

Patent News of Japan

March, 2017

1. IoT patent information shared worldwide.

It is learned that Japan Patent Office will develop a database to share the patent information related to IoT (Internet of Things) with other countries. JPO has already started discussion with other patent offices such as SIPO(China) and KIPO(Korea). It is aimed to encourage Japanese companies enter into international market by reducing the time and cost to search patented foreign technologies.

So far, there was a database covering worldwide patent information but not able to search IoT technology alone and companies took huge amount of time for searching. Following the spread of the global market of IoT industry, JPO made a proposal of establishing new classification to WIPO.

Prior to the proposal, last November, JPO has introduced IoT related classification (see Patent News of Japan, November 2016 issue). With new classification, it is available to search all the IoT technology in a cross-sectoral manner. Coordinating with other patent offices, JPO aims to start the operation from January 2019.

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2. Color per se marks are granted for the first time.

JPO announced to grant the color per se mark for the first time in Japan. New types of trademarks such as sound, motion and hologram etc. have been introduced in Japan since April 2015 in order to support the diversification of corporate brand strategy. So far, JPO has received about 1,500 new types of trademarks applications and more than 200 applications have already been granted for trademarks other than color per se mark.

JPO made a decision to grant 2 color per se mark applications for the first time (dated February 28th). New types of trademarks are expected to play a big role in corporate brand strategy as a means of delivering various brands other than language. It is stated that JPO will continuously make an appropriate examination for new types of trademarks and support corporate brand strategy.

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3. “Frank Miura” won the case “not considered to be confused”.

At the suit where the logo of “Frank Miura” associated with Swiss premium watch maker “Franck Muller” wrangled whether the logo infringes the trademark right, Miura won the case. The first small court of the Supreme Court made a decision to dismiss Muller’s appeal.

According to the final judgment, in 2012 the company in Osaka city registered a trademark "Frank Miura", and sold watches similar with Frank Muller at a price of JPY 4,000 to 6,000. In September 2015, JPO made a trial decision of invalidation for the trademark as “sense of the whole word is similar and confusing”, and Miura appealed to revoke the decision.

At the lawsuit, Muller insisted that Miura takes free ride on reputation of top brand and ruins the image, however, in last April, the intellectual property high court revoked the decision as “it cannot be considered to confuse premier watches at more than 1 million JPY with low price watches”.

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JPDS at East meets West forum in Vienna on April 6th and 7th

JPDS will participate in East meets West (EMW) forum held in Vienna from April 6th to 7th. EMW is the annual event held by the EPO. Patent information experts from both of industry and patent offices of all over the world will gather and discuss utilization of patent information. The main topic this year is “new technologies in the patent (information) field”. The speeches related to AI, neural translation and semantic search etc. will be made.

JPDS will also exhibit a poster introducing new features of JP-NET Web, comprehensive database covering worldwide patent information. With new English interface, users are able to search, download and analyze patents with fixed price.



For detailed information of EMW please see EPO website [here](#)

If you have any questions and enquiries, please contact international-dept@jpds.co.jp

