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01. EPO and INPI Brazil Deepen Patent Cooperation

EPO AND INPI BRAZIL STRENGTHEN PATENT COLLABORATION

The European Patent Office (EPO) and Brazil's National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI) have recently reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cooperation in the field of patents. This renewed collaboration is designed to bolster innovation and economic growth, while also fostering increased bilateral trade and investment between Europe and Brazil

EPO President António Campinos and INPI President Júlio César Moreira formalised the agreement through an exchange of letters, marking the continuation of their strategic partnership first established in 2019... [Read more](#)

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02. European Patent Office – Updated PCT-EPO Guidelines

EPO UPDATES PCT GUIDELINES EFFECTIVE APRIL 2025

The European Patent Office (EPO) has announced that the Guidelines for Search and Examination at the EPO as PCT Authority (PCT-EPO Guidelines) have been amended with effect from 1 April 2025. These Guidelines relate to the practice and procedure to be followed in the various aspects of the handling of international applications before the EPO as ISA and IPEA. The major changes to the PCT-EPO Guidelines relate to the MyEPO Portfolio service, electronic notification and the decommissioning of fax and web-form filing. In addition, there is clarification of time-limit calculations and electronic fee-payment methods. Also, relevant content from the Euro-PCT Guide has been incorporated into the PCT-EPO Guidelines. For further information, please refer to: <https://www.epo.org/en/legal/official-journal/2025/01/a5.html> The updated PCT-EPO Guidelines have been published as a complete April 2025 edition that supersedes the March 2024 edition, available in English, French and German at: <https://www.epo.org/en/legal/guidelines-pct> [Read more](#)

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03. USPTO modernization efforts successfully expedite patent issuance

USPTO SPEEDS UP PATENT GRANTS THROUGH MODERNIZATION

Effective May 13, 2025, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) will be accelerating the Issue Dates for patents. Previously, the time between Issue Notification and Issue Date averaged around three weeks. The USPTO is reducing that time to approximately two weeks, allowing patent holders to bring their investments to the market earlier. Publishing electronic grants (eGrants) via our online platform, Patent Center, and eliminating redundancies in the process has reduced the time between grant notification and the issuance date. Furthermore, by shortening the wait time between the Issue Notification and the Issue Date, patent applicants may avoid the need to file... [Read more](#)

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04. Next steps taken in historic Treaty to protect Indigenous Knowledge

AUSTRALIA ADVANCES TREATY TO SAFEGUARD INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE

Australia signs a historic IP Treaty to help protect Indigenous Peoples' Traditional Knowledge. This Treaty will help empower Indigenous communities and individuals to leverage the economic potential of their knowledge. The new Treaty on Intellectual Property, Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge establishes a framework that, once implemented, will require patent applicants to disclose the source of genetic resources, like plants and animals, as well as any associated traditional knowledge used in their patents. This will help increase transparency in the patent system and promote the fair use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's traditional knowledge... [Read more](#)

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05. Outline of Patent Applications for AI-related Inventions in China

CHINA ISSUES AI PATENT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

On December 31, 2024, the National Intellectual Property Administration of China (CNIPA) released the "Guidelines for Patent Applications for AI-related Inventions (Trial)" (hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines"), which aims to provide a comprehensive and in-depth interpretation of the patent examination policy in the field of AI under the framework of China's current patent legal system, addressing the hot legal issues commonly concerned by innovation entities. Below is an introduction to the main content of the Guidelines

I. Common Types of AI-Related Patent Applications

Four types are classified based on the different "roles" played by AI in invention-creations... [Read more](#)

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06. Innovation and Patents in South Africa's Renewable Sector

SOUTH AFRICA BOOSTS RENEWABLES WITH INNOVATION AND IP

South Africa is embracing innovation in its shift toward renewable energy. This article explores how patents, government initiatives, and global IP support are driving sustainable growth in the country's evolving energy landscape. The global transition to renewable energy sources is largely dependent on state-of-the-art technology and a shared international commitment to sustainability. Intellectual property (IP) rights become increasingly important— both in fostering the creation of innovations and ensuring their effective implementation. Many countries are brimming with ideas to reduce our environmental impact, and South Africa is no... [Read more](#)

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07. Bahrain Adopts the 12th Edition of the NICE Classification

BAHRAIN ENHANCES TRADEMARK CLASSIFICATION WITH NICE 12 ADOPTION

MANAMA – The Kingdom of Bahrain has officially adopted the 12th edition of the International Classification of Goods and Services (NICE Classification), on April 9, 2025, a significant step forward in aligning its intellectual property framework with international standards. This update will enhance trademark registration processes and support businesses in protecting their brands more effectively.

The NICE Classification, established by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), is an international system used to classify goods and services for the registration of marks. By adopting the latest edition, Bahrain ensures that its trademark system remains current with global practices, facilitating smoother trade and stronger brand protection for companies... [Read more](#)

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08. Intellectual property as a harmony of rights was discussed at the AUTHOR-2025 conference

AUTHOR-2025 CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS IP HARMONY THEME

The fifth international conference "AUTHOR-2025", dedicated to World IP Day and the World Book and Copyright Day, is held this year under the slogan "Harmony and Beats of IP". EAPO President Grigory Ivliev compared musical harmony with the complex system of objective and subjective IP law, where different elements consider the interests of society, authors, and business community. He called for a rhythmic and dynamic development of legal regulation to more effectively protect IP rights and stimulate creativity.

"Just as the simultaneous combination of sounds in chords creates harmony in music, the Eurasian patent system, in conjunction with national and international patent systems, creates... [Read more](#)

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09. Hague System – The European Union modifies its individual designation fees

EU REVISES HAGUE SYSTEM DESIGNATION FEES

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The European Commission has announced modifications to the individual designation fees for the European Union under the Hague System. These changes will take effect on May 19, 2025. When designating the European Union in an international application, the individual designation fees will be adjusted as follows: International application: 59 Swiss francs per design (unchanged). Renewal: 59 Swiss francs per design (previously 30 Swiss francs)... [Read more](#)

10. TIPO Updates Taiwan-Japan and Taiwan-Korea Concordance Tables for Nice Classification (12th Edition – Version 2025)

TIPO ENHANCES TRADEMARK FILING TOOLS WITH NICE 2025 UPDATE

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To align with the latest updates to the Nice Classification (12th Edition – Version 2025) issued by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), TIPO has released updated versions of its Taiwan-Japan and Taiwan-Korea Concordance Tables for Similar Group Codes of Goods and Services. These concordance tables serve as practical references for applicants in Taiwan, Japan, and Korea who plan to file trademark applications with TIPO, the Japan Patent Office (JPO), or the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO). By using the updated group code comparisons, applicants can more efficiently and accurately identify the designated goods or services, and conduct prior similarity searches to avoid conflicts with existing trademarks... [Read more](#)

11. USPTO to suspend expedited examination of design applications

USPTO SUSPENDS EXPEDITED DESIGN PATENT EXAMINATION AMID FRAUD

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As part of our efforts to combat fraud and to reduce pendency and inventory of unexamined design applications, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is suspending expedited examination of design applications effective April 17, 2025.

Requests for expedited examination of design applications have surged by 560% in recent years, caused in large part by fraudulent applications.

The suspension will also support the USPTO's efforts to address the issue of erroneous micro entity certifications, as well as the USPTO's broader efforts to mitigate and protect against threats to the intellectual property system.

Any request for expedited examination of a design application, including renewed requests, filed on or after the effective date will not be granted. The USPTO will refund the fee associated with any request filed on or after the effective date... [Read more](#)