



Intellectual Property Office Annual Report Published

The IPO's annual report and accounts for 2016-2017 were published on 20 July. We have once again met all our Ministerial Targets, delivered great services to our customers, developed our outreach offering and supported key IP policy developments. All of these things will make a positive contribution to the UK economy and growth.

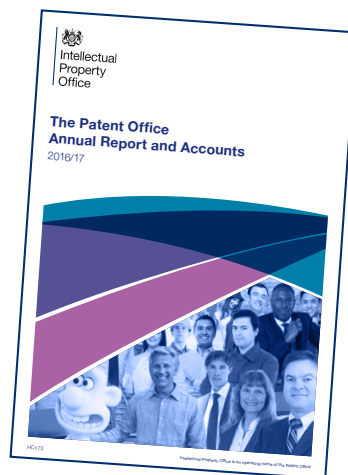
In his introduction, Tim Moss CEO said:

"We have kept focus on our reputation within Europe, working to ensure we secure the best possible outcomes on intellectual property following the UK's departure from the EU and continuing to work to ratify the Unified Patent Court Agreement. We have also further developed our reputation abroad, developing UK-China relations and supporting UK businesses to trade more internationally."

In his final statement as Chair, Bob Gilbert said: "This past year has been busy and full of challenge for us, which

our people have tackled in their usual professional manner. Looking forward, the Office will have a big contribution to make in preparing for the UK's exit from the EU and ensuring that IP makes the fullest contribution to the Industrial Strategy."

Our Annual Report and Accounts have been audited by the National Audit Office (NAO) and yet again, no material issues were identified. You can read the full report [here](#).



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IPO Board Appointments

Pippa Hall has been appointed as Director of Innovation. She continues her role as IPO Chief Economist.

We have begun a Civil Service wide recruitment to fill the Director of International Policy role on a

permanent basis, which Adam Williams has occupied on an interim basis. Sean Dennehey remains Deputy Chief Executive.

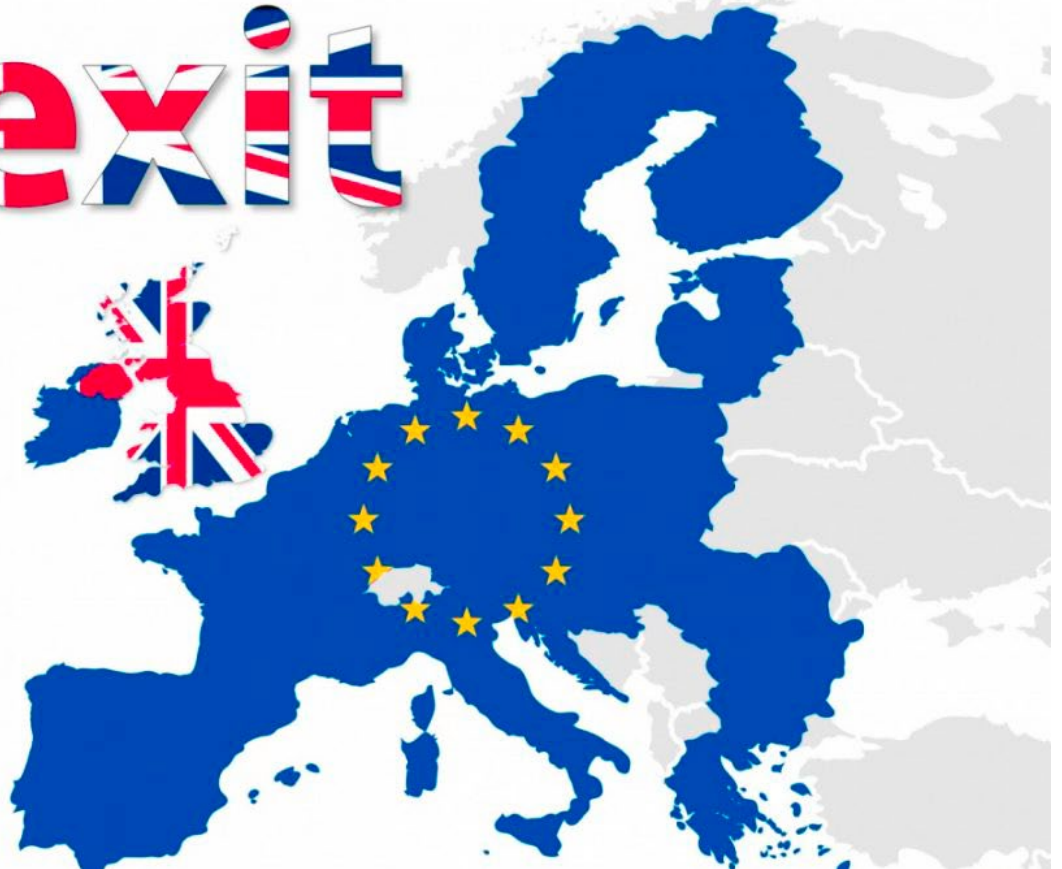
International

IP, Brexit and Beyond

More than 70 delegates from a wide range of industry and IP professions came together in the spring to discuss actions needed by government, industry, commerce and the IP professions to manage the IP related challenges and maximise the opportunities of Brexit.

Following the event the IPO helped IPAN produce a report that collates the key points made in presentations and during discussions. The report is now available, via the [IPAN website](#) with the aim of informing and influencing government and industry to help them negotiate a successful IP and trade pathway through the Brexit process.

Brexit



UPC Case Management System – Call for Information

The UPC case management system is the lifeblood of the court's structure and its efficiency and reliability will be a key success factor. The UPC IT team setting up the case management system are keen to hear from business or service providers how to integrate with the new Court's system.

What services do you plan to provide your clients? For example, will you solely depend on Application Program Interface or also propose supporting services?

As an initial step, the team would like to hear from those responsible for making current systems compatible with the UPC case management system. You are kindly invited to [email the UPC Secretariat](#) by 20 August 2017 setting out your current thinking.

Following this, the team will assess the responses and publish the policy including categories of service and eligibility criteria (if any are needed). The policy will be published after 10 September 2017.



Save the Date! 2017 UK-China IP Symposium

The UK-China Symposium is the annual flagship event for UK-China policy engagement on IP and will be held in London on 22 September 2017.

The 2017 Symposium will feature dynamic discussions between senior policy makers, industry representatives and business influencers on the future of the IP system.

Panels will look at cutting edge topics including future proofing the IP system, developments in trade mark policy and practice as well as updates on international enforcement in the modern age.


Expect details including a full programme to follow shortly.

China IP Roadshow

Tom Duke, the UK's IP attaché to China and a leading specialist on IP in China, will be visiting the UK in September. We will be organising a selection of events across Scotland and the north of England covering a wide range of topics (including patents, trade marks, designs and IP protection). The China IP Roadshow will be tailored to provide attendees with practical advice when they are looking to expand their business in or to China.

Tentative dates and locations are below:

MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER Glasgow and Edinburgh	TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER Leeds and Barnsley	WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER Liverpool and Manchester	THURSDAY 21 SEPTEMBER Manchester
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More information on our social media feeds (www.twitter.com/the_ipo) soon. 

IPO in Brazil

In early July the IPO's Acting International Director, Adam Williams visited Brazil to strengthen relationships with Brazilian Government, IP Lawyers, UK companies and FCO and DIT colleagues in-country.

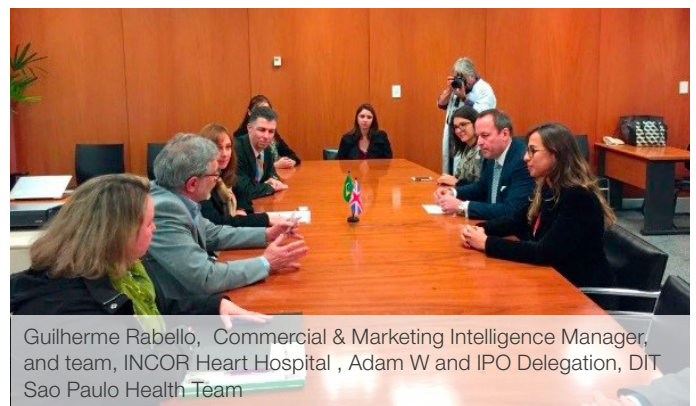
The overarching mood encountered was one of optimism with interlocutors honestly acknowledging

challenges that Brazil faces on IP. The IPO delegation met with MDIC (BEIS) equivalent, the Ministry of Culture which is responsible for copyright policy, the Brazilian IP Office (INPI) and the President's Special Secretariat for Strategic Affairs. All Brazilian counterparts were keen to understand how the UK links IP to economic growth and about the relationship between Government,

Industry and Academia. They were happy to discuss IP issues faced by Brazil and steps taken to improve INPI's efficiency.

Using her in-country network, our attaché, Angelica Garcia, secured meetings with leading law firms to discuss IP in Brazil. As expected concerns were reiterated about backlogs, administrative processes and bureaucratic hurdles.

During the visit, on behalf of the DIT Health Team, Adam signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between HMG and INCOR heart hospital in Sao Paulo. INCOR is one of the largest heart hospitals in Latin America and the MoU will support the transfer of innovative technologies between the countries.



Enforcement

Streaming Giants Help Keep Online Infringement in Check

The [Online Copyright Infringement \(OCI\) Tracker](#), commissioned by the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO), has revealed that 15% of UK internet users, approximately 7 million people, either stream or download material that infringes copyright.

Legitimate streaming has grown in popularity once again with Spotify seeing a noteworthy 7% increase in user numbers since 2016. However illicitly adapted set top boxes, which allow users to illegally stream premium TV content such as blockbuster movies, threaten to undermine recent progress. 13% of online infringers are using streaming boxes that can be easily adapted to stream illicit content.

Legal streaming of music is also under threat. Stream-ripping, by which internet users remove and store content away from its original advertising-revenue generating platform, is becoming a significant problem. A separate [report](#) commissioned by the IPO and PRS for Music has revealed that 15% of internet users have been involved in

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stream-ripping. It also reveals that nearly a quarter (24%) of “stream-rippers” believe that their action were not infringing IP rights.

Ros Lynch, Copyright and IP Enforcement Director at the IPO, said:

“It’s great that legal streaming sites continue to be a hugely popular choice for consumers. The success and popularity of these platforms show the importance of evolution and innovation in the entertainment industry.

“Ironically it is innovation that also benefits those looking to undermine IP rights and benefit financially from

copyright infringement. There has never been more choice or flexibility for consumers of TV and music, however illicit streaming devices and stream-ripping are threatening this progress.

“Content creators deserve to be paid for their work – it is not a grey area. This government takes IP infringement extremely seriously and we are working with our industry partners and law enforcement to tackle this emerging threat.”

Robert Ashcroft, Chief Executive, PRS for Music:

“We hope that this research will provide the basis for a renewed and re-focused commitment to tackling online copyright infringement. The long term health of the UK’s cultural and creative sectors is in everyone’s best interests, including those of the digital service providers, and a co-ordinated industry and government approach to tackling stream ripping is essential.”



International IP Enforcement Summit, Berlin, 22 and 23 June 2017

Following the first International IP Enforcement Summit organised by the IPO and EU IPO in London in 2014, the German government and the EU IPO organised a repeat event in June 2017.

This brought together a wide range of European and international government representatives, enforcement agencies, multinational companies, consumer representatives and trade bodies.

The Summit, held over two days in central Berlin focused in particular on current online trends and challenges, organised crime and international cooperation.

Matt Cope, Deputy Director of IP Enforcement at the IPO, spoke on the first day of the Summit. He covered topics including striking the right balance between enforcement and prevention, the role of voluntary agreements between rights holders, enforcers and intermediaries, moving from enforcement to 'knowing your customer' and the importance of international cooperation.

Other speakers at the event spoke about follow the money approaches, the importance of legal alternatives to infringement, the role of education and the interaction between procurement standards and IP.

The occasion was also used to launch two important reports: the [OECD's Mapping the Real Routes of Trade in Fake Goods](#) and the EUIPO/Europol's [Situation Report on Counterfeiting and Piracy in the EU](#).



Matt Cope answers a question posed to a panel of experts



Matt Cope speaks at the IP Summit, Berlin

Chartered Trading Standard Institute Conference 2017

The Enforcement Outreach Team attended the annual Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) conference in Harrogate on 26-29 June.

During the three days IPO staff spoke with a wide range of stakeholders and partners ranging from law enforcement, industry and other government departments. As well



as staffing an exhibition stand at the event, the team organised a well-received mini-theatre session with a guest speaker Ari Alibhai, a Barrister with extensive experience in prosecuting illicit streaming/IPTV cases.

At the same event the team launched an illicit streaming guidance booklet for investigators and prosecutors, intended to demystify what is seen as a complex area of law.

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Ministry of Defence Counterfeit Awareness Event

In July the IP Enforcement and Capacity Building Team at the IPO gave a presentation at the 7th MOD Counterfeit Awareness Event.

The presentation highlighted the IPOs work in combating counterfeiting in the supply chain. The day consisted of a number of presentations from a wide range of defence supply stakeholders including Fujitsu, BAE Systems and Retronix.

Organised and delivered by the Counterfeit Awareness Group within the Ministry of Defence the event was designed to raise awareness within the Defence community of counterfeit goods and to provide direction through policy and guidance on aspects of preventing, detecting and responding to the threat of counterfeit products in the defence supply chain.

New Trade Mark Timeline

We've listened to your feedback following on from the successful introduction of the [patent grant timeline](#), and we've now created the [trade mark timeline](#).

This provides an overview of the process for applying to register a

trade mark and gives an indication of your responsibilities and what happens next, once you've submitted your application.

Each stage of the process is hyperlinked, allowing access to relevant information easily and quickly.

This is intended to give an indication of the process only, and all timings are approximate and will vary according to each individual mark.

EPO European Inventor Award 2018 nominations now open

The 12th annual European Inventor Award in Venice last month was a wonderful celebration of innovation.

The fifteen finalists are excellent ambassadors not just for innovation but for the patent system as a whole. The Award not only promotes the benefits of innovation and the patent system, it also reflects positively on the patent attorneys working with finalists to help them create value from inventions and patents.

Recent finalists from the UK have included:

- Steve Lindsey (rotary air compressor);
- Helen Lee (diagnostic kits for developing countries), and;

- Luke Alphey (genetically modified mosquitoes to eradicate dengue fever and zika).

Nominations are now open. The EPO's criteria are high: they are looking for inventions of great social and/or economic benefit, and which have been granted European patents (at least one still in force). The application procedure is simple and can be made online in minutes.

With competition fierce (over 450 proposals last year for just 15 places!), we recommend you submit suggestions well ahead of their 16 October deadline. Click on the link below for more details:

www.epo.org/learning-events/european-inventor/nominate.html

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Be Alert to IP News

You may have seen that the IPO issues email updates on IP Rights, events, news and blogs. This may have been how you were alerted to this edition of IP Connect. We have a variety of topics for people to subscribe to, you just need to register to receive regular alerts and updates. You can subscribe to email alerts via the [subscribe link](#). Register today and get an email when the next edition of IP Connect is available.

What do you think of IP Connect?

The IPO is committed to keeping our stakeholders informed and provide the right information at the right time in the most appropriate way. IP Connect is one way we do this, but how well does it work for you? Give us your views [here](#).

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