



Please rest assured that Taiwan IPO and our firm have been maintaining normal operation as the coronavirus pandemic spreads throughout the world.

When faced with the severe global health crisis triggered by the pandemic, please take good care of your health and stay healthy.

TIPLO News

DECEMBER 2021 (E265)

This news mail distributed in Japanese and English from time to time provides updates on the development of law in Taiwan with focus on intellectual property rights law. For more information about the status of intellectual property right protection and practice in Taiwan, please visit our website www.tiplo.com.tw

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01 Micron and UMC announced global settlement of trade secret theft dispute

On November 26, 2021, Micron Technology, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as “Micron”) and United Microelectronics Corporation (hereinafter referred to as “UMC”) announced a settlement agreement between the two companies worldwide, according to which the companies will withdraw their complaints against each other and UMC will pay a one-time payment of an undisclosed amount to Micron and the two companies will engage in business cooperation.

Micron filed a lawsuit against UMC in Taiwan in February 2017, accusing UMC of taking advantage of three UMC employees, who worked at Micron before joined UMC, to assist Fujian Jinhua Integrated Circuit Co., Ltd. (hereinafter referred to as “Fujian Jinhua”) in stealing Micron’s confidential information with respect to Micron’s DRAM process technology and conveying the same to Fujian Jinhua. In December 2017, Micron initiated a civil action against UMC in California, USA. Further in January 2018, UMC and Fujian Jinhua sued Micron in China on the ground that Micron’s subsidiary in China infringed upon UMC’s patent right. Also in November 2018, the U.S. Department of Justice charged UMC and Fujian Jinhua, and the three employees of UMC with crimes relating to trade secret theft and economic espionage. After that, in October 2020, UMC issued a press release to the effect that they reached a settlement agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice with respect to the trade secret theft crime by pleading guilty to a trade secret theft case and agreeing to pay TWD60 million fine and also to cooperate with the U.S. Department of Justice for the three years of probation. (Released 2021.11.26)

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E211115Y1

02 Taiwan and Korea ink MOU on Electronic Exchange of Priority Documents for Design Patent Applications

On November 12, 2021, Taiwan and Korea signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Electronic Exchange of Priority Document (PDX) for Design Patent, subsequent to the Taiwan-Japan collaboration on the Design Patent Priority Document Exchange beginning from 2019. The cooperation between the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office and the Korean Intellectual Property Office will make it more convenient for applicants from both countries to claim priority for design patent applications.

Priority documents are important documents required for cross-border patent applications. In response to the extensive use of the PDX program under the Memorandum of Understanding on the Exchange of Industrial Property Information and the Electronic Exchange of Priority Documents which was signed by and between Taiwan and Korea in 2015 and applies to invention and utility model patent applications, the Taiwan Intellectual Property Office and the Korean Intellectual Property Office decided to include the exchange of priority documents for design patent applications in the PDX program. Once the documents exchange program for design patent applications is implemented, it will save applicants’ time in mailing paper copies, simplify cross-country application procedures, and make the priority documents exchange mechanism more comprehensive and integral.

The Taiwan Intellectual Property Office and the Korean Intellectual Property Office will proceed to system development and testing. The schedule planned by the two offices points out the expected official launch of the PDX program for design patent applications in July 2023 so as to provide more convenient examination services to the applicants of both countries. (Released 2021.11.15)

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E211110Y2

03 Sale of counterfeit glasses bearing MIZUNO mark causes trademark infringement

Mizuno Corporation has never made nor sold glasses under its well-known and popular sports brand, MIZUNO, in Taiwan; however, recently it came to Mizuno Corporation's knowledge that there were glasses and sunglasses that carried Mizuno Corporation's MIZUNO mark being displayed for sale on the market of Taiwan, for which Mizuno Corporation filed a lawsuit in Taiwan. After Mizuno Corporation's initiation of a lawsuit in Taiwan, the First Company of the Criminal Investigation Brigade under the Second Special Police Corps initiated a raid action on a warehouse owned by a Taiwanese supplier in April 2021 and seized 12,000 pieces of counterfeit glasses and relevant products bearing the MIZUNO mark, which involved TWD7 million in value. This case was referred to the relevant prosecutors office for investigation on the charge of Trademark Act violation.

Police investigation shows that the aforesaid supplier, surnamed Lu (hereinafter referred to as "Lu"), has imported counterfeit glasses and other relevant products bearing the MIZUNO mark from China since 2018. By claiming to be the authorized distributor of MIZUNO products in Taiwan, Lu had been wholesaling counterfeit glasses bearing the MIZUNO mark to glasses and eyewear stores at the price of TWD1,000 per pair for resale to consumers at the price of TWD3,000~TWD4,500 per pair. Counterfeit products bearing the MIZUNO mark had been flooding local glasses and eyewear stores and online auction platforms. It is estimated that over ten thousand pieces of counterfeit glasses bearing the MIZUNO mark had been sold and thus involved illegal profits in an amount above TWD10 million. The police has interrogated the said supplier, Lu and referred him to the Taipei District Prosecutors Office on charge of Trademark Act violation. (Released 2021.11.10)

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Taiwan High-Tech Industry News

E211123Y5

01 MediaTek and TSMC team up to launch world's first 7nm 8k resolution digital TV SoC

MediaTek (MediaTek Inc.) and TSMC (Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.) announced on November 22, 2021 their cooperation for launching the world's first 7-nanometer 8k digital TV flagship system-on-chip (SoC), the MediaTek Pentonic 2000, which is able to offer unparalleled performance and power efficiency and provide powerful functions, including powerful AI engines, motion estimation and motion compensation (MEMC), versatile video coding (VVC) decoding, and picture-in-picture (PiP) technology. The MediaTek Pentonic 2000 will power the next-generation flagship 8K TVs that use the MediaTek Pentonic 2000 and are expected to hit the global market in Q2 of 2022.

The MediaTek Pentonic 2000 is the first commercial 8K TV chip that supports

versatile video coding (VVC H.266) and is also the first fully-integrated SoC to support 8K at a 120 Hz refresh rate, providing the key function in the streaming era nowadays. (Released 2021.11.23)



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