

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

Topics in this issue

- 01 Taipei Sinfonietta & Philharmonic Orchestra prevails in trademark opposition case**
- 02 Taiwan-EU R&D milestone: MOEA-backed industrial expansion into Europe generating over TWD4.2 billion in output value**



01 Taipei Sinfonietta & Philharmonic Orchestra prevails in trademark opposition case

Taipei Sinfonietta & Philharmonic Orchestra (hereinafter “TSPO”) filed a trademark opposition with TIPO against Taipei Philharmonic Music & Culture Co., Ltd. (author’s unofficial translation; hereinafter “Taipei Philharmonic”), alleging that Taipei Philharmonic’s Chinese-character mark, “TPSO 交響樂團及圖” (namely, “TPSO Symphony Orchestra & Logo”) (hereinafter referred to as the “mark in dispute”) was highly similar to TSPO’s Chinese-character mark, “台北愛樂室內及管弦樂團及圖” (namely, “Taipei Sinfonietta & Philharmonic Orchestra & Logo”) and the mark “TSPO” (hereinafter referred to “TSPO’s marks”) and thus was likely to cause public confusion. Following a review, TIPO ruled that the mark in dispute should be revoked. Taipei Philharmonic filed an administrative appeal against the decision, but the appeal was dismissed. Consequently, Taipei Philharmonic filed the present lawsuit. Recently, the Supreme Administrative Court ruled against Taipei Philharmonic, confirming its defeat in this case.

According to the Supreme Administrative Court’s judgment, the IPC Court did not err in dismissing Taipei Philharmonic’s lawsuit. The first part of Subparagraph 11, Paragraph 1 of Article 30 of the Trademark Act clearly sets forth that “A trademark shall not be registered for being identical with or similar to another person’s well-known trademark or mark, and hence there exists a likelihood of confusion on the relevant public”. Evidence shows that as early as 1992, TSPO’s concert program clearly indicated the “高音譜號設計圖” mark (namely, a treble clef design) and the designation of “台北愛樂室內及管弦樂團” (namely, “Taipei Philharmonic Orchestra”). Also, TSPO’s concert programs used in 1994 and 1998 indicated the mark “台北愛樂室內及管弦樂團及圖” (namely, “Taipei Sinfonietta & Philharmonic Orchestra & Logo”). Moreover, TSPO has been invited to perform on international stages on multiple occasions, has invited world-renowned musicians to Taiwan for cultural exchange and also cooperated with domestic non-profit organizations in performances. In 2004, TSPO’s mark was also selected by TIPO for inclusion in the Cultural and Creative Industries Trademark Directory as one of the well-known trademarks in the field of music and performing arts (which was prior to its formal registration). These facts demonstrate that before the filing date (March 12, 2021) of the mark in dispute, the Chinese-character mark, “台北愛樂室內及管弦樂團及圖” (namely, “Taipei Sinfonietta & Philharmonic Orchestra & Logo”) had already been widely recognized by relevant businesses and consumers as a well-known trademark in connection with music performance and concert services.

Moreover, both the mark in dispute and TSPO’s “台北愛樂室內及管弦樂團及圖” (namely, “Taipei Sinfonietta & Philharmonic Orchestra & Logo”) incorporate a treble clef as a major design, and the English wording, “Taipei Sinfonietta & Philharmonic Orchestra” of the latter is likely to lead to the impression of an acronym formed from its initial letters, namely “TSPO”. In this regard, a comparison between the mark in dispute and TSPO’s marks shows that these marks are similar in appearance, pronunciation, and concept, and the mark in dispute and the “TSPO” mark are highly similar. In addition, TSPO’s marks possess distinctiveness and are well recognized among consumers. Furthermore, the former representative of Taipei Philharmonic had served as the administrative manager of TSPO from 2014 to 2020, and hence, should have been aware of the existence of TSPO’s marks. As such, it is difficult to regard such an application for registering a similar design as having been filed in good faith. Additionally, the designated services of the mark in dispute are closely related to those covered by TSPO’s marks in relation to musical performances and concerts. In fact, there have been instances of actual consumer confusion. In this regard, there is a likelihood that the relevant public would mistakenly believe that the services provided under the respective trademarks originate from the same source or from related sources, thereby giving rise to confusion. (Released 2026.01.15)

/CCS

E260107Y5

E260107Z5

02 Taiwan-EU R&D milestone: MOEA-backed industrial expansion into Europe generating over TWD4.2 billion in output value

The Department of Industrial Technology under the Ministry of Economic Affairs (DoIT) held a press conference on January 7, 2026, titled “MOEA A+ Program—Advancing Cross-Border R&D Collaboration with Europe” to present the substantial achievements of Taiwan-Europe R&D collaboration in technology in recent years. Taiwan-Europe collaboration has been moving into a phase, in which their collaboration is expanded and deepened. To date, joint R&D calls for projects have been launched with 14 European countries and official MOUs have been executed with five countries. In total, there have been 86 international collaborative projects successfully approved and funded by both governments, with government subsidies reaching TWD1.4 billion. These initiatives have successfully enabled Taiwanese companies to generate TWD4.2 billion in output. Also in this conference, three successful cooperation cases between Taiwan and Germany, the U.K., and Spain were also presented, which demonstrates that Taiwan’s industry has moved beyond “Made in Taiwan” toward integration into the “European supply chain”.

In response to post-pandemic recovery and shifts in global supply chains, Taiwanese investment in Europe has grown rapidly. In 2024, the European Union became Taiwan’s 4th largest trading partner, with bilateral trade exceeding USD68.6 billion, which signals the continued deepening of the economic, trade, and technological cooperation between the two sides. Looking ahead, Taiwan will adopt a strategic approach of “deepening ties in Western Europe, linking with Eastern Europe, and engagement with Northern Europe”. Through forward-looking technology alliances and bilateral or multilateral R&D mechanisms, Taiwan will continue assisting the industry in aligning with Europe’s innovative technologies and reinforcing its competitiveness in the world.

Under the government’s proactive promotion, the “A+ Industrial Innovative R&D Program – Global Innovation Partnership Initiatives Program” has helped drive Taiwan’s industries to generate an estimated TWD4.2 billion in output value, with the semiconductor and photoelectronics sectors accounting for the largest share, which strengthens Taiwan’s international deployment of key technologies. The following three highlight cases demonstrate the success of these R&D partnerships and international alliance.

AiQ Smart Clothing develops machine-washable e-textile with German assistance

Taiwan-based AiQ Smart Clothing has collaborated with RWTH Aachen University in Germany and a design company, Entwurfreich, to overcome industrial bottlenecks and successfully develop a “machine-washable e-textile” continuous manufacturing technology. This technology is the first-ever fully automated, continuously operated, and one-stop production line, which is able to largely reduce cost and production steps. The first batch of orders has reached 300,000 pieces and this technology may be applicable to smart clothing, sportswear, and wearable devices for rehabilitation.

AWAN develops high-efficiency MIMO antennas with UK’s rapid prototyping supports

Partnering with UK-based innovation technology company, including Q5D, Taiwan-based Advanced Wireless & Antenna Inc. (AWAN) introduces from the UK the rapid prototyping equipment and expertise to develop a rapid manufacturing technology for 3D structured electronic components enabling antenna prototyping to take shape as quickly as “3D-printed building blocks”. This technology reduces prototyping time by 80%, shrinks component size by 50% and boosts transmission efficiency by 20% to 50%. With this technology integrated into the product lines of international laptop brands, it is expected to generate TWD190 million in output value by 2028.

Accutex Technologies Co., Ltd. penetrates the EU market with Spanish access

Taiwan-based Accutex Technologies Co., Ltd. works with the Spanish leading WEDM manufacturer, ONA to develop high-precision intelligent wire electrical discharge machining (WEDM) equipment. This partnership combines Accutex's manufacturing and cost strengths with ONA's established brand recognition and distribution networks in Europe. Capable of manufacturing precision components, such as, aircraft turbines and high-end precision molds, the co-developed equipment has secured EU certification and entered the aerospace jet engine parts market. In 2025, sales of the equipment skyrocketed by 152% compared to 2023, generating a cumulative output value of approximately TWD223 million.

Looking ahead, the Ministry of Economic Affairs will focus on "accelerating technological synergy and strengthening resilient deployment" as its core strategy, to continue leveraging multilateral platforms to expand partnerships. The MOEA will further branch out into emerging critical technologies, including drones, robotics, and low earth orbit satellites, while fortifying Taiwan's established advantages in semiconductors, optoelectronics, machinery, and information and communications. (Released 2026.01.07)

/CCS



7th Floor, We Sheng Building
No.125 Nanking East Rd., Sec.2
Taipei 10409, TAIWAN
Tel: 886-2-2507-2811 • Fax: 886-2-2508-3711
E-mail: tiplo@tiplo.com.tw
Website: www.tiplo.com.tw

Tokyo Liaison Office
No.506 Lions Mansion,
13-11, Shinjuku 2-Chome,
Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 160-0022, JAPAN

