

# I?OS

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
OFFICE OF SINGAPORE



**Corporate**



**Highlights**



**IP Filings**



**COVID-19  
Inventions**

## RECOMMENDED



**Chairman's  
Foreword**



**Chief Executive's  
Message**



**Helping Enterprises  
in the Pandemic**



**COVID-19 IP  
Registrations Surge**



**Meet the Swab Tip**



**Going Digital**

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD DR. STANLEY LAI, SC



2020 will go down in history as the year when the world stood still, paralysed by an invisible enemy that devastated economies, took lives and destroyed livelihoods worldwide. We send our thoughts and prayers to the families and loved ones of those whose lives and livelihoods were taken by this pernicious disease.

At the same time, the world of innovation witnessed one of its finest hours as humanity doubled down, pressed on and brought to life many new inventions to battle the scourge.

### **Navigating the COVID-19 storm**

As the nation entered the Circuit Breaker and experienced various restrictions, IPOS worked hard to support IP registrations, facilitating the timely rollout of new inventions to fight the pandemic.

As IPOS had fully migrated to complete digital filings in 2014, we were able to minimise disruptions to our services during COVID-19, when safe distancing made it more challenging to continue business as usual. We also undertook several other initiatives to ensure that our services remained accessible and responsive at all times.

We saw a strong take-up for IPOS' acceleration programme (SG IP Fast) for patents, and their related trade marks and registered designs. Businesses were able to bring their inventions, including COVID-19 related ones, to market within six months (from filing to registration) – the fastest patent prosecution time frame anywhere in the world.

We also offered the option of conducting fully virtual hearings and successfully conducted our first opposition hearing and mediation via video conference in June last year. The parties benefited from savings of time and cost, as a settlement was reached between the disputing parties without having to wait for a physical meeting, or for the lockdown restrictions to ease.



**As the nation entered the Circuit Breaker and experienced various restrictions, IPOS worked hard to support IP registrations, facilitating the timely rollout of new inventions to fight the pandemic."**



## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

# DR. STANLEY LAI, SC



**While navigating the current crisis, the Government has its eye on the future and has plans to ensure that Singapore remains one of the world's most innovative nations."**

To help enterprises weather the storm, we ran a programme called Growing with Resilience through InTangibles (GRIT) to help creators and innovators protect and monetise their intangible assets (IA) and IP, like copyright and brands, in the digital space.

Our signature global IP event – IP Week @ SG – also went fully digital for the first time in 2020 and took on a hybrid format in 2021. It featured global IP and business leaders who had gathered to discuss the role of IA and IP in helping companies amid COVID-19.

Complimentary webinars during IP Week @ SG 2020 also addressed IA/IP issues that came front and centre as a result of COVID-19. Global IP leaders discussed how innovation could be accelerated during COVID-19 while thought leaders in the arts and entertainment sectors discussed how artists and creators could pivot to the digital realm during the pandemic.

### **Emerging stronger**

It was gratifying to learn that in 2020, Singapore retained its top spot as Asia's most innovative nation and ranked eighth globally in the Global Innovation Index (GII) that was jointly released by the World Intellectual Property Organization, Cornell University and global business school Insead.

IPOS was also named the world's most innovative IP office for the first time by the leading practitioner-led publication, World Trademark Review, in 2020.

While navigating the current crisis, the Government has its eye on the future and has plans to ensure that Singapore remains one of the world's most innovative nations.

In April 2021, we launched the Singapore IP Strategy 2030 (SIPS 2030) to grow Singapore as a global hub for IA/IP activities and maintain Singapore's top-ranked IP regime to capture new opportunities beyond the pandemic.

The three strategic thrusts are to:

- 1) strengthen Singapore's position as a global hub for IA/IP
- 2) attract and grow innovative enterprises using IA/IP
- 3) develop good jobs and valuable skills in IA/IP



## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

# DR. STANLEY LAI, SC



A slew of initiatives will help enterprises accelerate business growth as they tap on the unrealised potential of their IA/IP. Enterprises can look forward to enhanced IA/IP services and resources to make it easier and faster for them to protect and manage their IA/IP.

Plans are also afoot to create a vibrant marketplace for IA/IP financing transactions by increasing transaction transparency, helping enterprises access financing using their IA/IP, and developing a credible and trusted valuation ecosystem.

Singapore will also continue to establish more global links to facilitate IP registration in other countries to help enterprises internationalise faster. We will also leverage our strength as one of the leading cross-border dispute resolution centres globally to strengthen our IP dispute resolution offerings.

### Conclusion

As the world continues to battle COVID-19, there is an air of cautious optimism as vaccination drives pick up pace around the world. As our country moves to a covid-resilient phase, safe management measures and border restrictions will ease, and business will return. Those who have taken full opportunity to maximise and optimise IP ownership and management, will reap what they have sown.

IPOS will continue to ensure that it stays nimble in the face of uncertainty. It will also press ahead with the SIPS 2030 recommendations to ensure that Singapore continues to remain relevant in the world of innovation to support economic growth and create jobs.

2020 was a challenging year, and I would like to express my personal thanks and appreciation to all stakeholders for working with us to overcome the challenges, so that we all will emerge stronger.

**IPOS will continue to ensure that it stays nimble in the face of uncertainty. It will also press ahead with the SIPS 2030 recommendations to ensure that Singapore continues to remain relevant in the world of innovation to support economic growth and create jobs."**



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

# MRS. RENA LEE



2020 was a year like no other.

As Singapore's IP registrar, IPOS saw some expected as well as notable trends in our filing numbers.

We also had to quickly enhance our services to support enterprises during the pandemic.



### **2020 IP registrations: Strong showing from local enterprises**

While there was a slight overall decrease in total filings in 2020 (See figure 1 on next page), we saw an increase in patent filings by local enterprises, which was possibly driven by increased innovation activity in response to the pandemic. We also saw strong growth in trade mark and design filings for the MedTech sector from foreign and local enterprises. We feature some of these unique inventions in this year's annual report (COVID-19 inventions section).

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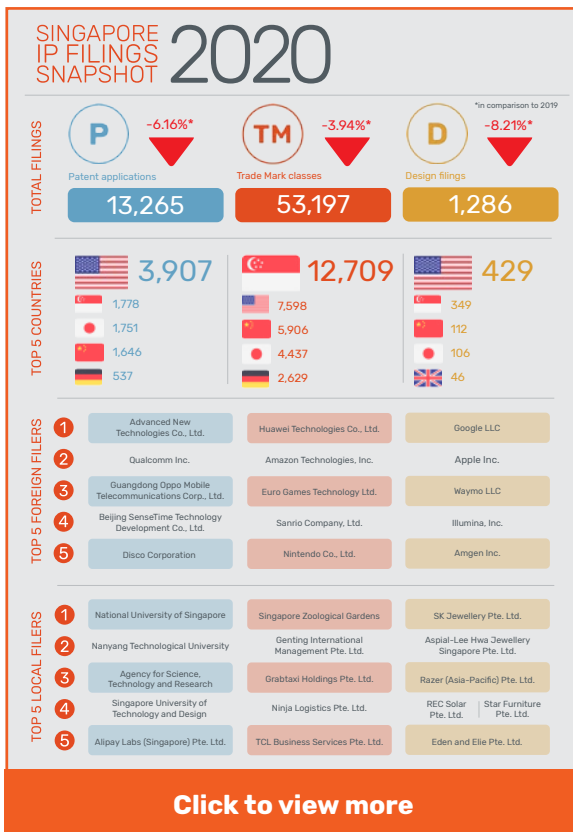


# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE MRS. RENA LEE



While IPOS had introduced new services to support enterprises in 2020 at the height of the pandemic, we are also continuing to enhance our services to help enterprises emerge stronger in the new normal."

Figure 1



Conversely, trade mark and design filings were most impacted in retail-related businesses because of the prolonged border closures for leisure travel worldwide and safe distancing measures in Singapore.

In tandem with the economic recovery, we hope growth in local filings will continue in 2021 as local businesses continue to innovate in the digital economy. In the longer term, filings from the impacted industries are likely to resume when border closures and safe distancing measures are eased worldwide.

### More services to help enterprises emerge stronger

While IPOS had introduced new services to support enterprises in 2020 at the height of the pandemic, we are also continuing to enhance our services to help enterprises emerge stronger in the new normal.



## CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

# MRS. RENA LEE



On the digital front, we will be introducing enhanced features for IPOS Go, our mobile app for IP registration and management. Users can access a new function called Brand Search to quickly search for similar business names, trade marks, domain names and social media usernames all at one go.

IP<sup>2</sup>SG, our one-stop website portal for IP registration and management, is also undergoing a major revamp, and we will launch the new site with enhanced features sometime in the middle of 2022.

We are also working on a one-stop online platform to connect innovative enterprises to IP resources, professionals and service providers across the innovation ecosystem. We launched the Beta site in August 2021 and are collating user feedback which will be incorporated into the final production site to be launched in the second half of 2022.

To meet growing demand for IP consultations, we have also enhanced our IP clinics which provide first time complimentary IP consultations to enterprises.

### **Conclusion**

IPOS commemorates its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2021.

IPOS has evolved from just being a regulatory agency to an agency that helps promote innovation and the growth of IA/IP.

I look forward to working closely with all our stakeholders in the coming years to create a Singapore where innovative enterprises use IA/IP to grow.



# BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Designations according to the above arrangement.

**Dr. Stanley LAI, SC:**  
Chairman, IPOB

**Mr Ali Ijaz AHMAD:**  
Co-Founder and  
CEO, *Makara Capital  
Partners Pte Ltd*

**Mr Douglas FOO:**  
Chairman, *Sakae  
Holdings Ltd*

**Mrs Rena LEE:**  
Chief Executive,  
*Intellectual Property  
Office of Singapore*

**Dr. LIM Kuo-Yi:**  
Managing Partner,  
*Monk's Hill  
Ventures Pte Ltd*

**Ms NEO Gim Huay:**  
Managing Director (Climate  
Change Strategy), *Temasek  
International Pte Ltd*

**Mr Calvin PHUA:**  
Deputy Secretary,  
*Ministry of Law*

**Mr Suresh SACHI:**  
Deputy Chief Executive  
(Corporate) & General  
Counsel, *Agency for  
Science, Technology  
and Research*

**Mr Nicky TAN:**  
Chief Executive,  
*nTan Corporate  
Advisory Pte Ltd*

**Mr TAN Pei-En:**  
Divisional Director,  
Planning Division,  
*Ministry of Education*

**Mr Ted TAN:**  
Deputy Chief  
Executive,  
*Enterprise Singapore*

**Mr Eric TEO:** Adjunct  
Associate Professor, Division  
of Accounting, Nanyang  
Business School, *Nanyang  
Technological University*

**Prof TSUI Kai Chong:**  
Provost & Professor,  
Office of the President,  
*Singapore University of  
Social Sciences*

**Ms Audrey YAP:**  
Managing Partner,  
*Yusarn Audrey*





# MANAGEMENT



Designations according to the above arrangement.

**Mrs Rena LEE:** Chief Executive / Registrar

**Mr WOO Yew Chung:** Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate)

**Dr. Ming TAN:** Managing Director (IPOS International)

**Dr. Bernard ONG:** Group Director (Policy and Engagement)

**Ms Adeline CHANG:** Director (Finance)

**Ms CHIAM Lu Lin:** Principal Consultant (IPOS)

**Ms Trina HA:** Director (Legal)

**Mr Alvin HANG:** Director (Media and Communications)

**Mr KOK Kitt-Wai:** Director (IP Academy), IPOS International, Director (Business Development), IPOS International

**Mr Mark LIM:** Director (Hearings and Mediation)

**Ms Hazel MOI:** Director (Information Technology)

**Ms ONG Lay See:** Director (Human Capital)

**Ms Isabelle TAN:** Director (Registry of Trade Marks, Registry of Geographical Indications)

**Ms Manda TAY:** Director (Strategic Planning & Policy)

**Ms Carol WONG:** Head (Internal Audit)

**Ms Sharmaine WU:** Director (Registries of Patents, Designs & Plant Varieties)

**Mr Alfred YIP:** Director (Patent Search, Examination & Analytics), IPOS International



# IPOS' CORPORATE PROFILE



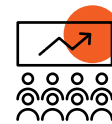
**The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) is the national authority that registers and is responsible for the administration of IP rights in Singapore. IPOS helps businesses use intangible assets (IA) and IP to grow and is committed to building Singapore into an international IA/IP hub. IPOS is a statutory board under the Ministry of Law.**

As the expertise and enterprise engagement arm of IPOS, IPOS International focuses on helping enterprises and industries grow using IA and IP.



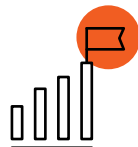
### OUR VISION

A Singapore where innovative enterprises use intangible assets to grow.



### OUR VALUES

Integrity, Professionalism, Teamwork, People-focused.



### OUR MISSION

We use our IP expertise and networks to drive Singapore's future growth.



### OUR CORPORATE TAGLINE

Ideas Today, Assets Tomorrow.



### OUR SUBSIDIARY

IPOS International is a wholly owned subsidiary of IPOS, housing over 100 IP experts in areas such as IP strategy and management, patent search and analysis, and IP education and training.

## HELPING ENTERPRISES IN THE PANDEMIC ENHANCED IPO SERVICES

In Singapore, non-essential services were shut down for about eight weeks from early April 2020 to contain the spread of the virus. IPO's main priority was to ensure that it could continue to support enterprises in spite of the various restrictions.

In addition to offering complete digital filings, IPO also pivoted its other services to the virtual environment.



### VIRTUAL HEARINGS

IPO offered the option of conducting a hearing entirely virtually and successfully conducted our first opposition hearing and mediation via video conference in June last year. The parties benefited from time and cost savings.

### VIRTUAL IP TRAININGS & IP CLINICS

We converted our face-to-face training to online modules. For example, IPO International and the Singapore University of Social Sciences jointly offered full complimentary access to a nine-hour online training course (IP Essentials for Business) on leveraging a company's IP assets for business growth during the Circuit Breaker. IPO also increased the frequency of our complimentary online IP business and legal clinics.



### ADDITIONAL HELP FOR THOSE WHO FILE THEIR IP MANUALLY

A small number of enterprises still file their IP manually. To help them, IPO provided an additional avenue for them to file their IP online through an easy-to-use online form powered by FormSG.

### EXTENSION OF FILING DEADLINES

To help enterprises tide through the movement restrictions during the COVID-19 extended Circuit Breaker period, IPO granted extension of filing deadlines for the period of 7 April 2020 to 4 June 2020. In light of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 situation, IPO subsequently amended the subsidiary legislation to provide the registrar with the power to unilaterally grant an extension for pending deadlines in special circumstances. The amendments took effect on 5 June 2020.



## HELPING ENTERPRISES IN THE PANDEMIC LEVERAGING INTANGIBLE ASSETS IN THE DIGITAL SPACE

**As companies transform to meet the challenges and opportunities in a post-COVID-19 world by leveraging their core capabilities or creating new products and services through new capabilities, active management of their IP assets continues to be crucial."**

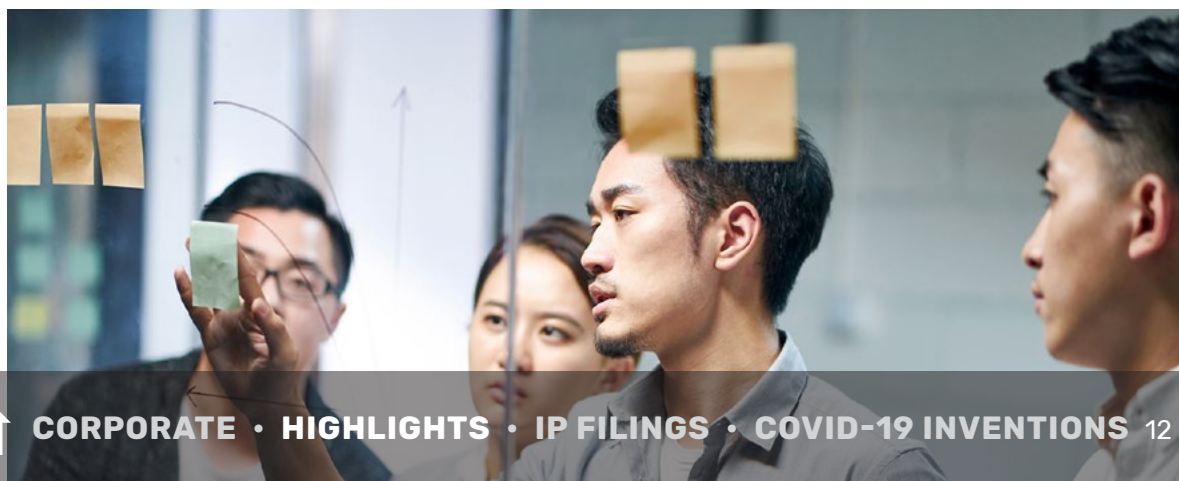
***Mr Ho Meng Kit, SBF CEO***

Many brick and mortar enterprises were hard hit by the movement restrictions and had to find alternative business models including digital solutions. This brought many challenges as they had to grapple with IP issues in the digital space which were new to them.

To help enterprises pivot to the digital space while managing and optimising their IP, IPOS together with various government agencies launched an initiative called Growing with Resilience through InTangibles (GRIT) in August 2020.

Sector-specific training and resources were provided to heavily affected industries such as tourism, education, arts and entertainment.

IPOS and the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) also jointly developed the Workforce for IP-Savvy Enterprises (WISE) programme which helped enterprises understand how to use their intangible assets (IA) and IP at different stages of the innovation cycle, and how to use IA/IP as a key part of their business strategy.



# HELPING ENTERPRISES IN THE PANDEMIC LEVERAGING INTANGIBLE ASSETS IN THE DIGITAL SPACE

## WATCH NOW

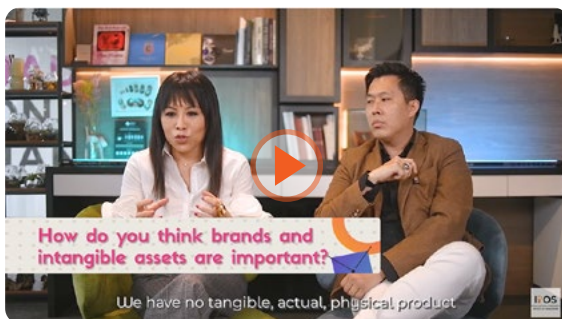
These are some of the stories of local enterprises that were able to quickly pivot to the digital space while managing and optimising their IP with the help of GRIT.




### MONSTER DAY TOURS

 Tour agency experimented with digital tours and the importance of their brands.

*Find out how this business used intangible assets like customer goodwill to test their new product offerings.*



### THE ADVOCATORS & CO

 Marketing and communications company pulled off an island-wide festival amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

*Watch the video to find out how this company leveraged on their intangible assets and IP to pull off an island-wide festival amidst the pandemic.*



### IGNITE VR

 VR event company stayed relevant in the new digital age by pivoting to software development.

*Watch the video to see how this company leveraged their intangible assets and IP to stay relevant in the new digital age.*



## HELPING ENTERPRISES IN THE PANDEMIC FAST-TRACKING IP REGISTRATIONS

Recognising that innovators needed faster market access, we rolled out a new patent acceleration programme called SG Patent Fast Track in May 2020 to help enterprises bring their inventions in all technology fields, including COVID-19 solutions, to market within six months. We have since extended this fast track system, now renamed SG IP FAST, to related trade marks and registered designs. This has benefitted companies in the fight against COVID-19.



**WATCH NOW**

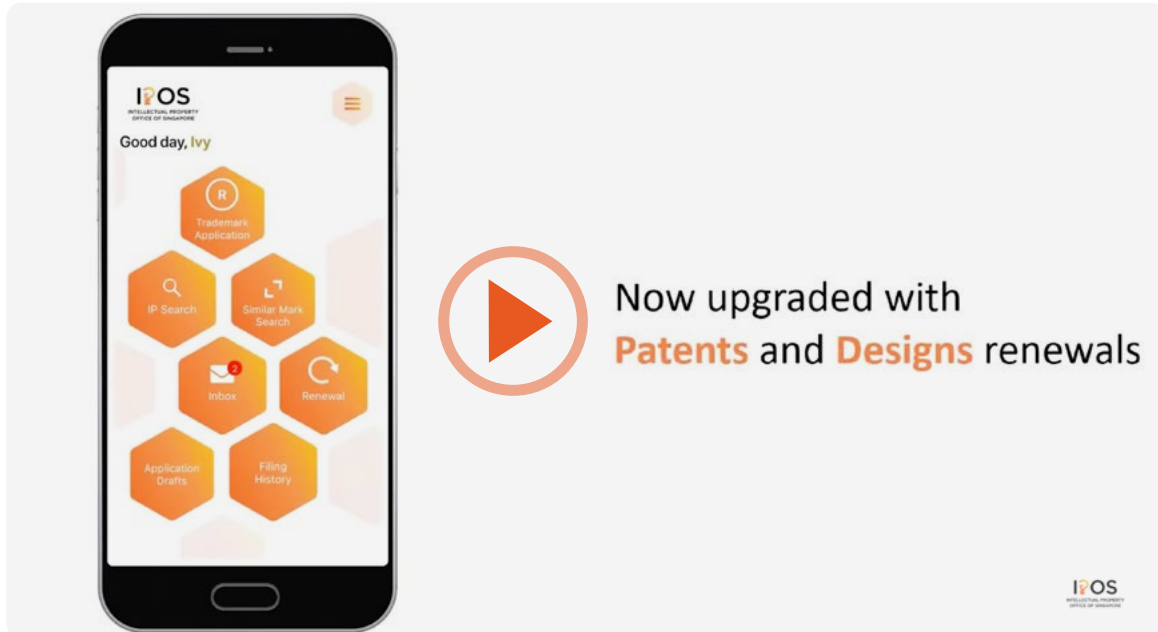
 SG IP FAST was one of the initiatives announced during IP Week @ SG 2020.



## HELPING ENTERPRISES IN THE PANDEMIC MANAGING IP ON THE GO

IPOS Go, the world's first mobile app for trade mark applications, has attracted over 3,500 downloads and registered more than 500 trade mark applications.

In August 2020, IPOS announced that it would be introducing a new feature to help enterprises find similar business names, trade marks, domain names, and social media account names – all in a single search. The app's renewal features were also extended to patents and registered designs. These enhancements have helped enterprises register and maintain their IP on the go.



### WATCH NOW

 Newly enhanced IPOS GO app upgraded to include renewal for Patents and Designs.

## HELPING ENTERPRISES IN THE PANDEMIC VOICES

### Connecting with customers in times of crisis

IPOS continued to deliver our best customer service during the COVID-19 pandemic.



● IPOS Staff: Robani Amir



Thank you very much for answering and clarifying all the questions we had. We would also like to express our sincere appreciation for your excellent service that you have rendered today. You were very efficient, courteous and took much patience in explaining every single question I had. It is all very clear to us as to how we should proceed to file a new application based on Madrid Protocol to register our trade mark in USA and China. Excellent customer services like how you have rendered today must be appreciated and that is why we are sending you our compliments."

– Compliments from customer  
Ram Dharmaraj



● IPOS Staff: Cheong Yin May



The efforts you have taken to call me before the start of the session and during the session and the assistance provided to ensure the audio communication was in order, were just superb! I have dealt with the Americans, English, Germans, Chinese, Japanese and others and I have experienced their high standards of service delivery and you are better than them all! I am very impressed by your service today. IPOS is very lucky to have you. Please keep the IPOS flag flying!"

– Compliments from customer  
Harry Lee





## HELPING ENTERPRISES IN THE PANDEMIC VOICES



● IPOS Staff: Keith Lee



Thanks to your colleague Keith Lee for taking the initiative to contact me and attending to me patiently to address my queries and concerns. He is able to assist in my queries and concerns to his best effort. I really thank him for giving great service and providing useful information especially at this difficult time when I am managing many matters on behalf of my demise dad. Great experience with IPOS and keep up the good work."

– Compliments from customer Lim Kah Huat



● IPOS Staff: Tay Shu Wen



Thank you so much for your very prompt reply with so clear directions on what to do next. I understand from my colleague that we have already got our CorpPass Account approved and have also paid for the patent online plus also received an acknowledgment from your dept too on it. As such I would like to register my appreciation to you for your kind and very prompt assistance throughout our application. Do you know how much stress you have taken away from us? Once again we want to thank you for a job well done."

– Compliments from customer Stefan Chew



# GLOBAL IP HUB IP WEEK @ SG 2020

IPOS' signature global IP event – IP Week @ SG 2020 was also not spared the disruption from the pandemic.

Faced with movement restrictions, IPOS made the call to take the event fully virtual for the first time in its nine-year history.

The event was a success as we saw more than 5,000 participants from over 45 countries, including senior leaders of major IP offices from China, Japan, the UK, and the USA joining in our first ever virtual summit.

## Event in a nutshell



**FIRST EVER VIRTUAL  
EVENT WITH RECORD  
ATTENDANCE**

**CLOSE TO 20 MAIN &  
ASSOCIATED WEBINARS**



Over **5,000**  
participants from  
>45 countries

More than **70** Partners,  
including CNA (Official Media  
Partner), 28 Participating  
Organisations and 50  
Supporting Organisations



**7** companies  
recognised for their  
innovation efforts in the  
fight against COVID-19

AMT, Esco Aster, JSB Tech, KroniKare,  
Lucence Diagnostics, MiRXES, Spic & Span

Heads from SG,  
UK, INTA, CHINA,  
US, and JP  
coming together



**1/3**  
participants  
are from the  
business sector

1<sup>st</sup> ever release of past GFIP recordings  
which have seen over

**2,500** views




## GLOBAL IP HUB ENTERPRISES RECOGNISED FOR COVID-19 INNOVATIONS

Seven Singaporean companies were recognised in a special edition of the IP Awards – the IPOS Innovation for Humanity Awards – which celebrated the inventions of enterprises used to battle COVID-19.



### WATCH NOW

 Recipients of the IPOS Innovation for Humanity Award shared how they transformed their businesses with IP for both enterprise growth and social impact during the pandemic.

**GLOBAL IP HUB**

# **EXTENDING GLOBAL IP COOPERATION DURING THE PANDEMIC**

IPOS continued to extend its network and cooperation with global IP partners during the pandemic. It signed IP agreements with six countries during IP Week @ SG 2020.

**Global IP cooperation has taken on greater importance and urgency during the pandemic, especially given the many new medical discoveries that are being made in the fight against COVID-19. The agreements will strengthen global partnerships, which will in turn make it easier and faster for enterprises to respond to the pandemic and grow their business worldwide using Singapore as a hub for their IP activities."**

***Mrs Rena Lee, IPOS CE***



**GLOBAL IP HUB****EXTENDING GLOBAL IP COOPERATION DURING THE PANDEMIC**

IPOS and Cambodia's Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation agreed to work towards recognising design registrations and accelerate registration decisions. This complements the ongoing collaboration between the two countries on patent re-registration.

IPOS International and China's Capital Intellectual Property Services Association agreed to further collaboration opportunities between IP firms, enterprises, research institutes and universities from Singapore, ASEAN and China. They also agreed to jointly organise seminars and training programmes to promote and increase knowledge and capabilities in IP protection, commercialisation and management for enterprises in the region.



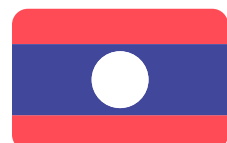
IPOS and Brazil's National Institute of Industrial Property agreed to extend cooperation through a Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) – a pilot programme which aims to accelerate the examination process of patent applications.

IPOS and Ecuador's National Service of Intellectual Rights agreed to share best practices and knowledge in IP management and promote innovation between both countries.



IPOS and Myanmar's Intellectual Property Department agreed to collaborate on patent work-sharing arrangements like Patent Prosecution Highway programmes, a patent re-registration agreement and outsourcing of patent search and examination work.

Lao PDR's Department of Intellectual Property, Ministry of Science and Technology officially appointed IPOS as a competent International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority on 7 July 2020. Enterprises can now rely on a Patent Cooperation Treaty report from IPOS to accelerate their patent grant in other countries.





# GLOBAL IP HUB GLOBAL ACCOLADES

## WTR IP INNOVATION RANKING 2020

IPOS was ranked as the world’s most innovative IP office for the first time, by leading practitioner-led publication World Trademark Review (WTR). This is the fourth edition of WTR’s IP Office Innovation Ranking.

Several of IPOS’ innovative initiatives were singled out in the report, including its Enhanced Mediation Promotion Scheme (EMPS) described as “groundbreaking” and its official mobile app IPOS Go, which integrates an AI-powered trade mark image search engine. IPOS Go was highlighted for greatly improving the efficiency of trade mark filings for users.

IPOS was also praised for providing one of the most user-friendly websites and for the launch of its expertise and enterprise engagement arm – IPOS International.

1<sup>st</sup>



Singapore

2<sup>nd</sup>



European  
IP Office

Joint  
3<sup>rd</sup>



South  
Korea



Spain



United  
Kingdom

6<sup>th</sup>



Chile

7<sup>th</sup>



Australia

Joint  
8<sup>th</sup>



Mexico



Switzerland



Turkey



United  
States

Joint  
12<sup>th</sup>



Japan



Russia

14<sup>th</sup>



France

Joint  
15<sup>th</sup>



Austria



Norway



## GLOBAL IP HUB VOICES

From the world's large multinational corporations to the fastest-growing startups, Singapore continues to be an attractive investment location for intangible assets / IP rich enterprises. Our strong IP regime is often cited as a reason for their investment choices.

### ● Bosch

*Dr. Karsten Roenner  
Global Head, Grow*

“Singapore’s *grow* hub is unique for us strategically – not only is Singapore home to Bosch’s regional office, it is also one of the world’s most prominent innovation powerhouses reflected in the robust local start-up scene. We continue to see strong government support on innovation, coupled with an organic network of founders, investors and mentors that continues to bring about positive and sustainable change in the region, making Singapore an ideal testbed for *grow*.”

German giant Bosch launched its Southeast Asia innovation hub in Singapore in July 2021 and announced that it will develop a regional collaboration network for startups. It cited Singapore’s strong innovation ecosystem as one of the reasons for setting up an innovation hub here that would focus on growth into Asia.

### ● Sanofi

*Dr. James Garner  
Head of the Unit Development Office for Asia Pacific at Sanofi*

“A robust intellectual property framework is essential to ensure that the obligations and benefits of new discoveries can be appropriately allocated. Singapore is well placed to take a leading role in the development of new medical advances for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

Leading vaccine developer and manufacturer Sanofi, which produces vaccines for diseases such as polio and influenza, announced in April 2021 that it would be investing \$638 million and hire up to 200 locals over five years to create a state-of-the-art facility in Singapore that can produce multiple vaccines in one go.



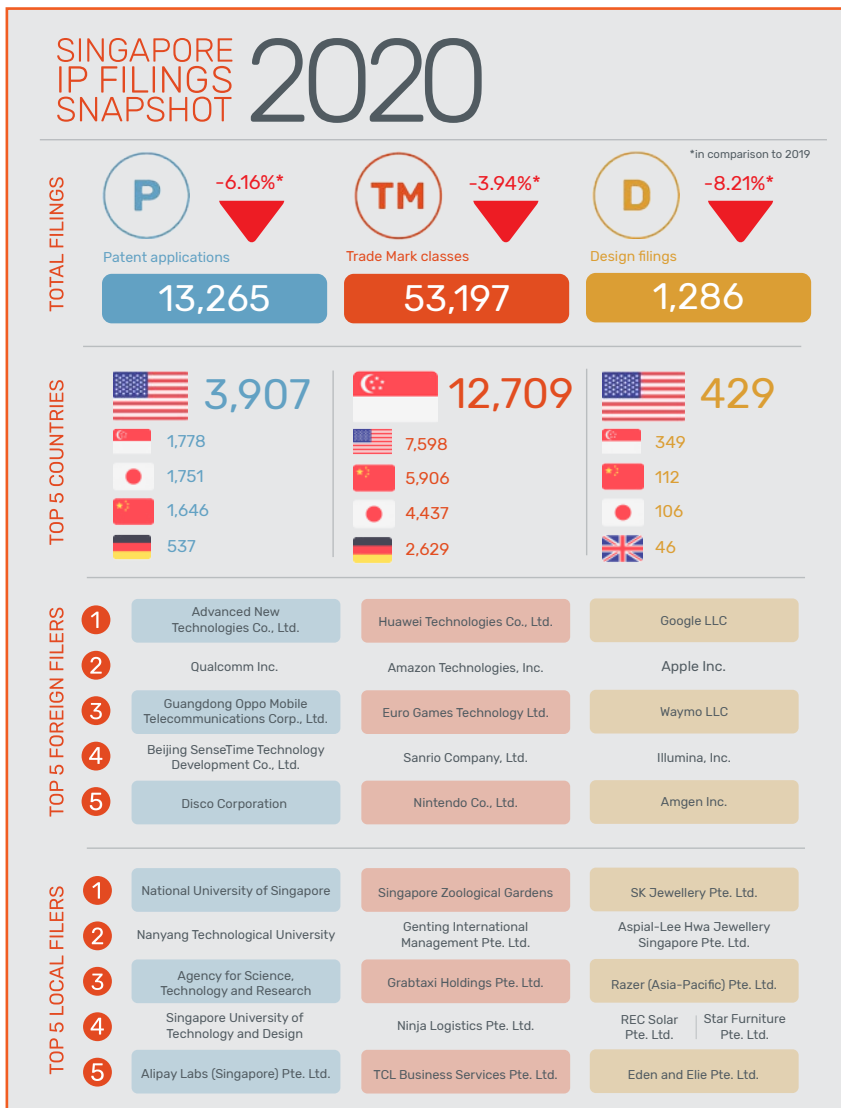


# SURGE IN PANDEMIC RELATED INNOVATIONS

There was a slight overall decrease in total filings in 2020 (See figure 1). At the same time, we saw an increase in patent filings by local enterprises, which was possibly driven by increased innovation activity in response to the pandemic.

Detailed IP Filing Statistics is available on IPOS' website: <https://www.ipos.gov.sg/resources/statistics>

Figure 1 (Click the image to view the online pdf)





# SURGE IN PANDEMIC RELATED INNOVATIONS

Strong growth was seen in trade mark and design filings for the MedTech sector from foreign and local enterprises as the world saw a surge in demand for pharmaceuticals and medical equipment such as test kits and vaccines.

## Snapshot of MedTech related IP filings:

### PATENT FILINGS

As part of a larger response to the pandemic, new inventions were filed in relation to COVID-19. Notably, one patent application filed in relation to contact tracing technology was granted under SG IP FAST.



### TRADE MARK FILINGS

Pharmaceutical preparations saw the highest increase, by 421 filings, 17.5% more than 2019. Medical apparatus saw an increase of 36% or by an additional 359 filings.

### DESIGN FILINGS

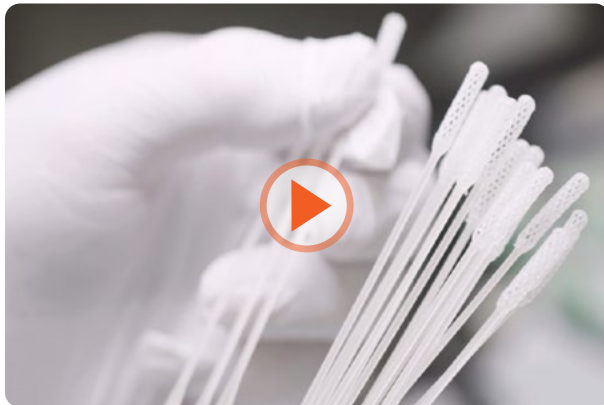
Medical and laboratory equipment design filings increased by 77% compared to 2019.



# COVID-19 INVENTIONS

As the world faced one of its most formidable invisible foes, humanity jumped into action to battle the virus. In Singapore, several companies sprang into action, creating inventions that helped fight COVID-19.

## WATCH VIDEO



### COVID-19 SWAB TIP

**i** In April 2020, the National University of Singapore, National University Hospital, and the National Additive Manufacturing Innovation Cluster were enlisted to develop COVID-19 swabs to address shortage of disposable swabs needed in Singapore.

Read more: [Innovation in Motion – Singapore's Battle Against COVID-19](#)

## WATCH VIDEO

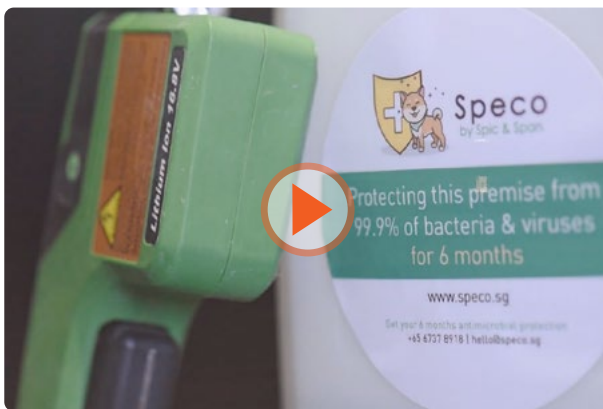


### COVID-19 TEST KIT

**i** As a manufacturer of Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-based diagnostic tests, Mirxes was called upon to mass produce the Fortitude diagnostic kit, so that it could be rapidly deployed to combat the COVID-19 outbreak. This is the first PCR-based COVID-19 diagnostic kit approved by the Health Sciences Authority (HSA), developed jointly by Mirxes, DxD Hub, A\*STAR and TTSH.

# COVID-19 INVENTIONS

## WATCH VIDEO



## SURFACES CLEANING DISINFECTANT

**i** Due to the pandemic, local cleaning solutions company Speco Singapore Pte Ltd changed the formulation and method of application of their proprietary Speco disinfectant to deal with COVID-19. The company added active ingredients required to deal with places contaminated with COVID-patients.

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## THERMAL SCANNER

**i** An automatic fever detection solution created by KroniKare and IHiS to support mass screening of temperature used in over 40 sites in Singapore, including medical centres, dormitories, offices, and bus depots.

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### MASS SCREENING SWAB BOOTH

**i** Esco Aster created the Mass Screening Swab Booth unit for the mass diagnostic testing of asymptomatic, symptomatic, and COVID-19 positive patients, while simultaneously providing protection for the healthcare professional, the patient, and the environment.

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### DIAGNOSTIC KIT

**i** Lucence Diagnostics commercialised the SAFERTM Sample saliva specimen collection kit, which allows for the collection of saliva samples and the inactivation of the SARS-CoV-2 virus for further processing. This device offers an accurate, safe and convenient way to collect saliva samples for testing. It also makes testing possible at previously inaccessible areas, expanding the reach of healthcare.