation. It also highlights the qualifications of investigators, sponsor responsibilities, and oversight by Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) or Independent Ethics Committees (IECs). Additionally, three appendices detail investigator procedures, trial protocols, and record-keeping practices, providing a solid foundation for modern clinical research ([Source](#)).

## FSSAI Elevates Packaged Water to High-Risk Food Category

**Contributor: Harjinder Singh**

Dec' 2024: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has classified packaged drinking water and mineral water as a "High Risk Food Category," thereby mandating that these products undergo regular inspections and third-party audits. This decision follows the elimination of the requirement for certification by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Consequently, manufacturers will be required to undergo annual risk-based inspections and audits prior to the approval of their licenses or registrations. This initiative aims to streamline compliance and enhance safety standards within the industry ([Source](#)).



## FDA Expands Medical Device Shortage Alert System

**Contributor: Latika Sharma**

Jan' 2025: The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has finalized guidance regarding notifications of medical device shortages during public health emergencies, updating the mandatory reporting requirements established by Section 506J of the CARES Act. Notable updates include the introduction of a comprehensive list of device product codes that necessitate notification, as well as new provisions for voluntary reporting of disruptions in the supply chain. This guidance encompasses life-supporting, life-sustaining, and emergency medical devices, and it encourages manufacturers to report any issues occurring within a period of seven days. ([Source](#)).

## Fluoride Exposure and Children's IQ: A Closer Look

**Contributor: Megha Walia**

Jan' 2025: A recent review published in JAMA Pediatrics conducted a systematic analysis of studies examining the relationship between fluoride exposure and children's IQ. The findings revealed an inverse association, indicating that elevated fluoride levels in urine and drinking water corresponded with lower IQ scores, demonstrating a significant dose-response relationship. Despite some limitations, including potential biases within the studies and a deficiency of data from the United States, these results underscore the necessity for further investigation into the effects of fluoride on cognitive development. Future research should prioritize prospective cohort studies that employ rigorous exposure assessments ([Source 1](#); [Source 2](#)).

## Choose Wisely: The Hidden Risks in Your Smartwatch Wristband

**Contributor: Harjinder Singh**

Dec' 2024: A recent study published in the journal Environmental Science & Technology Letters has identified elevated levels of perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA), a type of persistent environmental contaminant, in high-end smartwatch wristbands constructed from fluorinated synthetic rubber. These wristbands may pose health risks due to prolonged skin contact. The researchers recommend that consumers opt for more affordable silicone wristbands and avoid those incorporating fluoroelastomers to mitigate exposure to these hazardous substances ([Source 1](#); [Source 2](#)).

## Smart Supplementing: NAC Dosage Guidelines

**Contributor: Hansprabha Mudgal**

Dec' 2024: N-acetylcysteine (NAC), a precursor to L-cysteine, is frequently incorporated into dietary supplements, while L-cysteine is also present in small quantities within the diet. The National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM) recommends that adults do not exceed daily supplementation of 1200 mg of NAC or 900 mg of L-cysteine/L-cystine to mitigate the risk of gastrointestinal disturbances. For children over the age of two years, a dosage equivalent to 13 mg of L-cysteine/L-cystine per kilogram of body weight per day is deemed safe; however, its use in younger children is contraindicated. Furthermore, the concurrent use of NAC supplements with expectorant medications is discouraged to ensure safety ([Source](#)).

## Cummins Made a New Turbocharger for Hydrogen Engines

**Contributor: Nitesh Kumar**

Jan' 2025: Cummins has developed a special turbocharger, the CCS H2 ICE, designed for hydrogen engines. These engines, which produce water as a by-product, comply with Euro VII regulations for zero emissions. Currently, turbocharged hydrogen engines are used in commercial vehicles, but infrastructure challenges, such as transportation and storage, remain. Cummins has not specified when the new turbo will be available ([Source](#)).

## GM Wants To Beam Holographic Images Directly to Your Eyeballs

**Contributor: Nitesh Kumar**

Dec' 2024: General Motors has patented an Autostereoscopic Campfire Display for vehicles, which can project holograms, like a campfire, directly to passengers' eyes using a complex projection system. This system involves a passenger monitoring system, spatial light modulator, picture generator unit, and beam steering device to track eye locations and project 3D images. The patent describes various projection methods and scenarios, but the campfire connection remains unclear. This entertainment feature is intended for advanced Level 4 and Level 5 autonomous vehicles and may not be available soon ([Source](#)).

## RealMotion Enhances Self-driving Cars with Smarter Navigation and Safety

**Contributor: Nitesh Kumar**

Jan' 2024: Self-driving cars are set to debut on British roads as early as next year, promising convenience and enhanced safety. Researchers from the University of Surrey and Fudan University have developed RealMotion, a motion forecasting framework that integrates real-time and historical data for more accurate decision-making. RealMotion enhances prediction accuracy and processing speed, addressing challenges in autonomous navigation and paving the way for safer, smarter self-driving vehicles ([Source](#)).

## Single-crystal Electrode Breakthrough Boosts EV Battery Life

**Contributor: Nitesh Kumar**

Jan' 2024: Dalhousie University researchers, in collaboration with the Canadian Light Source, have developed single-crystal electrodes, significantly enhancing battery durability. These batteries last over 20,000 cycles, equating to 8 million kilometers, far surpassing traditional batteries. This innovation reduces ownership costs, boosts resale value, promotes sustainability, and builds consumer confidence, crucial for widespread EV adoption. Challenges remain in scaling production and cost-competitiveness ([Source](#)).





## Why 2024 was Pivotal for SEPs in Europe and What to Expect from 2025

**Contributor:** Christy T George

Jan' 25: Europe saw significant SEP, with patentees asserting patents related to mobile communication standards and expanding into new fields like IoT. The Unified Patent Court (UPC) issued its first SEP decision, notably in Philips v. Belkin, Panasonic v. Oppo, and Huawei v. Netgear, establishing its approach to SEP and FRAND matters. The European Commission continued to influence SEP licensing and FRAND policies, with a draft regulation pending. These developments set the stage for further changes in 2025, with potential impacts from the UPC Court of Appeal and new EU regulations ([Source](#)).

## Panasonic, SPT, and Xiaomi Executed Patent License Agreement for Cellular Communication Standards

**Contributor:** Chandandeep Kaur

Jan' 25: Panasonic Holdings Corporation, Sun Patent Trust (SPT), and Xiaomi have executed a licensing agreement on cellular standard essential patents, resolving all global intellectual property disputes. Andrew Y. Yen, Chief IP Counsel of Panasonic, highlighted collaborative effort and reaffirmation of Panasonic's contributions to standardized technologies. Ran Xu, General Manager of Corporate Business Development and IP Strategy of Xiaomi, expressed satisfaction with the agreement, emphasizing Xiaomi's commitment to innovation and consumer welfare. Joseph Casino, Managing Trustee of SPT, noted significance of securing first licensee in China. The agreement fosters a complementary business partnership between Panasonic and Xiaomi, with plans to explore further IP collaboration opportunities ([Source](#)).

## United States: SEPs and FRAND – Litigation, Policy and Latest Developments

**Contributor:** Chandandeep Kaur

Dec' 24: The Federal Circuit recently clarified availability of anti-suit injunctions in US, impacting SEP and FRAND-related litigation. In Ericsson v. Lenovo, the Federal Circuit vacated a district court's denial of Lenovo's anti-suit injunction request, emphasizing that possibility of resolving foreign actions through domestic suits meets threshold requirement. The decision highlights importance of good faith negotiations under ETSI FRAND commitments. The upcoming administration may further influence SEP litigation practices, with potential policy changes favoring patent holders and increasing complexity of 5G and emerging technology-related disputes ([Source](#)).

## Sharp and Samsung Sign Cross License Agreement Covering Patents Essential to 5G Standards

**Contributor:** Chandandeep Kaur

Jan' 25: Sharp Corporation has renewed its patent license agreement with Samsung Electronics for wireless communication technologies, including 5G SEPs, with terms kept confidential. Sharp licenses SEPs to leading companies in telecommunications and automotive industries globally, ensuring fair, reasonable, and non-discriminatory conditions. As a leading cell phone vendor in Japan, Sharp has been innovating mobile handsets and contributing to mobile communication systems' core technologies for over 20 years, covering 3G, 4G, and 5G. Their SEP portfolio includes over 7,500 granted patents. Sharp is committed to continuous innovation in wireless communication technologies and is listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TYO 6753) ([Source](#)).



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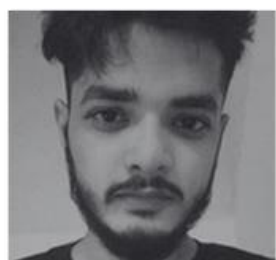
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