

Patent News of Japan

December, 2017

1. JPO considering to expand “grace period”.

Japan Patent Office (JPO) intends to expand the “grace period”, exceptional period for lack of novelty, from current 6 months to 12 months. They aim to revise the patent law at the next ordinary Diet session. This is because the invention is disclosed unintentionally and the risk of losing novelty is increasing as the number of collaborative research due to open innovation and industry-university collaboration has increased with the progress of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. By extending the grace period, JPO will appropriately bail out university researchers, individual inventors, small and medium enterprises who are not familiar with IP system, and encourage diverse inventions.

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2. Japanese industrial design data on DesignView.

JPO will cooperate with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) on "industrial design". From December design data will be released on “DesignView” which is one of the largest design database operated by EUIPO.

It becomes possible to check worldwide design information collectively. According to DesignView web site, this has DesignView contain data from 62 participating offices. With the addition of more than 525,000 design records from Japan, DesignView provides information and access to more than 13.2 million design records.

For more information, please visit the news article of DesignView at

<https://www.tmdn.org/tmdsview-web/welcome#>

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3. DOCOMO reached a patent license agreement with Samsung.

NTT DOCOMO Inc. (DOCOMO) announced on November 27th that DOCOMO has reached an agreement to grant Samsung Electronics Co. (Samsung) a license of standard-essential patents.

In order to realize a more advanced and comfortable mobile communication environment, DOCOMO actively engages in R & D on networks and services such as W-CDMA, LTE, LTE-Advanced and 5G, and promotes related patent applications. As a result, DOCOMO owns more than 6,000 essential patents of related technologies.

This agreement includes cooperation in business and standardization with Samsung and payment of licensing fees to DOCOMO. Now more than 30 companies concluded license agreement with DOCOMO.

For more information, please visit DOCOMO press release at

https://www.nttdocomo.co.jp/english/info/media_center/pr/2017/1127_00.html

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We would like to express our gratitude for your sustained support in 2017 and wish a continued business relationship with us in the upcoming 2018. Wishing you, your family and your colleagues a very happy holiday season and a prosperous new year!!

Japan Patent Data Service Co. Ltd.

