



It somehow seemed right that July began in a blaze of sunshine. Temperatures outside the office seemed to reflect the heat and pace of activity inside. Towards the end of June we saw some good evidence that activity was delivering results. Our Annual Report and Accounts showed that even with rising demand for IPO services we drove forward a host of actions which will keep the UK in position as the best IP regime in the world. This edition of IP Connect will give many a feel for why we're in that position: strong and rising customer satisfaction, a proactive approach to developing international

links, real energy behind enforcement and action to stimulate a better market for IP insurance. As ever, we've tried to pick up themes that we think are of most interest to IP Connect readers. If there are things we haven't covered, but that you'd like to hear more about click [here](#) to let me know.

Rosa Wilkinson, Director of Innovation and Strategic Communications

IPO Annual report published

On Thursday 25 June, the IPO laid our 2014/15 [Annual Report and Accounts](#) in Parliament.

This is an important event for the IPO as it one of the ways we can tell stakeholders, not only what we achieved, but also how well we managed our money.

In support of this our accounts have been audited by the National Audit Office (NAO) and for yet another year no material issues were identified. This is a fantastic achievement given the increasingly complex working arrangements we operate within.

Our customer satisfaction at 5 year high

Improving the experience [customers](#) have when dealing with IPO is a key priority.

IPO Minister, Baroness Neville-Rolfe, has made it a top level target to "ensure that overall average customer satisfaction is at least 80%".

A random sample of customers are interviewed every year to measure and track satisfaction levels.



The results for 2014/15 show how overall satisfaction is at a five year high of 85.4%, a rise of 4.4% on the previous year.

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Customers have commented how specific aspects of IPO service have improved, for example online renewals, and praised the helpfulness and approachability of staff. Customers have also expressed the need for continuous improvement of e-services. The IPO are taking this feedback forward, for example, by providing an online application service for Designs customers by the end of March 2016. For further information, contact the IPO Customer Insight team customerinsight@ipo.gov.uk

IPO Facts and figures

For the last few months we have been poring over and collating the IPO's data and are pleased to announce that the result of that work is [Facts and figures](#)! This labour of love provides an overview of our activities throughout the year and the transactions we have with our design, patent & trade mark customers.

We do this to be open and transparent, but also to allow others to explore the numbers and do their own analysis. The IPO's informatics team have produced a handy guide to help with any such analysis, here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/patent-trade-mark-design-and-hearing-data-2013-and-2014>

Read our blog about Facts and figures [here](#).

International

Patent Harmonisation

Promising future for patent harmonisation: sub-group publishes key paper

In June, the Group B+ [Sub-Group on Patent Harmonisation](#) published a [paper](#) setting out a high level agreement on patent harmonisation. The sub-group was established last year to assist the Chair of Group B+ - UK IPO Chief Executive John Alty - to make progress on this important topic, and includes representatives from major patenting jurisdictions in Asia, Europe and North America.

The paper is a big step forward for the process of patent harmonisation which could offer big benefits to users of the patent system, offering global improvements and making it easier for businesses to operate internationally. It sets out objectives and principles which sub-group members agree should underpin patent harmonisation in a number of key areas. Specifically the paper sets out views on the characteristics which the grace period should have if introduced - a first for a document of its kind. Similarly it sets out a general agreement on how the publication regime should work, as well as principles relating to treatment of conflicting applications, prior user rights and prior art. The aim of the paper is to galvanise thinking and signpost ways forward in each of these complex areas.

The Chair's [note](#) which accompanies the paper sets out some specific issues for comment, inviting responses from any interested parties by email to the Group B+ Secretariat (saito-kenji2@ipo.go.jp) by 24 July 2015.

IP Minister's EU visits

In June, Baroness Neville-Rolfe travelled to Poland and Spain to meet with counterparts on a broad growth and competitiveness agenda, with a focus on the Digital Single Market. The Minister also welcomed Vicky Ford MEP, chair of the European Parliament's Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection, to London to talk business.

IPO in India

Andrew Davidson, Head of Global Cooperation and Development with the UK Intellectual Property Office was in India from 1-5 June. He attended conferences organised by the European Patent Office in Kolkata and New Delhi. In Chennai, Andrew met with the Additional Chief Secretary of the Industries department to discuss follow up actions from the IPO funded report on [mapping the intellectual property landscape of Tamil Nadu](#). In New Delhi, Andrew had a meeting with Mr Rajiv Aggarwal, Controller General of Patents, Designs & Trade Marks to discuss potential collaboration opportunities with the UK, especially given the current momentum of the Make in India campaign.

He also had a useful discussion on the ongoing challenges with collective licensing management with Ms. Aparna Sharma, Registrar of Copyright Office. Through his meetings with several UK companies in India, Andrew promoted the recently launched intellectual property [fact sheets](#).



Best practices on combating counterfeiting for the Olympic Games -Brasilia

The UK-IPO and the FCO recently hosted a 3 day workshop in Brasilia looking at sharing best practices to combat counterfeiting around major sporting events.

This event formed part of a strategy that looks to highlight the benefits to the UK of continued co-operation with Brazil on the Olympic and Paralympic Games; delivers an economic legacy for the UK from Brazil's hosting of the 2016 Games; strengths UK relations with Brazil; and supports wider UK policy priorities with Brazil.



A further benefit of this is that it looks to change Brazilian perceptions of the UK and promote the UK as a business and tourism destination. The Rio Olympic Games (2016) is an opportunity to engage with the Brazilian authorities and in doing so, it supports the overarching cross-HMG objective to strengthen ties with Brazil using opportunities provided by this sport event.

By sharing the UK experience of London 2012's protection of the Olympic brand we look to encourage Brazil to champion a constructive approach to intellectual property rights. This will have a knock on effect after the games of the benefits that a strong IP regime could bring.

Enforcement update:

Biggest enforcement operation ever seen in England, Wales and Northern Ireland launched to combat piracy on social media

<http://www.tradingstandardscrime.org.uk/crack-down-on-counterfeiting-and-piracy-on-social-media/>

Over the last few weeks enforcement officers have raided 12 separate locations and are still involved in 22 on-going investigations as part of a crackdown on counterfeiting and piracy on Facebook across England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

It sees the National Trading Standards eCrime Team working alongside the [National Markets Group](#) on Operation Jasper, one of the biggest enforcement operations of its kind, targeted at criminals who exploit social media channels to sell dangerous and counterfeit goods and commit copyright theft.

In a few short weeks the crackdown has seen officers raid 12 premises, take down 4,300 Facebook listings, 20 Facebook profiles, issue over 200 warning letters and deliver 24 cease and desist letters at the homes of suspected Facebook sellers. Operation Jasper brings together officers from 63 local authority trading standards' teams, police officers, industry bodies and government agencies, and builds on the success of 2014's Operation Watch.

During the operation officers seized a range of dangerous or toxic products, ranging from Android TV boxes with unsafe mains chargers to several hundreds of counterfeit Cinderella dolls containing high levels of toxic phthalates to name a few examples. The Android boxes allowed the illegal streaming of movies and sports channels.

A raid on a residential premise in the West Midlands led to the discovery and seizure of a small manufacturing plant turning out counterfeit T-shirts. Two more residential premises in Worcester contained a host of counterfeit packaged computers, tablets, mobile phones, T-shirts, tracksuits and trainers and these premises have been linked to part of Manchester's Cheetham Hill area, dubbed "Counterfeit Street" in the press.

The growing use of social media has led criminals to exploit platforms to sell illicit products – according to the latest IP Crime Report 2013/14, social media has overtaken auction sites as criminals' 'channel-of-choice' for counterfeit and piracy activity, whilst the latest statistics from Ofcom show that two-thirds (66%) of online adults now have a social networking profile, and almost all of those with a profile (96%), have one on Facebook.

Nick Boles, Minister at the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills said:

"Counterfeiting and piracy of trademarked and copyrighted materials harms legitimate businesses, threatens jobs and pose a real danger to consumers. That's why we are taking strong action to stop these criminals through the Government's funding of the National Trading Standards E-Crime Team.

"These criminals rarely act alone and are often linked to serious organised crime groups. We want consumers to be aware of the wider consequences of buying fake products online as well as the risks they pose to their safety."

Lord Toby Harris, Chair of National Trading Standards said: "Operation Jasper has struck an important psychological blow against criminals who believe they can operate with impunity on social media platforms without getting caught. It shows we can track them down, enter their homes, seize their goods and computers and arrest and prosecute them, even if they are operating anonymously online. I commend the National Trading Standards e-Crime team and all other parties involved in this operation.

Graham Mogg, Intelligence Co-ordinator for the Anti-counterfeiting Group (ACG) and Chair of the National Markets Group said: "As criminals have exploited new opportunities across social media platforms, enforcement agencies have had to work smarter to catch them. To that end the National Markets Group (NMG) worked closely with the National Trading Standards eCrime Team to lead and co-ordinate enforcement action bringing together NMG members including the police.

"We learned from Operation Watch that effective partnership work across both the private and public sectors would be essential for tackling IP crime on social media."



PIPCU arrest shopworker as part of satellite TV investigation

On June 2, Officers from the Police Intellectual Property Crime Unit (PIPCU) arrested a man on suspicion of selling card sharing satellite receivers that provide viewers access to premium pay channels without a subscription.

The 26 year old man was arrested by detectives from the City of London Police unit in Southall, London at his workplace where it is believed he is selling the devices for close to £200 each.

Card sharing is a method that allows protected encrypted television broadcasts to be viewed without a valid subscription to the broadcast provider.

The suspect was taken to a local police station where he was questioned and later received a caution.

Head of PIPCU, Detective Chief Inspector Danny Medlycott said, "Our specialist team is the only police unit in the world dedicated to combating intellectual property crime. Working closely with our partners and other law enforcement agencies, we are committed to tackling criminals who exploit other's intellectual property for their own greed and financial gain."

In the last 18 months, PIPCU has helped to protect consumers from being ripped off online by suspending more than 5,500 websites selling fake luxury branded goods as well as seizing more than £3.5million worth of fake goods.

Since July last year the team has also diverted more than 11millions views from illegal music and film sites to an official police page, warning the user that the website they are trying to access is currently under investigation by PIPCU. The page also includes signposts to safe and reliable websites that provide legitimate access to music, films and books, as well as a link to the PIPCU website so users can find out more information about the unit.

PIPCU is a specialist national police unit dedicated to protecting UK industries that produce legitimate, high quality, physical goods and online digital content from intellectual property crime. The operationally independent unit launched in September 2013 with funding from the Intellectual Property Office (IPO). The unit is based within the Economic Crime Directorate of the City of London Police, the National Policing Lead for Fraud.

UPC and UP update

UPC Consultation on the Rules on Court Fees

The Preparatory Committee's consultation on court fees remains open until the 31st of July. It can be found on the Preparatory Committee's website (<http://www.unified-patent-court.org/consultations>).

We, along with CIPA and the IP Federation, are hosting an awareness raising event in Scotland on Friday 6th July at 4:30pm at the Burness Paull offices in Edinburgh:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/scotland-event-for-the-upc-court-fees-consultation>

There's still time to join and if you would like to attend please follow this link and RSVP:

[I would like to go to the event in Edinburgh:](#)

Preparatory Committee

The next meeting of the Preparatory Committee is on Friday 10 July. The agenda has been issued and we can confirm that there will be a proposal on the provisional application and its timetable that is on the agenda for adoption. If this is successful we will give you more details of the timetable in our next update. Separately the agenda will cover the protocol on privileges and immunities, specifically to discuss the legal text. There will also be a report from the HR & Training co-ordinator on the progress to date on the work around judicial salaries and terms and conditions.

Governance

The Project Board met on Wednesday 1 July. Ahead of the Preparatory Committee the Board discussed judicial remuneration and received a status report on the IT workstream, more details of this work can be found below.

IT

The ITT evaluations are complete and the successful suppliers (subject to contract signing) were Net Service for the CMS, Miggle for the Website and T-Systems for the Hosting. The team met with Net Service and T-Systems this week to discuss the plans for the CMS over coming months and will meet with Miggle and T-Systems last week to do the same on the website.

A number of user workshops over the autumn and across Europe have been confirmed. The workshops are aimed at refining requirements and testing the Case Management System.

To sign up for the event in London and for further details on the other events follow this [link](#).

Facilities

The Preparatory Committee will be considering and agreeing those elements of facilities operational functions that will be the responsibility of individual hosting Contracting Member States and the UPC itself - defining what the UPC will be responsible for and what Member States will be expected to provide.

Legal

The team recently attended a meeting in Berlin on the Rules of Procedure. The meeting was successful with progress made moving towards agreeing the Rules this year.

It is anticipated that the EPLC (European Patent Litigation Certificate) will be adopted via written procedure soon and that something will be published on the UPC website later this month. We hope to include more detail in the next update.

HR & Training

The HR and Training Working Group met on 22 June. Discussion focussed on regulations governing the condition of service of judges, the registrar and the deputy-registrar of the unified patent court; good progress was made towards finalising these. The group also confirmed that the ISRP are to report on pensions and social security provisions by the court. A Sub-group tasked with identifying and defining roles will be required to be in place to enable the court to be established. The use of an online tool to handle judicial applications was agreed.

Finance

We were pleased to welcome participants both in person and via the Webinar at our joint UPC Fees consultation event with CIPA and IPFed and kindly hosted by Allen and Overy on 23 June. Guest speakers gave short introductions on key topics and then answered an array of questions.

The questions covered issues such as compromises for SME support, the appropriateness of certain fees, the impact of the fee structure on non practicing entities and what costs are covered under the recoverable costs ceiling. A video of the event remains on line and can be accessed [here](#).

We found the event extremely helpful in understanding the issues most likely to come out in written responses and look forward to reading them in due course.

Unitary Patent

The Select Committee held its 15th meeting in Munich on 23 and 24 June 2015. The Committee took a preliminary decision in support of a True Top 4 fee level for the Unitary Patent. This fee level corresponds to the equivalent of the renewal fees which have to be paid for the four countries out of the twenty-five EU participating member states in which European patents are currently most often validated. This fee level was considered attractive for business and in particular for SMEs.

The UK supported the preliminary decision on Top 4 following confirmation by the EPO President that it would be fully consistent with the requirement to provide a balanced budget and his commitment to complete a broad review of the financial situation of the Office by 2016.

The proposal includes a fee review clause which will enable the committee to adjust the fee level if assumptions around uptake and cost coverage prove incorrect. Work on the distribution key and other remaining issues will continue in September.

A report of the recent select committee meeting is available [here](#).

Innovation

British scientist named one of Europe's top inventors



British scientist and entrepreneur, Luke Alpey, joined an elite group of innovators having been named one of Europe's top inventors at the illustrious 2015 European Inventor Award for his groundwork made on the control of mosquitos.

Launched by the European Patent Office (EPO) in 2006, the European Inventor Award is one of Europe's most prestigious innovation prizes, honouring individuals and teams of inventors whose pioneering work provide answers to some of the biggest challenges of our times.

Nominated in the highly competitive Research category, Luke narrowly missed out on the top prize but was praised for his ground-breaking research into infectious diseases and mosquitoes.

Intellectual Property Minister, Baroness Neville-Rolfe said: "We are delighted that Luke's hard work was rewarded with this nomination. Now in its tenth year, the European Inventor Award showcases the importance of intellectual property (IP) in supporting innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship.

"As part of the UK's long-term economic plan we will continue to deliver an IP system that supports our innovators, creators and entrepreneurs. This will make sure that Luke, and others like him, maintain the UK's position as one of the best places in Europe to innovate and protect new ideas - and the best place to set up or expand a business."

Fundamental to Luke's work, he successfully developed a patented method to control insect pests that damage crops and spread disease.

By programming an extra gene into mosquito DNA, the resulting mosquito larvae is unable to reach reproductive maturity. The invention has been trialed in countries around the world to control the invasive *Aedes aegypti* mosquito that spreads painful infectious diseases such as dengue fever, yellow fever and chikungunya.

Intellectual property insurance for business: building confidence to innovate

The IPO held an IP Insurance for Business conference at the Association of British Insurers in London on 2 July 2015. The conference brought together key representatives from the IP insurance industry, IP professionals and industry representative organisations.

The focus of the day was to help industry representative organisations understand ways their members may cost-effectively resolve disputes with a focus on IP insurance.

Speakers on the day included The Hon Mr Justice Arnold who explained the effective legal framework improvements the government and judiciary have introduced to resolving IP disputes. The audience also heard from David Bloom an independent IP insurance broker who has helped SME's to find insurance that protects against the cost of enforcing and defending IP rights.

Chaired by Rosa Wilkinson, IPO Director of Innovation, other speakers included: Dids Macdonald, CEO Anti Copying In Design, Andrea Brewster CIPA President, Jeffrey Heasman Secretary and Co-Founder of the International Association of English Law and Insurance, Nigel Swycher founder and CEO of Aistemos, an IP strategy and analytics company and Andrew Hildebrand an independent

The conference aimed to help business representative organisations understand:

- the various types of IP insurance
- the low-cost alternative dispute resolution options that are available including Mediation and Expert Opinions;
- the insurance claims process and
- how the various insurance products may help license rights, protect revenues and even improve access to finance

IPO Blog

Did you know that the IPO has its own blog on GOV.UK?

The [IPO blog](#) was launched in September 2014 and since then we've been regularly posting on all aspects of IP. The blog covers a wide range of IP related subjects, from trade marks to enforcement and copyright.



The blog is updated with new posts a couple of times a week, so there's always something new to read. You can find it at www.ipo.blog.gov.uk. You can also get email notifications of new content by [subscribing](#) to our blog updates, which will bring all our posts directly into your inbox.

We also have our own YouTube site which features films who have used intellectual property to help protect and grow their business. Take a look at how [Carbon Black](#), creators of the innovative and stylish wheelchair used their IP to gain investment.

What is the IP Health Check?

The IP Health Check is one of our free '[IP for Business](#)' online support tools. It consists of 9 individual modules on different areas of IP: Copyright, Trade marks, Designs, Patents, Confidential information, Licensing your IP, Trade marks overseas, Franchising, Enforcement.

The IP Health Check provides you with a tailored confidential report based on your answers to a series of simple questions. The report includes a list of action points to help you protect and exploit your IP rights, guidance on how to put these into practice and links to useful information, websites and other resources.

IP Events

Click [here](#) for a list of forthcoming IP events which may be of interest to you or your clients/members.

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