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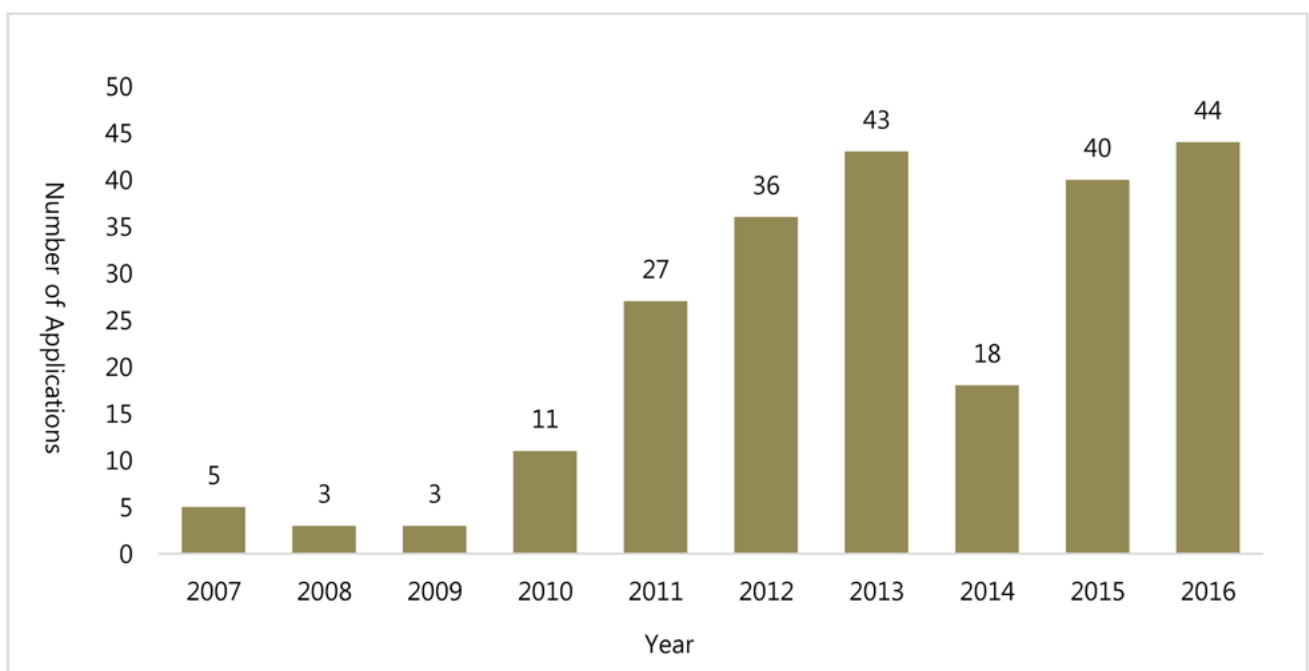
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Increase in Patent Applications for Wearable Exoskeleton Robot (Exo Suit)

As the fourth industrial revolution, characterized by a super-fusion of technologies and super-connection in the physical, digital and biological worlds, emerges as a key focus of industry and economy, the number of patent applications filed in the related robotics field is on the rise in Korea.

According to the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), only three patent applications relating to powered exoskeletons (also called Exo Suits) were filed in 2009, but the number has been rapidly increasing since 2010 and more than 40 applications per year have been filed in the past two years.

[Number of Exo Suit patent applications filed per year. Source: KIPO]



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The term “Exo Suit” refers to clothing worn in the form of a skeleton outside the user’s body, which is also referred to as wearable robots, exoskeleton robots, exoskeletons, and wearable robots. Exo Suit can be worn on the body of the user to increase the strength according to the user’s intention or to precisely control the operation of the work.

Exo Suits are used in a variety of fields such as industrial sites, rescue operations, military technology, and rehabilitative medicine. The sight of airport staff carrying heavy baggage, or of soldiers flying at 16 km per hour using Exo Suits, is no longer something that only appears in the movies.

[Commercial Exo Suit products. Source: Websites of each manufacturer]



HAL (Hybrid Assistive Limb)
Cyberdyne Co., Japan



HULC (Human Universal Load Carrier)
Lockheed Martin Co., U.S.A.



EksoWorks
Ekso Bionics Co., U.S.A.



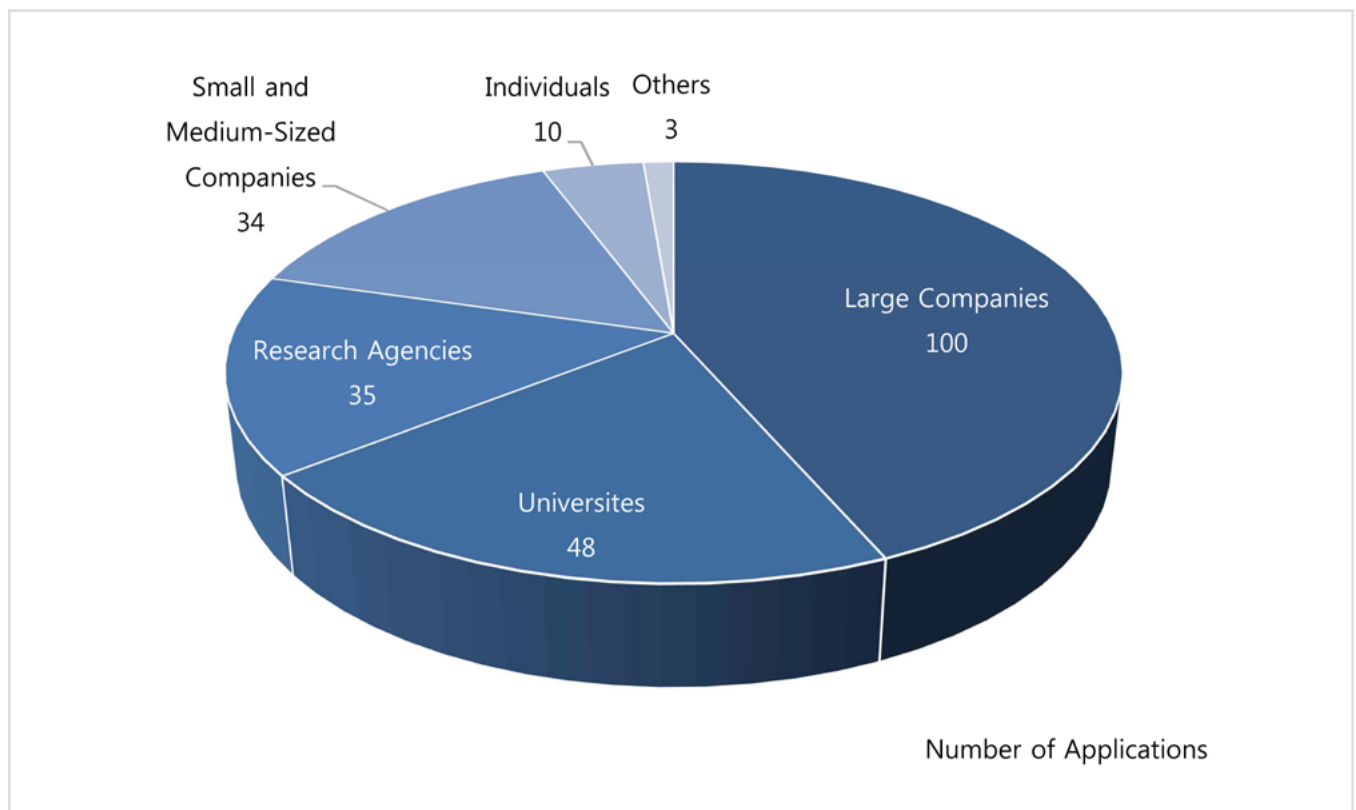
Exoskeleton AWN-03
Panasonic Co., Japan

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Korean applications account for about 97% of the total in this field at KIPO. Large companies account for about 42% (100 applications), universities account for about 21% (48 applications), research agencies account for about 15% (35 applications), small and medium-sized companies account for 15% (34 applications), and

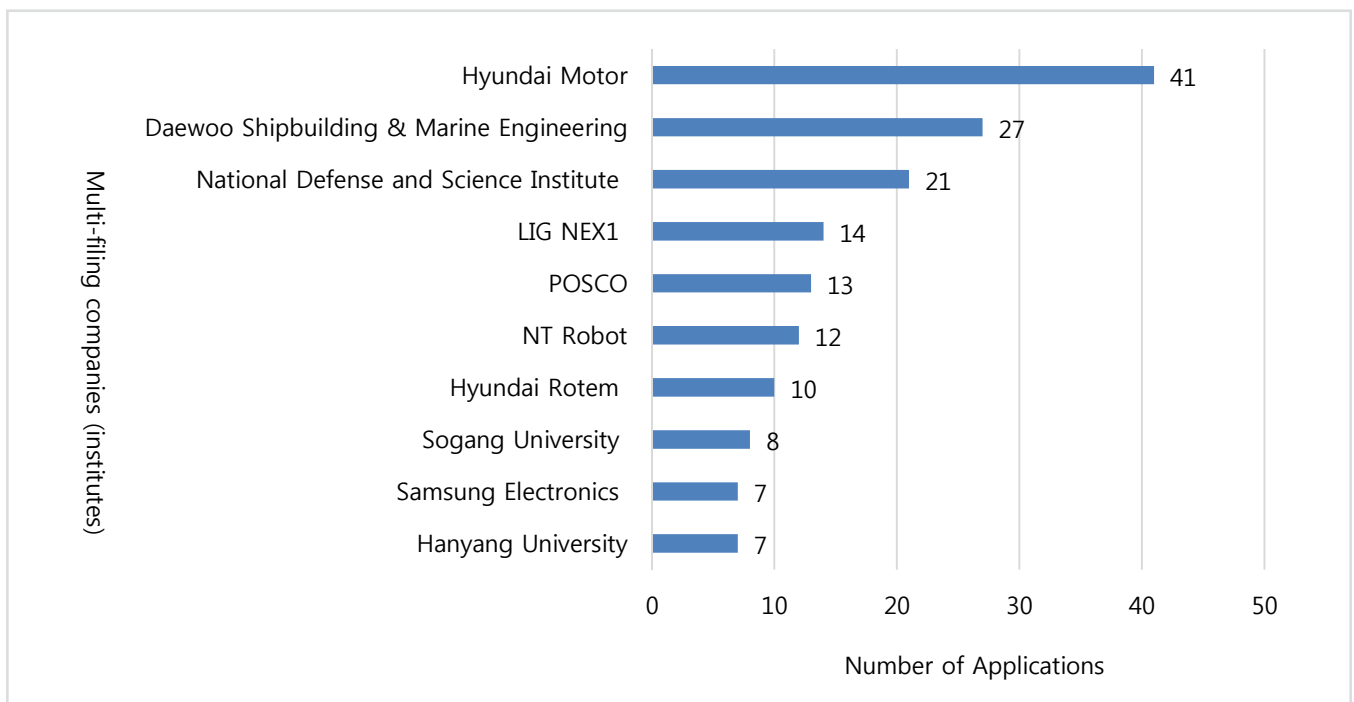
individuals account for 4% (10 applications). In addition, Hyundai Motor Company (41 applications), Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering (27 applications), and the National Defense and Science Institute (21 applications) lead the filers with multiple applications.

[Analysis of Applicant Type for Exo Suit. Source: KIPO]



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[Multi-filing companies (institutes) related to Exo Suit. Source: KIPO]



It appears that the visible success of the products of foreign companies, such as the Hybrid Assistive Limb (HAL) from Cyberdyne in Japan and the Human Universal Load Carrier (HULC) from Lockheed Martin in the U.S., has stimulated the technology research and development of domestic companies and research institutes, leading to the steady increase in patent applications related to the Exo Suit.

An examiner in KIPO emphasized that “Exo Suit is a highly efficient human-robot fusion technology that greatly reduces the computation burden of robot control by

entrusting the robot control to the user. However, the domestic (Korean) market is still in its early stage, so it is imperative for Korean companies to acquire the core technologies and rights before overseas start-ups enter the domestic market.”

Meanwhile, in order to strengthen the patent creation capability of domestic companies, KIPO supports research and development of robot technology linked with patent rights, and will continue to support the cultivation of robotics technology by supporting various domestic robot competitions.

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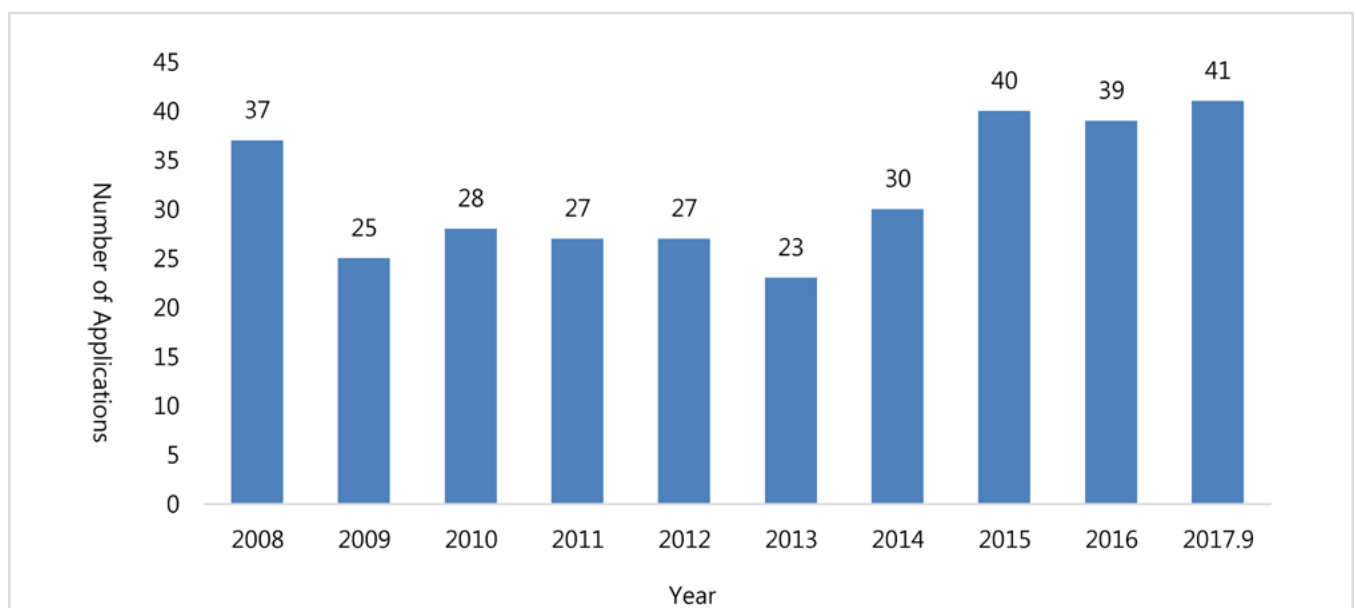
Noticeable Increase in PCT Filings on Fine Dust-Related Technologies

Air pollution in Korea caused by fine dust (particulate matter of 10 μm in diameter or less) floating in the air is increasing day by day due to the influence of dust from China, as well as pollutants emitted from automobiles, factories and homes in Korea. Exposure to fine dust for an extended period of time may lead to various diseases such as respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Therefore it has recently become common to monitor fine dust concentration and publish the result broadly. As the interest in such fine dust pollution increases socially, so do the fine dust control technologies and,

not surprisingly, Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) filings in fine dust-related fields have increased greatly over the past three years.

According to the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), 317 international patent applications on fine dust-related technologies have been filed worldwide over the past decade. An annual average of 28 applications were filed from 2008 to 2014, but an average of 40 applications were filed each year from 2015 to 2017 (through September). This is an increase of 42.8% in the last three years of filings on fine dust-related technologies compared to the total number of such applications that were filed over the preceding seven years.

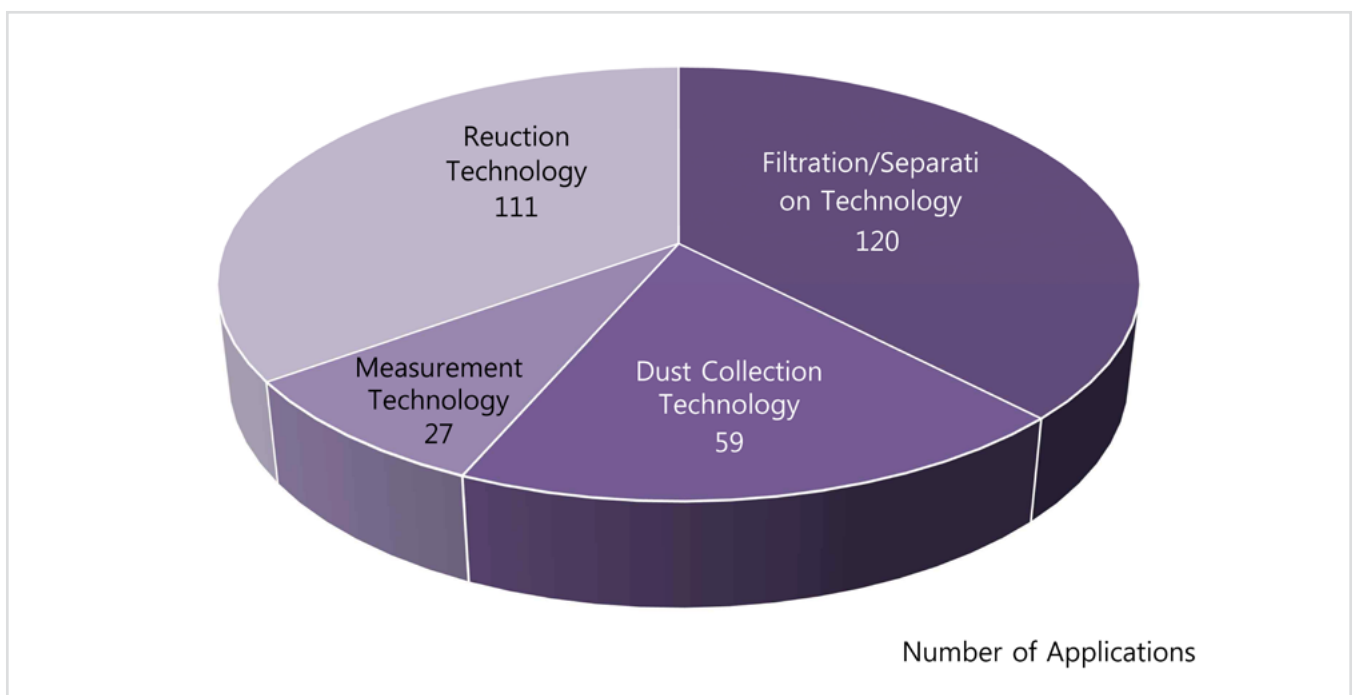
[PCT filings on fine dust-related technologies over the past decade (2008 – September 2017), Source: KIPO]



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The number of filings on fine dust-related technologies is as follows: ▲ 120 applications (37.6%) from the filtration/separation technology sector ▲ 59 applications (18.7%) from the dust collection technology sector ▲ 27 applications (8.5%) from the measurement technology sector and ▲ 111 applications (35.2%) from the reduction technology sector.

[PCT filings from respective sectors of fine dust-related technologies (2008 – September 2017), Source: KIPO]



By applicant, Korean companies such as LG Electronics, AmorePacific, Posco, and Japanese companies such as Sharp, Taiheiyo Cement and Toray Industries filed a relatively large number of applications on fine dust-related technologies. It is also notable that German companies such as BASF, BSH Bosch and Siemens are among the top filers.

In particular, the number of applications on fine dust-related technologies, which were filed by top-tier Korean companies, was merely ten (10.5%), and SMEs, individuals, research institutes and schools filed the great majority of applications. Therefore, it appears that filings on the fine dust-related technologies are not limited to specific companies.

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[PCT filings on fine dust-related technologies by applicant
(2008 – September 2017), Source: KIPO]

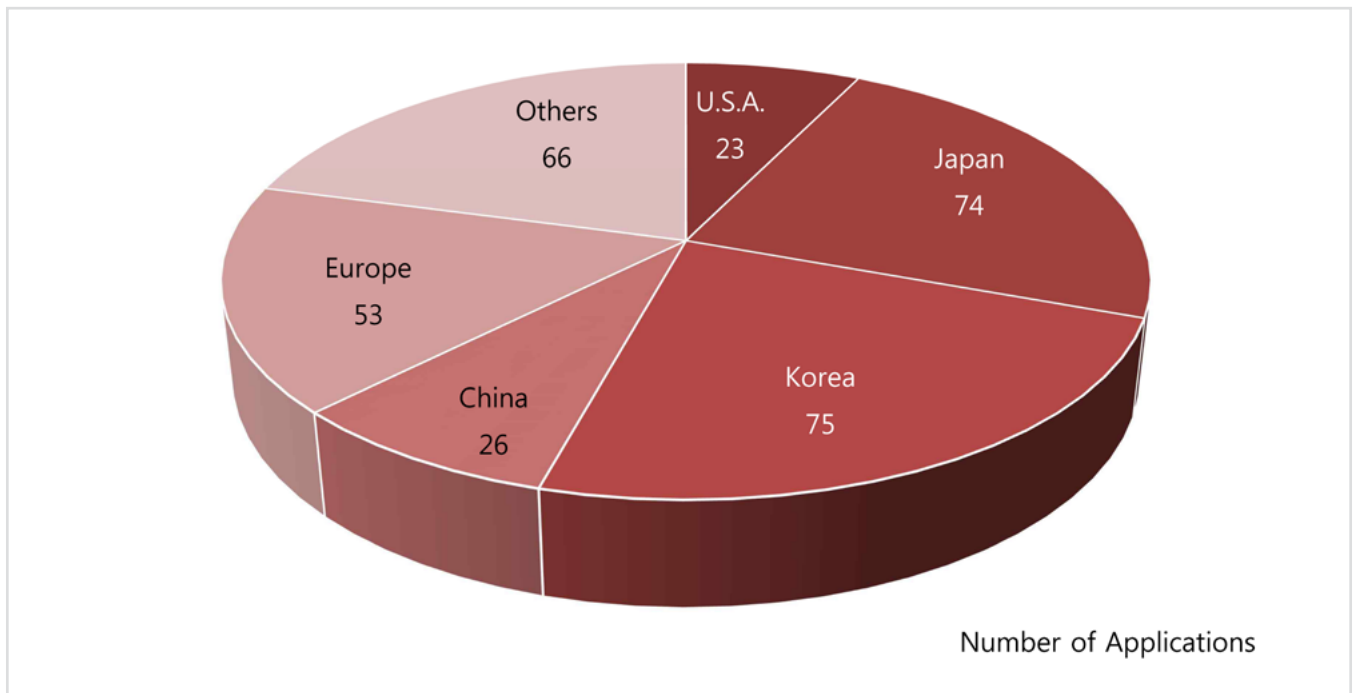
Applicant	Number of Applications	Ratio(%)
LG Electronics	5	1.6%
AmorePacific	4	1.3%
BASF	4	1.3%
Posco	4	1.3%
Sharp	4	1.3%
Taiheiyo Cement	4	1.3%
BSH Bosch	3	0.9%
Siemens	3	0.9%
Toray Industries	3	0.9%
Others (SMEs, individuals, research institutes, schools, etc.)	283	89.3%
Total	317	100.0%

By Receiving Office, the highest number of applications, 75 applications (23.7%), were filed with KIPO. 74 applications (23.3%) were filed with the Japanese Patent Office, 53 applications (16.7%) were filed with the European Patent Office, 26 applications (8.2%) were filed with the Chinese Patent Office, 23 applications (7.3%) were filed with the U.S. Patent Office, and 66 applications (20.8%) were filed with the other Receiving Offices.

It is noteworthy that 144 applications, 47% of the total filings, were filed with KIPO and the Japanese Patent Office. This seems to be related to the fact that South Korea and Japan have been directly or indirectly affected by yellow dust from China and Mongolia, leading to high levels of social concern on the issue. Accordingly, it is expected that PCT filings on fine dust-related technology will be more concentrated in KIPO and the Japan Patent Office.

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[PCT filings on fine dust-related technologies by Receiving Office (2008 – September 2017), Source: KIPO]



An examiner of KIPO said, “Fine dust-related developments have been selected to be one of the nine national strategic projects in Korea and are expected to increase steadily in the future.” He added that “KIPO will make every effort to help Korean companies to make good use of beneficial and advantageous systems such as the PCT international filing system so that the companies can better establish their patent strategies for fine dust-related technologies.”

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Samsung and SK Filed Most Korean and U.S. Patent Applications in Memory Areas

Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix filed the most patent applications in the memory semiconductor market of Korea and the United States over the five years from 2011 to 2015.

Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix Lead in Memory Patent Applications in Korea

On November 14, 2017, the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) announced that Samsung Electronics (4,388 applications, 21.2%) and SK Hynix (3,737 applications, 18.1%) ranked the top

and the second, respectively, for filing the most patent applications in Korea in the field of manufacturing technology including memory design/manufacturing/packaging. The ranking is followed by Intel (U.S., 759 applications, 3.7%), TSMC (Taiwan, 572 applications, 2.8%), Micron (U.S., 357 applications, 1.7%), Western Digital (U.S., 150 applications, 0.7%) and Toshiba (Japan, 140 applications, 0.7%).

An official of KIPO explained that “While Korean companies such as Samsung Electronics and SK Hynix filed patent applications relating to element technologies throughout the overall manufacturing process, i.e., from the design to the finished product, foreign companies

[Trend of Memory Patent Applications of Top Filers at KIPO in Recent Five Years (2011~2015), Source: KIPO]

Company	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Samsung Electronics	659	880	899	949	1,001	4,388
SK Hynix	954	925	575	623	662	3,739
Intel	149	75	215	235	85	759
TSMC	23	122	107	161	159	572
Micron	78	74	72	80	53	357
Western Digital	31	31	35	25	28	150
Toshiba	58	31	12	24	15	140
Total	1,952	2,138	1,915	2,097	2,003	10,105

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selected technologies relating to structural design and filed a small number of patent applications thereon.”

SK Hynix Ranked Top in U.S. Memory Filings

In the United States, a ferocious patent war battlefield, Korean companies ranked first and second in the number of patent applications filed in the memory area. SK Hynix, with 2,594 applications, filed the most, followed by Samsung Electronics (2,566 applications), Toshiba (2,289

applications), Micron (2,120 applications), IBM (1,977 applications), Western Digital (1,289 applications) and Intel (1,008 applications).

In the United States, 58,838 memory patent applications, approximately three times the number of patent applications filed in Korea, were filed for the same period. The number of the patent applications filed by the global companies in the United States was 417 in 2011, and it rose dramatically to 4,151.

[Trend of Number of U.S. Memory Patent Applications Filed by Top Filers at USPTO in Recent Five Years (2011~2015), from KIPO]

Company	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
SK Hynix	101	326	544	841	782	2,594
Samsung Electronics	98	203	748	757	760	2,566
Toshiba	139	119	688	626	717	2,289
Micron	18	135	686	694	587	2,120
IBM	56	244	677	449	551	1,977
Western Digital	3	56	337	499	394	1,289
Intel	2	71	253	322	360	1,008
Total	417	1,154	3,933	4,188	4,151	13,843

This trend appears to be related to the replacement of the hard disk drive (HDD), which dominated the mass storage market for sixty years, by the solid state drive (SSD), thereby resulting in a large number of patent applications relating to Nand flash memory that is loaded on the SSD.

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Industry Trends

Samsung Electronics to Mass-Produce QLC NAND Flash Memory

Samsung Electronics intends to show a 4-bit-per-cell NAND flash memory in the first half of 2018. As announced at the International Solid-State Circuits Conference (ISSCC) that was held on November 15, 2017, Samsung Electronics plans to release a paper about a 64-layer 1Tb quadruple-level cell (QLC) V (3D)-NAND flash memory in the seminar "ISSCC 2018," which is scheduled to be held in February 2018 in San Francisco, U.S. The paper is expected to be highly significant in introducing the first commercializable QLC technology.

LG Electronics Pushing Ahead with Bid to Takeover Automotive Electronics Company

In a consortium with its holding company LG Corporation, LG Electronics is proceeding with its proposed acquisition of ZKW Group, the Austrian manufacturer of automotive lighting systems and electronics. Considering that the Samsung Electronics acquired the American company Harman early this year, a fierce fight for leadership in electronic equipment is easily expected between the two rivals.

LG Electronics is now stepping up its local investments in the automotive electronics business. On August 24, 2017 it and started constructing an electric car component factory in the Hazel Park in the outskirts of Detroit, Michigan, U.S. with an investment of about USD 25 million. When completed, the factory will manufacture battery packs first and gradually expand to motors and other key components.

Rapid Increase in Requests for Patent Trials by Domestic Pharmaceuticals

Following the introduction of the Patent-Approval Linkage System, requests for pharmaceutical-related patent trials have rapidly increased by approximately 200%. According to the Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board (IPTAB), the current status of requests for patent trials is set forth below.

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[Current Status of Requests for Patent Trials Related to the Patent-Approval Linkage System, Source: IPTAB]

Type of Trial	Before March 2015	2015				2016						Until June 2017			Total
		3~4	5~7	8~10	11~12	1~2	3~4	5~6	7~8	9~10	11~12	1~2	3~4	5~6	
Confirmation-of-Scope (negative)	132	160	41	12	65	6	10	21	14	116	121	119	85	24	926
Confirmation-of-Scope (offensive)	11	0	0	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
Invalidation	181	1,078	24	4	9	3	6	1	2	2	0	5	2	7	1,324
Invalidation of Patent Term Extension	0	494	10	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	508
Total	324	1,732	75	17	74	12	22	22	16	118	121	124	87	31	2,775

[Current Status of Decisions in the Requests for Patent Trials, source: IPTAB]

Type of Trial	Granted	Denied	Dismissed	Withdrawn	Invalidated	Pending	Total
Confirmation-of-Scope (negative)	390	26	7	89	9	405	926
Confirmation-of-Scope (offensive)	3	0	3	9	0	2	17
Invalidation	257	88	22	493	165	299	1,324
Invalidation of Patent Term Extension	0	207	0	177	116	8	508
Total	650	321	32	768	290	714	2,775

Domestic pharmaceutical companies accounted for 99.5% of all requests for pharmaceutical-related patent trials, with Ahn-Gook Pharm, Hanmi Pharm and Aju Pharm particularly active. For patent invalidation trials, Ahn-Gook Pharm filed 64 cases, followed by Hanmi Pharm (61 cases) and Aju Pharm (60 cases). For patent term extension invalidation trials, Ahn-Gook Pharm filed 31 cases, which is the most, and the other pharmaceutical companies filed a similar number of cases. For negative confirmation-of-scope trials, Hanmi Pharm

filed 43 cases, followed by Kyung Dong Pharm (36 cases) and Chong Kun Dang (30 cases).

As the number of requests for trials increased, there were also a considerable number of withdrawn cases. However, if the likelihood of invalidation is low, the pharmaceutical companies tend to increasingly request negative confirmation-of-scope trials. As a result, the negative confirmation-of-scope trials show a relatively low withdrawal rate.

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Supreme Court Overturns Lower Court Decisions in Exelon Patent Trials of SK Chemicals vs. Novartis

The Korean Supreme Court overturned the lower court's decisions in the patent invalidation trials filed by SK Chemicals against Novartis's patents (In two patent invalidation cases (Case Nos. 2014 Hu 2702 and 2014 Hu 2696) and remanded the trial cases to the Patent Court on August 29, 2017.

Supreme Court's Decision in Case No. 2014 Hu 2702

Korean Patent No. 121596 relates to a pharmaceutical composition for systemic transdermal administration, comprising a phenyl carbamate having anticholinesterase activity as an active ingredient, particularly, (S)-N-ethyl-3-[(1-dimethylamino)ethyl]-N-methyl-phenyl-carbamate ("rivastigmine"), which is an (S) optical isomer isolated from RA7 having formula (I). This patent provides a medical use invention characterized by the transdermal administration as a dosage regimen.

The Supreme Court held that "Although the claimed compound has the same structure as the racemate compound disclosed in the cited prior art reference, one of ordinary skill in the art could not easily anticipate the effect of the transdermal administration of

RA7 or an optical isomer thereof from the properties disclosed in the reference for the following reasons: although the reference discloses the oral or non-oral administration of the racemate compound and the effect of oral administration, it does not disclose the effect of transdermal absorption; and although the reference discloses the properties of racemate compounds (such as high lipid solubility, low melting point, short half-life, small molecular weight, lower dose, narrow therapeutic window, etc.) which might be also shown in the compounds having superior transdermal absorptivity, it cannot be deemed that all the compounds having such properties exhibit superior transdermal absorptivity. Therefore, the patented invention is acknowledged to have an inventive step."

Supreme Court's Decision in Case No. 2014 Hu 2696

Korean Patent No. 133686 relates to a phenyl carbamate having anticholinesterase activity, and more particularly to an (S)-N-ethyl-3-[(1-dimethylamino)ethyl]-N-methyl-phenyl-carbamate ("rivastigmine") compound having formula (I). This is a selection invention compared to the racemate compound in the cited prior art reference, which has the same structure as the optical isomer of the selection invention.

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The Supreme Court held that “Regardless of whether the novelty of the patented invention can be denied on the basis that RA7 is included in the compounds disclosed in the cited prior art reference, the effect of the transdermal administration of the patented invention should be acknowledged as a qualitatively different effect that could not be anticipated from the reference on the same basis as stated in the decision in Case No. 2014 Hu 2702. Thus, the Patent Court’s decision denying the inventive step of the patented invention is unreasonable and improper. In addition, where a selection invention has various effects, it can be deemed to have an inventive step if at least one, and not all, of the various effects of the selection invention is qualitatively different from or quantitatively superior to the effects of the prior art.”

Significance of the Decisions in the Two Case

The Supreme Court had previously rendered an en banc decision holding that a dosage regimen and a dose can be considered as elements of a drug product invention (see Supreme Court Case No. 2014 Hu 768 issued on May 21, 2015). At issue in this case was a patent of the U.S. pharmaceutical company BMS, which relates to a low dose entecavir formulation characterized by being

administered once a day at a dose of 1 mg.

In Case No. 2014 Hu 2702, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that a dosage regimen constitutes an element of a drug product invention. Furthermore, the Supreme Court acknowledged the patentability based on a route of administration. Thus, it is now possible to extend patent protection for an invention that improves an original drug by improving a dose and a dosage regimen, including a dosing interval and an administration route.

In Case No. 2014 Hu 2696, the Supreme Court only made a determination on the inventive step of the selection invention, without any determination on the novelty, which was not determined at the Patent Court as well. Although the novelty issue was disputed by the parties, the Patent Court made no determination on the novelty and only determined the inventive step of the invention. This implies that there would be a change in the position of the Patent Court, which has generally denied the novelty of an optical isomer. Thus, the Korean patent examination guidelines concerning a selection invention relating to an optical isomer would likely be changed depending on the decision that will be issued by the Patent Court in respect of this remanded case.

TRADEMARKS

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Winning case: Registration of Mark “THEZARA” for Motel Services Invalidated Based on the Mark “ZARA” for “Clothing”

On behalf of our client Inditex S.A. (“Inditex”), the owner of the famous fashion brand “ZARA,” Lee International obtained a favorable decision in its invalidation action against a registered mark “THEZARA” for motel and hotel services.

Facts

Lee International filed an invalidation action against the registered mark “THEZARA” for “motel, hotel,” etc., on behalf of Inditex. The invalidation action argued that the mark “THEZARA” was filed in bad faith to take a “free ride” on the fame of Inditex’s mark “ZARA,” which is well-known as a specific source indicator to the general public both within and outside of Korea.

	Registered Mark	Inditex’s Mark
Mark	THEZARA	ZARA
Goods/ Services	Motel, hotel, pension, etc. in Class 43	Clothing (sales for clothing)

Rulings

The Court tends to consider the similarity or commercial relationship between the compared goods/services as a major factor in determining whether a mark was filed in bad faith. Based on the foregoing, the Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board (IPTAB), the tribunal of first instance, ruled that the invalidation action against the registered mark “THEZARA” was without merit based on that factor, even though Inditex’s mark “ZARA” is acknowledged to be well-known, since the compared marks are dissimilar in terms of the marks themselves and the goods/services associated therewith, and thus the registered mark “THEZARA” could not be deemed to have been filed in bad faith.

Lee International filed an appeal of the IPTAB decision with the Korean Patent Court asserting that registration of the mark “THEZARA” should be invalidated based on a number of factors, and the Korean Patent Court agreed and reversed the IPTAB decision. The Korean Patent Court concluded in its decision that the registered mark is deemed to have been in bad faith based on the following elements: (i) the registrant is currently using the mark “THEZARA” by dividing the elements “THE” and “ZARA” with a space between them, such as “THE ZARA”

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(with a space between “THE” and ZARA”); (ii) globally-famous fashion houses have extended their business lines to include hotel and leisure services; (iii) Inditex also has operated the ZARA HOME stores in Korea to distribute its bedding items or interior decorations under the “ZARA HOME” brand; and (iv) the registrant is currently using the mark “THE ZARA” (with a space between “THE” and ZARA”) for bedding items at the relevant hotel. The Korean Patent Court also concluded that, since the element “THE” is used as an article in the registered mark, the mark would primarily be perceived and pronounced by its major element “ZARA,” which is identical to Inditex’s mark “ZARA.” This decision of the Patent Court has been affirmed by the Korean Supreme Court.

This decision constitutes a useful and authoritative precedent to the effect that, even if the goods and services associated with the compared marks are dissimilar, if there is any unfair purpose in registering the mark in light of all the facts or circumstances, such a mark is deemed to have been in bad faith.




Continuing Disputes Between Cartoon-Eye Bag Maker and Hermès

French fashion luxury goods manufacturer Hermès has partially succeeded in the Korean Patent Court in invalidating the design of a handbag (“Subject Design”) owned by Playnomore, a Korean fashion company.

Background

Hermès discovered that the Subject Design, which contains the shape of eyes on a bag design, which is similar to its Birkin and Kelly handbags, was registered in Korea. Hermès filed an invalidation action against the Subject Design on the ground that the Subject Design can be easily conceived based on the following prior designs (“Cited Designs”), which were disclosed to the public prior to the filing of the application for the Subject Design:


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Subject Design	Cited Design 3	Cited Design 4
 <p data-bbox="228 909 461 976">Filing date: March 12, 2015</p>	 <p data-bbox="687 909 898 976">Disclosed date: July 8, 2014</p>	 <p data-bbox="1107 909 1374 976">Disclosed date: September 7, 2014</p>

Finding of Facts and Decision

The Korean Patent Court determined that one can easily conceive the same type of bag



as the Subject Design “” by applying Cited Design 4 (which is an ornamental design) to the bag design of Cited Design 3, since (1) the elements of Cited Design 4 are placed without any specific features in size or position, (2) an ordinary designer would naturally recognize Cited Design 4 as an ornament that can be attached to the front of a design, and (3) there seems to be no difficulty in attaching Cited Design 4 to the front of a bag having a similar or same shape as Cited Design 3.

Cited Designs 3 and 4 are owned by Playnomore, but Hermès cited these marks to invalidate the Subject Design. The Korean Patent Court found Hermès’ arguments persuasive.

In a separate case, Hermes previously filed a copyright lawsuit against Playnomore, claiming that the manufacture and sale of bags by Playnomore, of which shape is similar to that of Hermès’ Kelly bags and Birkin bags, constitute acts of unfair competition. The first court partly accepted Hermes’ claims and ordered Playnomore to pay KRW 100 million (approximately US \$94,000) to Hermes. However, the Seoul High Court ruled in favor of Playnomore on the basis that although the bag shape contained in the

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Subject Design is somewhat similar to the shape of Hermès Kelly bags and Birkin bags, the Subject Design possesses creativeness and uniqueness, and that Playnomore did

not obtain unjust enrichment or infringe upon Hermès' copyright since the price and customers of each party's bags are different.

Hermès bag	Playnomore's bag
	

GENERAL LAW

GENERAL LAW

Selective Listening by Users Constitutes “Interactive Transmission”

A recent court judgment put the brakes on a smartphone music application called Dinga Radio. Dinga Radio provides “DJ Feed”, a service that enables users to create a channel through which the users listen to pieces of music in a playlist they make themselves and also allow other users to access it. However, the court found that the service constitutes “interactive transmission” under the Korean Copyright Act rather than “digital sound transmission”. If it is considered “interactive transmission” as decided by the court, sound sources can only be used with permission from the recording producer, presumably entailing royalties, which is not required for “digital voice transmission.”

The lawsuit (2016 Gahap558355) was first brought last September in Seoul Central District Court against Media Scope, the operator of Dinga Radio, by a producer of sound sources, Genie, which asserted “Rather than having the public receive the service simultaneously, Dinga Radio’s DJ Feed allows individual users to listen to music at the time and place of their own choosing, which constitutes interactive transmission under the Korean Copyright

Act.” Thus, it argued, Dinga Radio violated the right of interactive transmission of some 269 recordings owned by Genie.

The Seoul Central District Court handed down a ruling partially in favor of the plaintiff, ruling that “Media Scope is not allowed to interactively transmit recordings to users of Dinga Radio through its DJ Feed service”.

As the court explained, “Interactive transmission and digital sound transmission are differentiated in terms of whether all users receive transmission of the same content at the same time (digital sound transmission) or whether individual users can select recordings and listen at the time and place of their own choosing (interactive transmission)”. The court also added “Although DJ Feed contains contradictory characteristics, it still constitutes interactive transmission because its main function lacks ‘simultaneity’, a criterion of deciding between interactive transmission and digital sound transmission”.

The court finally concluded that “Media Scope’s transmission of recordings to its users through DJ Feed service while neglecting to obtain permission from Genie constitutes infringement of Genie’s interactive transmission right”.

LEE NEWS

LEE NEWS

New Member: Yong-Beom Kim (Patent Attorney)

Yong-Beom Kim advises clients on a wide range of work for patent registration and trial and litigation in the fields of biotechnology, chemistry and pharmaceuticals. Prior to obtaining his license as a patent attorney, he worked at Green Cross Research Lab (2004-2006). As a patent attorney specializing in biotechnology and chemistry, he has accumulated experiences in patent offices as various as Hansung International Patent and Law Office (2012-2013), Nam & Nam World Patent & Law Firm (2013-2015) and Hanol Intellectual Property & Law (2016-2017), while serving clients in patent prosecution and registration and trial and litigation. Yong-Beom Kim graduated from Seoul National University with a degree in applied biology and chemistry (2000) and earned his master's degree in agricultural life science engineering in the same university (2003).



Yong-Beom Kim

Lee International Named as Top Tier IP Law Firms by “Asia IP”

Lee International has been recognized as one of the Tier 1 law firms for 2017 Asia IP Award, hosted by Asia IP, in the categories of “Patent,” “Copyright” and “Trademark.” Asia IP is a legal magazine published by a Hong Kong media group called “Apex Asia Media Limited,” which provides vital information and an extensive range of in-depth news to international law firms.

Asia IP
Informed Analysis

LEE NEWS

Lee International Holds Charity Bazaar and Free Legal Counseling for Year-End Event

Lee International held its “2017 Santa Clothes Charity Bazaar and Free Legal Counseling” event for the third time. This time, the event has been more meaningful because lawyers of Lee International provided free legal counseling. All proceeds of the event will be donated to a designated social welfare group.





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Lee International IP & Law Group was founded in 1961 and currently ranks as one of the largest law firms in Korea.

Lee International retains distinguished legal professionals with expertise in all major areas of the law, with a special focus on intellectual property. Recognized as one of the premier law firms in Korea, Lee International advises clients on a diverse range of high profile matters, including intellectual property disputes and litigation, licensing, commercial litigation, international transactions, real property matters, tax matters, and international trade disputes.

Lee International is a leader in patent prosecution, trademark prosecution, and IP disputes and litigation including patent litigation, trademark litigation, anti-counterfeiting matters, domain name disputes, copyright disputes and trade secret enforcement. Lee International counsels many Fortune 100 and other leading multinational companies on how to successfully maneuver not only through the complexities of Korean law, but also through the unique intricacies of doing business in Korea.

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