



IP in IoT:

Protecting the secrets of an “Internet-of-Toilet” system

Case Study | Rigel Technology (S) Pte Ltd

At a Glance

In 2018, Rigel Technology (Rigel) developed a smart toilet system dubbed “Internet-of-Toilet”, a tongue-in-cheek play on the more commonly known term “Internet of Things” (IoT). The platform seamlessly integrates a dashboard and mobile application with Rigel’s IoT-enabled products in a digitalised washroom environment.

As a company that specialises in developing innovative, eco-friendly and smart sanitary solutions, Rigel has a rich intellectual property (IP) portfolio comprising close to 30 trade marks, patents and registered designs.

Protecting their Trade

Beyond using patents and trademarks to protect their innovations, Rigel also recognised the value in protecting other non-registrable IP and intangible assets (IA) like their trade secrets and confidential information.

For example, the engineering team uses a Product Data Management system to record their proprietary designs, bill of materials and processes, to drive productivity and improve collaboration across the business. The system allows Rigel to manage access to their trade secrets like proprietary designs, customer information and source codes across all their offices around the world.

These measures are important as the three characteristics of a trade secret are broadly –

Information that is not made public

With commercial value

With measures taken to keep it secret

Keeping their Secrets

The importance of trade secrets protection was highlighted when a former employee leaked out confidential product information to a competitor. Since then, Rigel has bolstered their protective measures to secure their trade secrets and achieve business growth. Rigel’s robust processes to manage IA and trade secrets across borders have supported Rigel’s entry and expansion into over 35 markets globally.

This is the first in a series of case studies as part of IPOS’ initiative – Keep your Secrets, Protect your Trade, following the launch of the Study on the Protection and Management of Trade Secrets in Singapore in 2021. For more information, visit www.ipos.gov.sg/about-ip/trade-secrets.