Lee International
IP & LAW GROUP

Autumn 2017

NewsLetter

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Patent Court Aims to Conduct Trials in English

Amid ever-increasing international competition in intellectual property, demand has been growing to establish in Korea an international tribunal where arguments in a patent case can be made in English. On June 28, 2017, the Patent Court of Korea held its first English hearing as a mock trial in conjunction with the hearing of an actual appeal against the final rejection of a patent application.

Of the 611 patent disputes filed with the Patent Court of Korea in 2016, 260 cases (42%), or close to half of the total, were filed by foreigners and corporations. The Patent Court seeks to introduce an international tribunal where trials can be conducted in English, in order to enable the Patent Court to serve as an international dispute solution hub for intellectual property. Currently, a bill to revise the Court Organization Act for introducing an international tribunal has been proposed in the National Assembly, and as a part of that effort, an English hearing was held in Korea for the first time.

The case involved a patent application filed by 3M for an invention titled "Higher Transmission Light Control Film", a display protection film. The Korean Intellectual Property Office rejected the application on the ground that the invention could have been easily conceived by one of ordinary skill in the art by combining two registered patents, and thus lacked an inventive step. In response, 3M brought suit in the Patent Court.

According to Article 62 of the current Court Organization Act, it is not possible to conduct a trial only in English. Thus, the Patent Court held the hearing in Korean before conducting the English hearing.

Pursuant to the procedures stipulated in the bill to revise the Court Organization Act pending at the National Assembly, the English hearing was held with the agreement of both parties involved. In the hearing, the representatives of the plaintiff and the defendant delivered their arguments in English. The Patent Court gave its directions during the trial in Korean, as required by the pending bill, and delivered its opinions with a summary in English for smoother communication. Simultaneous translations from English to Korean and Korean to English were provided for the participants and the audience in the courtroom. The Court's decision will be written in Korean with an English translation.

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In addition, the Patent Court is making further preparations for its anticipated role as an international IP hub tribunal. In May 2017, the Patent Court opened the International Intellectual Property Law Research Center, staffed by judges of the Patent Court as well as researchers, in order to improve local expertise regarding international intellectual property. Further, since 2015 the Patent Court has been publishing its decisions in English and in English-language IP journals, and providing hearing manuals to the parties involved in English, Chinese, and Japanese.

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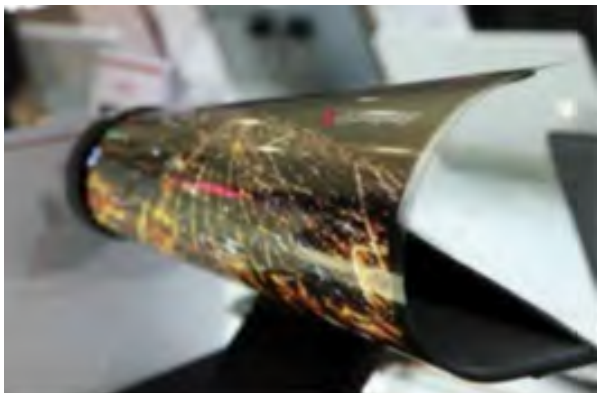
Evolution of Rollable Display

Rapid Increase in the Number of Patent Applications Relating to Rollable Display

It will not be long before TV screens and smartphone screens can be rolled up and carried easily.

[Rollable Displays of Korean Companies, Source: KIPO]



LG Display's 18-inch rollable display unveiled at the 2015 SID (Society for Information Display) International Symposium

Samsung Display's 5.7-inch color rollable display unveiled at the 2016 SID International Symposium

The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) announced that the number of patent applications relating to a rollable display, a screen that can be rolled up into a scroll, has been increasing in recent years.

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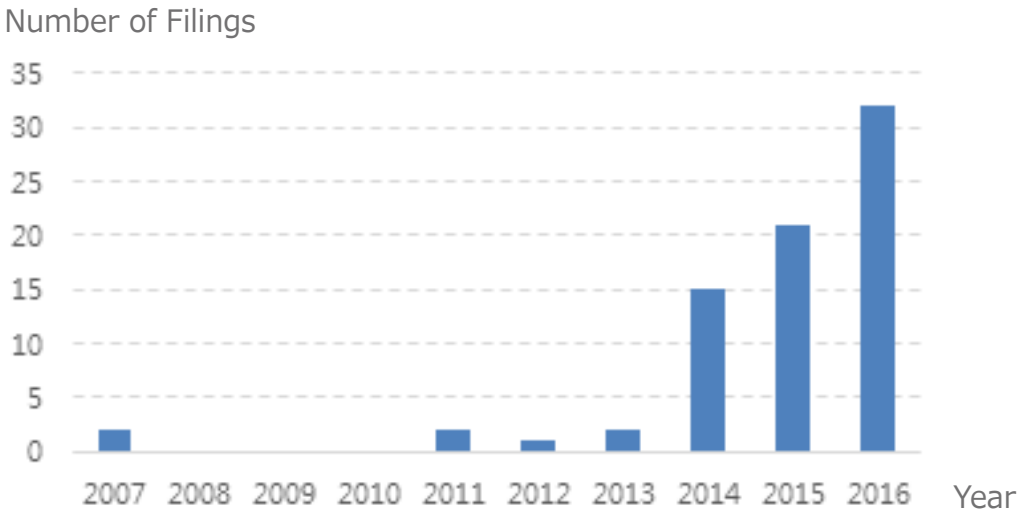
[Patent Applications Relating to Rollable Display (2007 - 2016), Source: KIPO]



Year	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of Filings	2	0	0	0	2	1	2	15	21	32

A rollable display is a display device using a flexible plastic substrate instead of a rigid glass substrate. It can be rolled up like a scroll and unfolded when needed. Due to such flexibility, the scope of applications of rollable displays should greatly expand in the future.

As expected, the number of domestic patent applications relating to rollable displays, which was only two in 2013, increased to 15 in 2014 and to 32 in 2016. Both government and industry forecasts indicate that rollable displays will also be applied to commercial mobile products by 2023, so this trend will likely continue for the foreseeable future.

Among the applicants of patent applications for rollable displays in the last 10 years, Samsung Display ranks at the top with 40 applications (53%) of the total, followed by LG Display with 26 applications (35%). In addition, nine applications were filed by SMEs or individuals. As is clear from the major applicants, domestic companies are leaders in rollable display technology.

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It should be noted that the number of patent applications filed by Korean companies has risen sharply since 2014, and in the past three years, the filing rate of domestic companies accounted for more than 90%. It is analyzed that domestic companies have strategies to take the initiative in the next generation display market based on their initiatives of the first and second generation displays.

KIPO said, "Although Korean companies now lead the flexible display technology, including rollable displays, companies in foreign countries, such as China and Japan, are quickly catching up with domestic companies. Thus, it is important for domestic companies to secure patents for core technologies within and outside Korea, thereby strengthening their dominant positions in this next-generation display technology."

To enhance the patent competitiveness in the technical field of displays, KIPO has regularly held "IP Together" events as a part of communication and cooperation between the industry and the KIPO. KIPO also plans to continue providing relevant information to the industry through briefings explaining relevant revisions to the Patent Act.

Lithium Secondary Battery Storage May Be the Answer to Surplus Power

Patent applications for lithium secondary batteries for ESS increase.

Koreans are increasingly concerned about pollutants including fine dust in the air they breathe. In an effort to reduce fine dust emissions, an aged coal-fired electric power plant in the West Sea area was temporarily shut down for a month. The introduction of eco-friendly new renewal energy sources is gaining momentum. The alarm over fine dust has also aroused interest in the market for Energy Storage Systems (ESS), which are necessary to enhance the efficiency of power generation. Compelling results have been seen in the industrial competitiveness of lithium secondary batteries for ESS, and naturally patent applications for the lithium secondary battery for ESS are showing an upward trend in Korea.

Energy Storage Systems (ESS)

The power generated during periods of low-demand is stored in grid energy storage and supplied during high demand periods. This process is called "load leveling." ESS aims at load leveling to enhance power efficiency. ESS is particularly required for new renewable energy sources that are variable in output.

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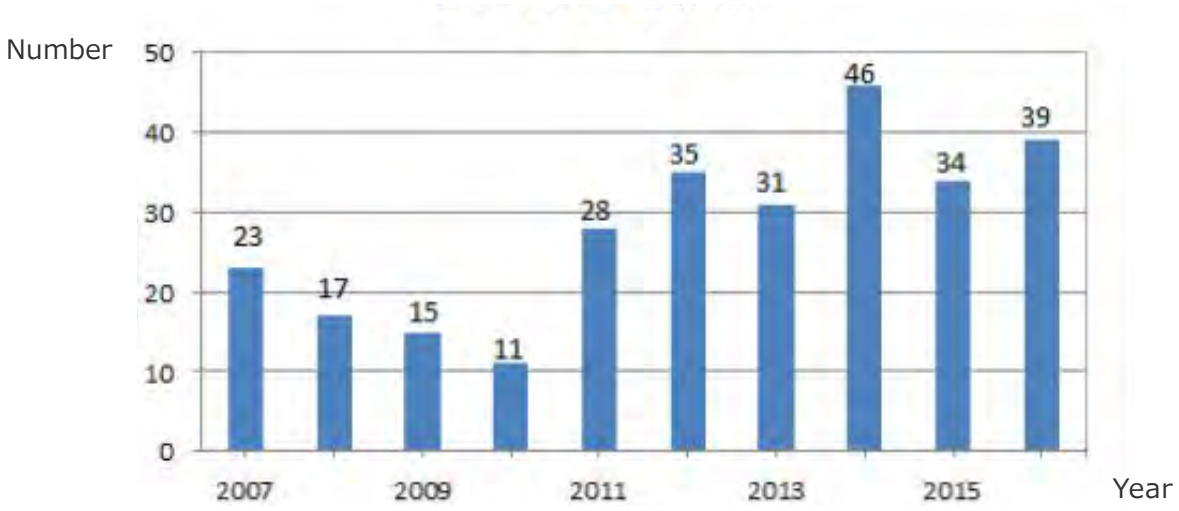
The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) reported that the number of domestic patent applications for lithium secondary batteries to be used in ESS is on the rise. According to KIPO, the total number of patent applications in this field over the last 10 years amounts to 279. The annual average number of patent applications was less than 17 in the years from 2007 to 2010, but has increased continually to 31 in the years 2011-2013 and to 40 in the years 2014-2016.

[The number of ESS-related lithium secondary battery patent applications from 2007 to 2016. Source: KIPO]



Of the total applicants for relevant patents, applicants from Korea account for a majority of 53 percent. Among Korean applicants, corporations filed the most patent applications with 78 percent. Universities and laboratories followed with 17 percent and individuals came in last with 5 percent. With respect to the number of the patent applications, LG Chem led with 59 applications and BASF followed with 15.

The market for ESS is expanding together with the growth of the market for new renewable energy.

The existing power system is set to store power only in preparation for peak demand times, which brings about a severe imbalance between power demand and supply. New renewable energy sources, such as solar power and wind power, characteristically

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depend on weather conditions so that they cause instability in the power supply. ESS can be the answer to this imbalance and instability in the power supply since it achieves a load leveling to enhance both power efficiency and stability. The technology behind ESS includes batteries, such as lithium secondary batteries, NaS batteries and Redox Flow batteries, pumped hydro, and flywheels.

[Analysis of Technology used behind ESS, Source: KIPO]

<table>
<tr><th>Classification</th><th>Flywheel</th><th>Lithium Secondary battery</th><th>NaS Battery</th><th>Redox Flow Battery</th></tr>
<tr><td>Power conversion efficiency</td><td>90%</td><td>96%</td><td>78%</td><td>70%</td></tr>
<tr><td>Life expectancy</td><td>< 20</td><td>< 10</td><td>15</td><td>5~10</td></tr>
<tr><td>Discharge duration (hr)</td><td><15min</td><td>15min~ 2 hr</td><td>6 ~ 8</td><td>2 ~ 8</td></tr>
<tr><td>Price per capacity ($/kW)</td><td></td><td>1,000~2,000</td><td>200~300</td><td>600~1,000</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Strength</td><td>large output</td><td>easy-to-use</td><td rowspan="3">popularized (Japan GK)</td><td rowspan="3">small investment costs</td></tr>
<tr><td>long life</td><td>eco-friendly</td></tr>
<tr><td>heat-durable</td><td>high efficiency</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Weakness</td><td>no move</td><td rowspan="2">explosion risk</td><td rowspan="3">maintenance of high temperature required</td><td>harm to environment</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">large investment costs</td><td rowspan="2">small demonstration site</td><td rowspan="2">low efficiency</td></tr>
<tr><td>explosion risk</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Use</td><td colspan="2"></td><td colspan="2">power saving, sending voltage control</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="3">load leveling, new renewable energy control, system link</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">power grid stability, quality improvement</td><td colspan="2"></td></tr>
</table>

Lithium secondary batteries are the preferred storage device for ESS due to their high energy density and efficiency and their flexible capacity. Their higher price over other batteries has hindered market expansion, but the recent decline in manufacturing costs has lowered the price of lithium secondary batteries, which has brought about the active introduction of such batteries for use in ESS.

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[Analysis of Global Market for ESS. Source: KIPO]

[Analysis of Global Market for Lithium Secondary Battery for ESS, Source: KIPO]

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Exports from Korea of lithium secondary batteries for ESS have greatly increased in recent days. Fueled by these export increases, the home market for these batteries is expected grow with the government policy of supplying 270 MW ESS, 20 percent more over the previous year. Most of the ESS would be in the form of lithium secondary batteries.

"At this time when new renewable energy sources are on the rise, we are expecting the growth of the markets for lithium secondary batteries for ESS, which is the best for power efficiency, and the number of corporations' patent applications relating to these batteries may increase to bolster the markets," said Mr. Chang-ho Son, Manager of the Energy Examination Bureau in the KIPO.

Core Patents in Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology Will Be Key to 4th Industrial Revolution

As the "Fourth Industrial Revolution" proceeds, the demand for semiconductors is expected to increase explosively and the economy stands to gain enormous benefits. In this context, it is a matter of concern that patent applications by Koreans in the field of semiconductor manufacturing technology have slowed down. A semiconductor examination manager at the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) stated that it is necessary to strengthen core patent securing activities and reverse the current downturn in order to reap the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

An analysis of patent application trends related to semiconductor manufacturing technology over the last 10 years (2007 ~ 2016) filed with KIPO shows a steady decrease in the number of patent applications, from 7,583 cases in 2007 to 4,241 cases in 2016. Among them, the number of patent applications filed by non-Korean applicants has remained around 2,000 cases every year during the period, while the number of patent applications filed by Korean applicants plummeted from 4,928 in 2007 to 1,936 in 2016.

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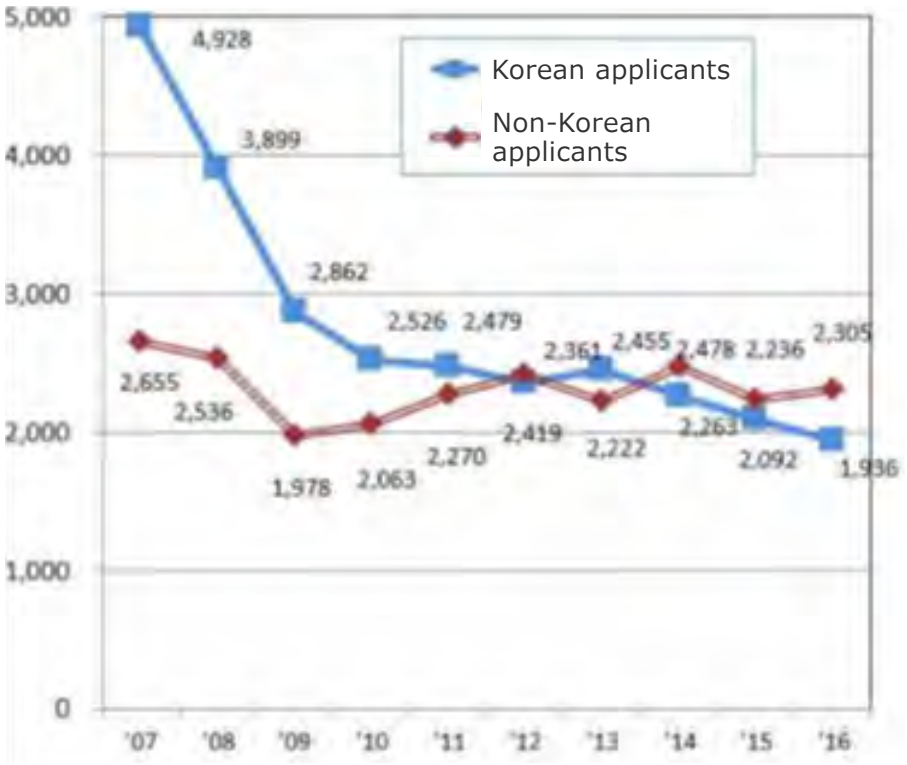
[Status of Patent Applications Relating to Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology. Source: KIPO]



Based on the patent applications filed in 2016 relating to semiconductor manufacturing technology, lithography technology (31%) has the largest share, followed by deposition technology (24%), transfer and support technology (18%), polishing and cutting technology (9%), inspection technology (5%), etching technology (5%), packaging technology (4%), ion implantation technology (3%) and cleaning technology (2%). Korean applicants filed a relatively high percentage of patent applications in terms of cleaning technology and transfer and support technology in comparison to lithography, deposition, and etching technologies, which are high value-added semiconductor manufacturing technologies.

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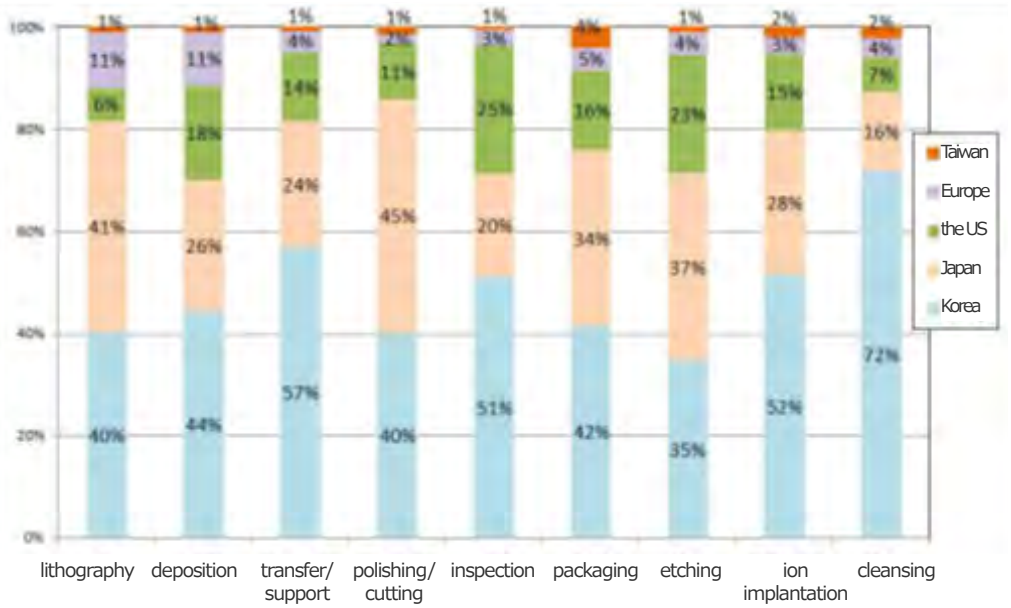
[Applicants for Semiconductor Manufacturing Technology Patents by Nationality and Sector (2016). Source: KIPO]



Meanwhile, the high-volume applicants over the past five years include Tokyo Electron (Japan, 1,164 cases), Semath (Korea, 883 cases), Samsung Electronics (Korea, 832 cases), Applied Materials (US, 679 cases), and Dongwoo Fine-Chem (Korea, 648 cases).

Industrial Technology Trends in Korea

SK Telecom and Nvidia launch joint project for self-driving vehicle

On May 14, 2017, SK Telecom and Nvidia signed a strategic agreement for autonomous driving technology and started a joint technology development project. The two companies will cooperate in various fields related to the core technologies of self-driving including 3D HD maps, next generation (5G) network-based vehicle-to-vehicle communication (V2X), and autonomous driving platforms. It is expected that the agreement will spur research in the technology of driving in interactive communication between vehicles and between vehicles and control center, and the Internet of Things (IoT).

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SK Telecom succeeds in long-distance quantum cryptography communication

SK Telecom announced on June 19, 2017 that it achieved a meaningful milestone in the field of quantum cryptography technologies by developing "Trusted Repeater", a powerful quantum repeater that can dramatically extend the distance of quantum communication, and successfully testing its performance over a trial optical fiber network deployed between three suburbs of Seoul. As the most secure form of communication encryption, quantum cryptography is expected to replace existing security solutions in all areas at risk of data hacking, including national defense, finance, autonomous vehicles and the IoT.

SK Telecom plans to apply the Trusted Repeater to a part of its commercial network by the end of 2017 and gradually extend its application thereafter. SK Telecom also plans to develop multiple repeaters capable of transmitting quantum cryptography keys to several recipients simultaneously, and apply such repeaters to its commercial network by the end of the first half of 2018.

SK Telecom develops quantum random number generator

SK Telecom opened a prototype of the world's first ultraminiature quantum random number generator and tested a quantum cryptography communication on July 22, 2017. A quantum random number generator generates a random number without specific patterns by using quantum properties, and provides excellent security over a fake random number whose patterns are vulnerable to exposure. SK Telecom's new nail-sized and low-cost quantum random number generator may be applied to IoT and autonomous driving, among other applications. Currently, the company is developing the quantum random number generator in the form of a USB.

LG Chem Obtains Approval for Combination Drug Treating Diabetes and Dyslipidemia

The Ministry of Food and Drug Safety announced on July 31, 2017 that it had granted approval to LG Chem's 'Zemiro,' a combination drug for simultaneously treating diabetes and dyslipidemia. Five years into its development by LG Chem, Zemiro became the first ever combination drug to be approved for commercial use in Korea targeting diabetes patients with dyslipidemia.

This incrementally modified drug (IMD) contains a fixed-dose combination of LG

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Chem's diabetes drug Zemiglo – a Diepeptidyl peptidase-4 inhibitor – and the lipid reduction drug ingredient rosuvastatin.

In a combination of 50 milligrams (mg) of Zemiglo with either 5 mg, 10 mg or 20 mg of rosuvastatin, Zemiro will be available in the domestic market from the fourth quarter upon completion of insurance registration, according to LG Chem.

TRADEMARKS

Korean Patent Court: "APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS" Distinctive

On June 30, 2017, the Korean Patent Court held the mark "APPLIED BIOSYSTEMS" ("Subject Mark") to be distinctive in connection with the goods "chemicals for use in medical, pharmaceutical, or diagnostics". (Case No. 2017heo462)

Factual background

Lee International client Applied Biosystems, LLC filed an application for the Subject Mark for the goods "chemicals, chemical preparations, reagents, synthetic materials, biological materials, and kits consisting primarily of chemicals, chemical preparations, reagents, synthetic materials and biological materials; all for use in medical, pharmaceutical, or diagnostics," in Classes 1, 5 and 10. The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) issued a final refusal of the Subject Mark on the ground that it merely indicates in a common way the use, efficacy, and purpose of the goods associated therewith, and thus lacks distinctiveness. The Intellectual Property Trial and Appeal Board (IPTAB) of KIPO affirmed the final refusal of the Subject Mark on the ground that the Subject Mark is likely to be interpreted by the Korean general public to indicate "genetic analyzers for medical and diagnostic purposes, kits consisting of genetic disease research," wherein a method, device or system for processing bio-related data is applied, and thus merely indicates in a common way the use, efficacy, and purpose of the goods associated therewith. We filed an appeal of the IPTAB decision with the Korean Patent Court on behalf of our client.

Findings

The Korean Patent Count found our arguments made during the appeal proceedings to be of merit and reversed the IPTAB decision. A summary of the Korean Patent Court decision is as follows:

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In view of the knowledge level and recognition of the English language by the general Korean public, the Subject Mark would likely be perceived to literally mean "applied living systems." In this regard, the Subject Mark is not likely to be interpreted by the general Korean public to indicate "medical devices or reagents relating to life" or "kits consisting of genetic disease research to which a method, device or system for processing bio-related data is applied," as asserted by the appellee, KIPO.

As appellee, KIPO argued that the word "biosystem" has been known to the Korean general public to indicate the goods associated with the Subject Mark, noting that there had been a Department of Biosystems at a number of universities in Korea prior to the filing date of the application for the Subject Mark. Since the Subject Mark can be perceived by the Korean general public to mean "chemicals relating to living beings for applied biosystems," the Subject Mark is merely descriptive of the nature of the goods associated therewith.

However, although there may have been a Department of Biosystems at a number of universities in Korea, customers of the goods associated with the Subject Mark may include hospital purchasers or individuals, all of whom are not likely to have studied biosystems or have been engaged in research related to biosystems. Furthermore, the Korean general public is unlikely to intuitively understand the meaning of "biosystems" in connection with the goods associated with the Subject Mark. Therefore, the appellee's assertion was not found persuasive by the Patent Court.

In summary, the Patent Court found that the Subject Mark did not expressly describe the nature of the designated goods associated therewith and was therefore distinctive.

The appellee did not file an appeal of the Korean Patent Court decision and, as a result, the Korean Patent Court decision has become final and irreversible.

Patent Court: Use of Mark "OUTBACK DRIVE IN MOTEL" Unfairly Competes with Mark "OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE" for Restaurant Services.

The Patent Court concluded that the use of the mark "OUTBACK DRIVE IN MOTEL" in connection with "unmanned lodging services" used for so-called love motels with a negative image constitutes unfair competition, since such use harms the good image and fame of

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the well-known mark "OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE" owned by Outback Steak House (Case No. 2016 Na 1691, concluded on June 29, 2017).

Facts

Outback Steak House, which has been doing business in over 20 countries including South Korea under the names "OUTBACK", "아웃백" ("OUTBACK" in Korean) and "OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE" since its foundation in 1988 in the U.S., discovered that the defendants were operating unmanned lodging facilities under the names "아웃백" ("OUTBACK" in Korean), "OUTBACK", "OUTBACK DRIVE IN MOTEL", or "아웃백 무인텔" ("OUTBACK UNMANNED LODGING TEL" in Korean). Therefore, the plaintiff filed a suit based on trademark infringement and under the Unfair Competition Prevention Act.

Plaintiff's mark	Defendant's mark
OUTBACK 아 웃 백 OUTBACK OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE	OUTBACK DRIVE IN MOTEL 아웃백 OUTBACK

Decision

The Patent Court concluded that i) the compared services (face-to-face services and unmanned services) are dissimilar in terms of service-providing method and the specific character of the business, ii) target consumers of the compared services are distinguished as people who want to eat and people who want lodging, and iii) the compared services are not provided by the same business entity in actual trade and general consumers do not consider that the compared services are provided by the same business entity. On this basis, claims for trademark infringement and possible confusion of business entity in the Unfair Competition Prevention Act were rejected by the Patent Court.

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However, the Patent Court acknowledged that the plaintiff's marks are well known in Korea, and that the use of the mark "OUTBACK DRIVE IN MOTEL" by the defendants corresponds to an act of dilution of distinctiveness/fame of well-known marks, as defined by the Unfair Competition Prevention Act. On that basis, the Patent Court decided that the various defendants pay a total of KRW 90 million for damages.

Specifically, the Patent Court concluded that considering that in connection with unmanned lodging services, the defendants used marks which are confusingly similar to the plaintiff's representative brand "OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE" and transformed the shape of the mountain on the top of the mark brand "OUTBACK STEAKHOUSE" into "OUTBACK DRIVE IN MOTEL" which is a sexual image looking like a reclining nude woman, and thereby used well-known business marks of the plaintiff for services which have a negative image. Furthermore, the Patent Court also concluded that the defendants damaged the business marks' ability as source indicators.

Although this case is pending on appeal at the Supreme Court, it is meaningful as a decision that well-known marks may be protected against the use of marks which likely dilute the distinctiveness/fame of the well-known marks under the Unfair Competition Prevention Law.

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Consumers of Galaxy Note 7 Lose Damages Claim against Samsung Electronics

Samsung unveiled the Galaxy Note 7 in August 2016, but it soon announced a recall of every product after a series of explosions of its batteries. Although the company exchanged faulty goods for new ones, the batteries of the replacement products were also found to catch on fire, which led to permanent suspension of manufacturing of the smartphones in October.

Consumers of the Galaxy Note 7 filed a damages claim against Samsung Electronics seeking damages of KRW 935.5 million (approx. USD 822,000). This lawsuit involved a large group of some 1,800 plaintiffs, but it was not a class action lawsuit in the legal sense. Unlike a class action lawsuit, the result of this lawsuit only extends to the plaintiffs, and not to other victims who did not join in the case.

On August 9, the 30th Civil Collegiate Division of the Seoul Central District Court announced its decision against the plaintiffs. The Court acknowledged that, considering the multiple explosions reported in and out of the country, there was a serious defect in

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the products that prevented consumers from using them. However, it said that the recall of the products by Samsung Electronics was legitimate, and enabled the consumers to get a full refund. It also considered that, with so many dealers or sales agents across the country, it was hard to believe that consumers suffered an intolerable inconvenience to obtain a replacement or a refund. The Court decided that any infringement of consumers' right of choice or mental damages was considered to have been compensated for by the replacement or refund, and that there was no circumstance by which consumers suffered any irreparable mental damage. As to the damage incurred to the consumers who did not respond to the recall, the Justice also deemed that it was the consumers' own choice to maintain the faulty products.

KRW 4,000 Minimum Monthly Payment for Music to Apply to Shops over 50m² in Size

In Korea, playing music in places such as a coffee shop, bar or gym will be subject to payment of a royalty to music creators, singers or players, starting from the second half of 2018. Stores of 50 to 100 m^2 in size will be required to pay at least KRW 4,000 (approx. USD 3.50) per month.

On August 16, 2017 the Korean Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism announced that the Korean State Council had decided on a revision of the Enforcement Decree of the Korean Copyright Act to add the foregoing requirement. The revised enforcement decree was proclaimed and will take effect after a one-year grace period.

Under the existing Copyright Act, a music creator is not entitled to a royalty payment if his/her commercial record or video is played in a facility that does not require an admission fee. A copyright of such creations has been exceptionally acknowledged in places such as large malls and department stores as specified under the enforcement decree of the same act. This has come under criticism that the act excessively limits the right of public performance as compared to the way this issue is handled in foreign countries.

The revised enforcement decree allows enforcement of copyright in places where music plays an important role in daily business. The decree additionally includes some complex shopping malls and other large-scale stores (more than 3,000m^2 in size) that have been excluded from exercise of a sound recording copyright. Traditional local markets and small-sized (less than 50m^2) places of business are excepted.

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The royalty will be no less than KRW 4,000 per month and differently applied to each place of business depending on the type and size of business.

A person related to the Ministry said extension of a public performance right to a video recording – included in the pre-announcement of legislation in May – was excluded from this final proposal because many thought it wise to deal with the matter gradually. But he added that the Ministry would push forward the matter through after additional consideration.

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Lee Wins Trial for Cancellation of Final Rejection (Patent Court Case No. 2016 Heo 5019)

In a trial for cancellation of the decision of Final Rejection, Lee International IP & Law Group successfully litigated as a legal counsel for Wacker Chemie AG and finally led to a victory on June 22, 2017 cancelling the KIPO decision to finally reject the subject patent for lack of inventive step.

The essence of the arguments that finally overcome the rejection is as below.

"The subject patent has an inventive step over the cited reference on the basis that: i) although the cited references are related in terms of technical field, they differ in terms of specific application and technical objective, and thus, one of ordinary skill in the art could not have easily combined the teachings in the cited references; and ii) to determine an inventive step, not only the claims but also the specification describing the objective of a claimed invention and the technical principle to solve the objective should be comprehensively compared to those of the prior art."

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New Members: Jiyeon CHEH, Hyungy HONG, Yoo-Mi HA, Ahwon CHOI

Jiyeon CHEH

Jiyeon Cheh has joined Lee International IP & Law Group as a U.S. attorney specializing in the U.S. patent and trademark practice. She worked as an intellectual property attorney at prominent U.S. law firms in Washington, DC, Boston, MA, and Austin, TX, and also as a summer judicial clerk at the Philadelphia Commerce Court. She is a member of the U.S. Patent Bar and the New York, Massachusetts, and District of Columbia Bars.

She has drafted and prosecuted numerous utility and design patent applications for consumer electronics, software, medical devices, automobile, and wireless communications companies. Additionally, she has conducted oral hearings at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and has drafted complaints and summary judgment motions for district court patent litigations and ITC section 337 investigations. Furthermore, she counseled clients by providing patent validity and infringement opinions in support of patent litigations. She also conducted numerous due diligence projects in conjunction with mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures in the semiconductor industry. In addition to her patent practice, she handled various trademark cases, drafting trademark availability opinions, co-existence agreements, cease-and-desist letters, and UDRP domain name complaints. She truly enjoys communicating with clients to discuss licensing strategies, client's IP portfolios, patent applications and patents for prosecution, litigations, and opinion work.

She graduated from UNH School of Law (Formerly known as Franklin Pierce Law Center) and served as an editor of IDEA: The Intellectual Property Law Review. Before her law career, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Physics from the University of Texas at Austin, with an Elements of Computing certificate from the Computer Science Department. During college, she was a member of Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society and worked as a research assistant for the High Intensity Laser Science Group.

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Hyungy HONG

Mr. Hyungy Hong has joined Lee International IP & Law Group as a litigator and advisor covering a variety of areas including civil and criminal cases, intellectual property rights and urban development.

Prior to joining Lee International, Mr. Hong worked for Samsung C&T from 2007 through 2010. After being admitted to the bar, he handled general civil and criminal lawsuits, corruption cases and appeals, serving as a law clerk in the 5th Civil Division of the Seoul Central District Court (2015) and subsequently in the 3rd Criminal Division of the Seoul High Court (2016).

Mr. Hong graduated from Seoul National University with a Bachelor's degree in computer science and engineering in 2007 and from Sungkyunkwan University Law School with a J.D. in 2015.

Yoo-Mi HA

Ms. Yoo-Mi Ha has joined Lee International IP & Law Group as a litigator and advisor in the areas of general civil disputes and criminal litigation.

Prior to joining Lee International, Ms. Yoo-Mi Ha served as a law clerk in the 8th Criminal Division and the 20th Civil Division of the Seoul High Court (2015-2016) handling a variety of civil cases regarding construction, subcontract and damages compensation, and criminal cases regarding sexual violence, property related crimes (embezzlement, breach of trust, fraud) and violation of the Act on the Budgeting and Management of Subsidies.

She graduated early from Yonsei University with a degree in law (2012) and was one of the distinguished students when she graduated from Yonsei Law School (2015).

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Ahwon CHOI

Ahwon Choi is a foreign legal consultant at Lee International IP & Law Group. Ms. Choi's practice primarily focuses on general corporate matters, taxation and international business transactions.

Prior to joining Lee International, Ms. Choi worked at JW Holdings Corporation, the parent company of JW (Choongwae) Pharmaceutical.

Ms. Choi earned her J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law and her LL.M. in Taxation from New York University School of Law. During her time at Washington University, Ms. Choi passed the Uniform CPA Examination and the Chinese Proficiency Test (HSK) level 5. Ms. Choi is a member of the New York Bar.

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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.

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