



Welcome to the October edition of IP Connect – the first edition steered by our new editor, Jamie Pike. A stalwart of our social media operations here at the IPO, Jamie will now be looking to bring his considerable flair to IP Connect. If you have thoughts about what content you'd like to see – or would like to offer some material, now's a good moment to make a new connection. Click [here](#) to send Jamie a message.

It's clear that making connections is very much in vogue here at the IPO. You'll see from this edition of IP Connect that colleagues have been working hard to build the understanding and relationships which underpin a well-functioning global IP environment. We report on our Minister's mission to Singapore, dialogue with Indian investors, discussions with the wonderfully named General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China and, closer to home, a briefing session with the CBI. Building understanding is also a feature of my life too as I prepare to meet delegates at the forthcoming CIPA Congress. I'm very much looking forward to hearing what a crucial profession for our economic future has to say about how we can shape services for success.

Rosa Wilkinson, Director of Innovation and Strategic Communications

International news

The UK ranked second most innovative country in the world

The UK has been ranked as the second most innovative country in the world. The Global Innovation Index (GII) has placed the UK above the USA, Singapore and Germany for the third year running, recognising the UK's standing in the field of innovation.

The [GII highlights](#) the key role innovation plays as a driver of economic growth and prosperity. The UK has risen from tenth on the GI in 2011 to second in both 2014 and 2015. This is the most rapid increase among the top 10 GI-ranked innovation nations. It is the result of a well-balanced performance in terms of infrastructure, market sophistication, knowledge, technology and creative outputs.

Speaking at the Launch of the GI in London, Business Minister Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE CMG said: "The UK has soared ahead in these global innovation rankings over the past few years, a further sign that our long-term economic plan is working.

"We have an outstanding tradition in producing the very best in science and research: with less than 1% of the world's population we produce 16% of the top quality published research. This is a major factor in the UK maintaining its position at number 2 in the 2015 Global Innovation Index."

Contents

Introduction

International

- Global Innovation Index
- Singapore MOU
- Singapore IP Week

China

- UK-China Symposium
- AQSIO
- Confederation of British India
- Understanding IP in India

UPC and UP Update

- Preparatory committee

Enforcement

- IP Crime Group Report

Designs

- Hague Agreement

IPO blog

Support for Business

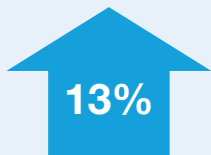
- new video case study
- IP Equip

Events

[IP Events Calendar](#)

The announcement came as the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) published its annual report on **innovation and growth**. The report sets out how the government is developing the UK's intellectual property regime to support innovative and growing businesses in the delivery of services including patents, copyright, trade marks and design, in enforcement in the digital marketplace and international policy making.

Patents



increase in Patent search and examination over the last three years.

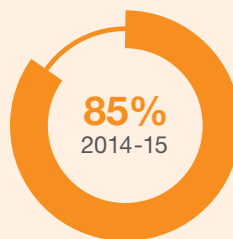
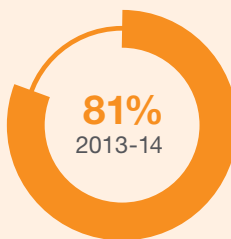


online Patent Renewals through new service.

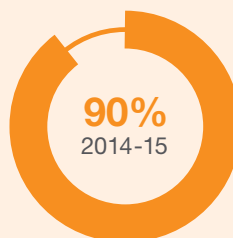
Customers



Overall customer satisfaction.



Stakeholder satisfaction.



Specialist IP Attachés

based in the world's most challenging and fastest growing markets; **China, India, Brazil and South East Asia**. They have provided practical help and support to **211** UK businesses experiencing IP issues.

Outreach

90,000

businesses reached.



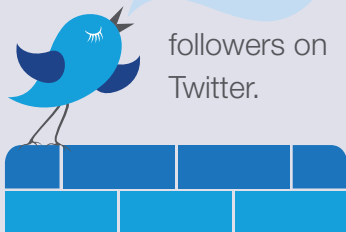
300 IP audits carried out.

IP finance toolkit published



Social Media

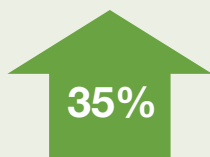
IPO has **43,000** followers on Twitter.



IPO blog launched in September 2014; **66** posts and **3,100** average views per month.



Trade Marks



increase in demand since 2012.

Demand for trade marks **continued to rise in 2014-15**.

For the first time in the history of the Registry we exceeded **50,000** applications.

New in 2014



UK launched ground-breaking **Orphan Works licensing scheme** in October 2014.

UK hosted the **first** International IP enforcement summit.

Singapore News:

UK and Singapore boost IP co-operation



The UK and Singapore are set to benefit from a new agreement on intellectual property (IP).

The new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the UK Intellectual Property Office and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore will improve international cooperation between the two nations on issues involving copyright, patents, trade marks and designs.

UK Minister for Intellectual Property Baroness Neville Rolfe said: "Singapore is an influential voice on issues of intellectual property in the ASEAN region. Support from IP leaders is invaluable in developing robust global frameworks across the ASEAN region.

"This MOU underlines our strong commitment to contribute to intellectual property rights enforcement, not only at a national level but also in the international field. In a globalised era, it is crucial for Governments to collaborate on common understandings such as innovation and economic growth."

Many UK businesses use Singapore as their regional headquarters and a springboard into the wider ASEAN region. The Minister also met with UK businesses in Singapore as users of the systems and those that understand where the barriers to effective trade exist. This visit provided a valuable opportunity to emphasise the importance of IP in engendering safe business environments in this region and the willingness of the UK to support IP developments.

South East Asia is of increasing importance for UK trade and export – a fact highlighted by the recent visit of the Prime Minister and Business Secretary in July.

The region is expected to grow at 5% this year with potential to unlock huge opportunities for UK business.

IPO participated at Singapore's IP Week 2015

Officials from the IPO and British High Commission in Singapore were actively participating at the fourth edition of IP Week in Singapore. More than 1,000 delegates gathered from more than 35 countries. There were 15

separate events during the week-long celebration of IP in Singapore and beyond this Golden Jubilee year (Singapore celebrates 50 years of independence). The Global Forum on Intellectual Property, organised by the IP Academy, was the anchor event of IP Week.

China news

Third UK–China IP Symposium promotes IP protection across borders

The UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and the China-Britain Business Council will host the third UK-China Intellectual Property Symposium in October. The IPO has organised a full day event which will promote the protection of intellectual property rights across borders to foster growth and innovation.

The Symposium will be held in London at the Royal Society and will be opened by the Intellectual Property Office Minister Baroness Neville-Rolfe as well as high-level Chinese counterparts.

A diverse range of influential speakers will be participating in highly interactive sessions on innovation and creative industries, patents, trade marks, designs, civil judicial enforcement, and online anti-counterfeiting and piracy.

It will be a unique opportunity for businesses from both countries to engage directly with government officials and policy makers to make it easier for them to navigate the Chinese and UK intellectual property systems. If you are interested in attending please [register](#).

Breakfast Briefing at the Confederation of British Industries



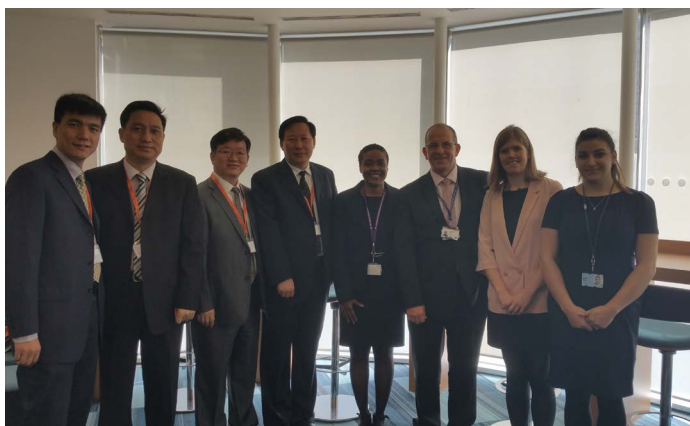
The UK IPO attaché, Tom Duke, participated in discussions at a breakfast briefing at the Confederation of British Industries (CBI) last month. He shared his experience in supporting a number of British companies in managing disputes and mitigating the risks in technology collaborations in sensitive sectors in China.

Tom has extensive experience supporting businesses in China in every area of intellectual property. Specific topics of discussion included:

- the problems and vulnerabilities British companies have experienced in the past;
- considerations when working with the Chinese government;
- state-owned enterprises and private companies;
- whether foreign companies can win disputes in sensitive industry sectors in China;
- the market conditions where sharing sensitive technologies can be beneficial;
- how the British government can support companies achieve better outcomes;

Overall, the discussions facilitated very fruitful discussions between attendees and speakers on commercial contracts and engagements in China.

China delegates discuss online counterfeiting



The Ministry is the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China (AQSIQ) visited the IPO recently to discuss counterfeit products and e-commerce and to explore potential future cooperation to tackle online counterfeiting and copyright infringement.

China has seen exponential growth in the e-commerce sector over the last 3-5 years and whilst e-commerce provides many benefits to the consumer, it has brought with it a sharp increase in IP infringing products sold online. AQSIQ has implemented a series of measures such as a spot checking products, establishing the e-commerce quality sharing alliance and the introduction of the e-commerce trading standards. In addition to this, China is in the process of drafting an e-commerce law which will provide that e-commerce platforms will bear associated liability for transactions on their platform.

Whilst the IPO focuses predominantly on protecting IP rights, part of our work extends to cover product safety. The crucial element in ensuring product safety online is effective coordination between all the government agencies. One of the challenges facing the both the UK and China is the quality of data on the movement of goods around the world. The IPO and AQSIQ have agreed to work more closely on this issue by sharing enforcement

information in order to tackle both the manufacture and the demand for counterfeit products simultaneously.

Overall, the trip helped to build trust and mutual respect between the IPO and the AQSIQ and has facilitated some important developments for a more effective and coordinated approach to the sale of counterfeit products online.

India news:

Understanding IP important for UK investors in India

In September, as part of the IPO's ongoing engagement with India, Rahul Raghavan supported the Chennai Deputy High Commission at the first Tamil Nadu Global Investors meeting.

Keynote speakers at a UK Trade & Industry (UKTI) country seminar included UK Deputy High Commissioner, Bharat Joshi and Nicola Bolton, Managing Director of Trade, UKTI.

As part of a panel discussing entrepreneurship, Rahul spoke about the role of IP in international investment, sharing details of support the UK IPO provides to domestic business and to UK business in the Indian market. Separately, he and the IPO's India Attaché, Vijay Iyer, met with Indian counterparts in Mumbai and Delhi and discussed future projects with IP-friendly trade associations such as the Confederation of Indian Industries.

Rahul and Vijay are keen to hear from UK business about IP experiences in the Indian market. Please do get in touch if you are able to share any case studies:

rahul.raghavan@ipo.gov.uk and vijay.iyer@fco.gov.uk

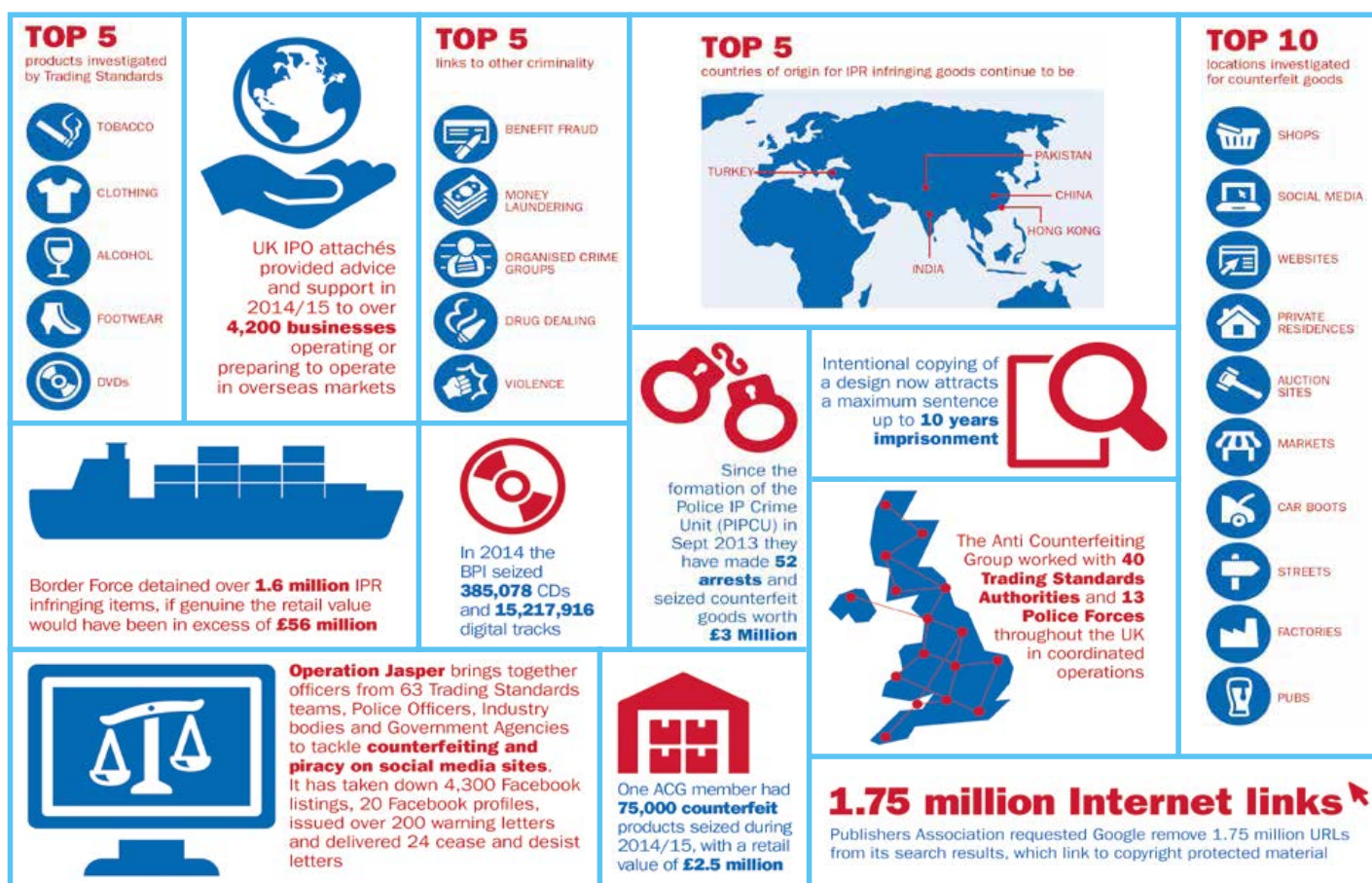
Enforcement

IP Crime Report 2014/15 launched

The latest IP Crime Group Report 2014/15 was launched on 24 September 2015 at an event in London attended by Minister for Intellectual Property, Baroness Neville-Rolfe. The IP Crime Report gives an insight into the scale and scope of counterfeit and piracy in the UK and this year's report shows real progress in the fight against intellectual property crime. Click here to see the full [report](#) and [highlight report](#) and read about some of the operations which are delivering real results.

Tobacco, clothing, alcohol, footwear and DVDs are still the most frequently investigated counterfeit products, with strong links to benefit fraud, organised crime, drug dealing and violence. But some members have seen a reduction in crimes reported and there has been great success tackling counterfeit goods in markets.

Minister for Intellectual Property, Baroness Neville-Rolfe congratulated the IP Crime group members who come from industry, law enforcement agencies and government departments — on the IP Crime Report. She said she was very grateful to the group and the IPO for all their hard work and that the threads of work are coming together well, which gave cause for optimism and a good platform for success in 2015/16.



Man jailed for fraud offences

A 46-year-old man has been sentenced to 14-months' imprisonment after pleading guilty to selling fake perfume.

Mustafa Sahin, of Crescent Road, Edmonton, London, appeared at Wood Green Crown Court in September after pleading guilty to various offences at a previous court appearance.

In May 2014, officers from the South East Regional Organised Crime Unit (SEROUCU) conducted a warrant at the home and business premises of Sahin, where a large amount of counterfeit perfume was uncovered. The search revealed that Sahin had changed his name by Deed

Poll and used this change to obtain fraudulent identity documents, which enabled him to build a small property empire in one name, while claiming benefits in another.

Ros Lynch, Director of Copyright and Enforcement at the Intellectual Property Office said: "The Government is committed to tackling IP crime and this case is another example of the great work done by the SEROCU. This 14 month sentence sends a clear message to IP criminals that police and agencies such as the IPO are working together to stamp out this kind of criminality."

UP and UPC update:

Preparatory Committee

There is an Executive Group meet tomorrow morning to discuss the Privileges & Immunities Protocol and to confirm the agenda for the 12th meeting of the Preparatory Committee, scheduled for 19 October.

In the afternoon the Expert Panel will have their third meeting where they will have a presentation of the Case Management System from the IT Working Group. There will also be a discussion on the summary of responses following the court fee consultation with members of the Joint Fee Sub-group and a brief discussion on emerging proposals on a Code of Conduct being developed for representatives with business professionals including EPLAW, EPLIT and EPI. This is at an early stage and I will share more information as I receive it.

IT

Last month we kicked off the Case Management System roadshow with the first workshop/demonstration in London. This was hosted by Allen & Overy to who we extend our thanks for their support and help in setting this up.

Attendees were given an overview of the UPC and some background history on the work carried out on the prototype in 2014. This was quickly followed by a demonstration of the opt-out and withdrawal opt-out forms.

A suggestion was for us to provide a roadmap of features and forms being introduced into the system; which we are now working on and, once available, will send out to everyone who has subscribed to the UPC mailing list.

The workshops continue and if you would be interested in further information on the IT technical team's progress, providing feedback online, future case management releases, including the user workshops, please sign up for the UPC e-filing/case management mailing list by following this link: [mailing](#)

Facilities

As announced in a recent update, the IPO has signed a lease for space in Aldgate Tower to host the **UPC in London**.

Securing this building has been a great step towards bringing the UPC into effect, ensuring the success of the Court and the UK's involvement. To recognise achieving this significant milestone, our Minister Baroness Neville-Rolfe, hosted a small reception at Aldgate Tower.

The reception was an opportunity for the Minister to thank some of the people who have been extremely generous with their time; both helping and advising the IPO during the process of selecting the facility for the court in London, and offering their wider support to the IPO on UPC issues.



Legal

The European Patent Litigators Certificate (EPLC), agreed at the recent Preparatory Committee, has been **published**.

Discussions on the Protocol for Provisional Application have been concluded and preparations are now underway for formal signing in early October.

Finance

Last month we attended a very good meeting of the Court Fees Sub-group in Stockholm. An extensive summary and list of key points from the consultation were discussed and agreed. These drafts will now be discussed more widely, including at the Expert Panel meeting tomorrow and at next Preparatory Committee. The group will then work through the various suggestions and look to revise as necessary.

Unitary Patent

The meeting of the EPO select committee that was scheduled for September has been postponed. It will now take place on 13 and 14 October. This should enable Italy, who have submitted a requested to join the Unitary Patent system, to participate as a full member in the remaining discussions within the select committee.

Details of the EPO meetings can be read [here](#). An official Communiqué of the last Select Committee meeting is available on the EPO [website](#).

Designs

More options for UK designers to protect their IP internationally

The Intellectual Property Act 2014 contained measures to modernise the legal framework for designs. One of these measures enables the UK to accede to the Hague Agreement which establishes a system for the international registration of industrial designs.

UK designers and design-led business are part of global industry. UK accession to the Hague will offer another avenue to protect IP when trading abroad. Designers will have the option to protect their designs within contracting states, (including USA) with a single application; resulting in lower cost to business and an easier more efficient process.

The **consultation** will close on 10 November 2015.

The Government welcomes your views. Please email any questions or responses to: hague@ipo.gov.uk.

IPO Blog

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Did you know, you can register to receive updates direct to your inbox, so there's no need to keep checking for new blogs? [Visit our blog](#).

IP Equip



Are you or your team equipped to deal with intellectual property matters? The IPO has a free online e-learning tool that helps businesses and business advisors understand intellectual property rights ie trade marks, patents, copyright and designs.

IP Equip contains 4 short modules and uses case studies to show why intellectual property is important.

Many of our customers complete IP Equip to learn about IP.

Benefits of completing IP Equip modules include:

- free access to business checklists, business guides and a document library.
- CPD credit on completion (1 point).
- IPO certification via a certificate.
- you can use your smart phone, tablet or PC to take the training.

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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