

Patent News of Japan

November, 2016

1. JPO leads the world in IoT related patent to boost R&D.

JPO will introduce ahead of the world on Nov. 14th new classification for Internet of Things (IoT): connecting every devices with network so that users can collect and analyze related patents in a cross-sectoral manner. It is aimed to shorten cost and time when applicants search patented technology and to promote domestic R&D.

In this regard, however, IoT technology straddles multiple areas of industry. For example, if the system connecting multiple robots on the web to collect information for self-learning the best performance and motion rendition would be invented, the patent may not be granted in case the similar system would be used in the area other than robot. It takes long time to search the invention with existing classifications because users have to search related technologies one by one. Therefore JPO will assign cross-sectoral classification “ZIT” in order to search all the IoT related documents at once.

For more information, see news release from Ministry Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) at http://www.meti.go.jp/english/press/2016/1114_01.html

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2. Idemitsu and Merck mutual exploitation of each OLED patent.

Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd. (Idemitsu) announced on Nov. 7th that they concluded a collaboration agreement with a major German chemical company Merck & Co., Inc. (Merck) in organic electroluminescence (Organic EL) field that will be expected to be popular for television and smart phone. Each party will be able to use a part of the other party's patents. Merck owns a lot of patents of organic EL as well as current mainstream liquid crystal. Idemitsu possesses unique technology of blue fluorescent materials and accelerate developing next generation materials.

Organic EL is a technology to flash materials of 3-colors of red, green and blue by applying a voltage. Both parties will cross-provide the technology so called “low molecules” that are formed by vaporizing organic materials at high temperature. Compared to liquid crystals, organic EL require fewer materials for displaying images, which leads to thinner and lighter

panels. It is also said that image displaying performance is high, but technical problems such as a shorter lifetime of blue than red and green still remain.

Idemitsu, by collaborating with Merck will accelerate overcoming these challenges in a hurry. Regarding organic EL, LG Electronics in Korea has already started selling large TV sets, and mass-production of panels in their own group. Furthermore, Apple Inc. in the US is expected to adopt organic EL at the next-generation iPhone planned to be released in 2018, panel and material manufacturers are accelerating development.

For more details, see the press release from Idemitsu:
http://www.idemitsu.com/company/news/2016/161107_2.pdf



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3. JPDS exhibited booths for Patent Fair & Conference 2016

From November 9th to 11th, Patent Information Fair & Conference 2016 was held at Tokyo Science Museum. It had approximately 20,000 visitors in three days and was very vigorous. Nearly 100 database companies, search companies, translation companies as well as patent/law firms exhibited and introduced products and service. At the conference, prominent speakers were invited from Japan Patent Office, World Intellectual Property Organization, the European Patent Office etc, and made speeches about recent efforts at each offices. One of the major features this year was the technology using artificial intelligence (AI) and that attracted many attendees. Although it is still a developing technology, it drew attention as a next-generation service that could possibly replace the existing service.

As previous years, JPDS exhibited booths and we had many visitors in three days. We introduced new functions of patent retrieval software "JP-NET"/ "NewCSS", and its linkage between patent management system "PATAS", analysis tool "Pat Mining JP" for companies, while for patent/law firms, we introduced another patent management system "PATDATA", search services, IP seminar and newly launched consulting services.

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