

# 20 ANNUAL REPORT 23



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# Editorial



**Pascal Faure,**  
*CEO of the INPI*

**The year 2023 was marked, on the one hand, by exceptionally intense activity linked to the integration of our new missions and, on the other, to the ambition of our Performance Agreement (COP 2021-2024).**

There has been significant progress with the Guichet Unique (one-stop shop) for business formalities in 2023 (see pages 16-17). All formal procedures are now available on the new platform, which has recorded 2.5 million formalities, including 1.5 million business start-ups. The year ahead will see the system consolidated and support for applicants stepped up.

As far as industrial property is concerned, I'm delighted to see that we're getting back to where we were before the pandemic (see pages 10-15): the number of patent applications is up, and the same is true for designs. Trademark applications are returning to pre-crisis levels.

At the same time, the digitalisation of our procedures and services has made further progress with the production of a new platform for trademark procedures (see page 21), the continued integration of the Bulletin Officiel de la Propriété Industrielle (BOPI, Official Bulletin of Industrial Property) into

DATA INPI (see page 26) and the implementation of e-Soleau, which replaces the Soleau envelope of the past (see page 20).

We have also stepped up our international activities, holding numerous meetings with our partners and signing three new Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) agreements (see page 23).

At the same time, more than 7,000 start-ups and SMEs have received support from INPI. They also benefit from a brand-new application, Start INPI (see page 29), which helps creators better understand how to carry out their procedures.

Our partnership action has expanded, and we now have a cooperation agreement with each of the mainland metropolitan regions (see page 24), as well as specific agreements at national level, such as on investments for the future as part of France 2030 (see page 25).

The anti-counterfeiting campaign also received special attention, with the brand-new France Against Counterfeiting project, the results of which were presented in December at the general assembly of the National Anti-Counterfeiting Committee (CNAC),

for which INPI serves as General Secretariat. The work we have carried out with our partners will make it possible to identify new levers for action and guide the political decisions that will be taken on this subject (see page 27).

At European level, I would like to mention the adoption of the European patent with unitary effect, which provides greater protection for innovations, and the adoption of two regulations, firstly on designs and secondly on geographical indications (see page 22).

More than ever, INPI teams are working alongside entrepreneurs and innovators both in France and abroad to provide them with increasingly high-quality services to help our country become more competitive.





# Highlights & key data





# Highlights 2023

January

**1**  
Introduction of the **Guichet Unique** as a means of accessing formalities for setting up companies and filing annual accounts



**5-8**  
INPI at the **CES in Las Vegas** alongside Business France

March

**8**  
Publication of the INPI **key figures**

Signing of a **joint declaration** by intellectual property offices to mark **International Women's Day**

**17**  
Publication of the **2022 list of the top patent applicants** in France



**30**  
The INPI takes part in the **7<sup>th</sup> WIPO Dialogues on Intellectual Property** and the Metaverse

May

**12**  
IP Strategy Day

July

**3**  
Launch of the **annual anti-counterfeiting campaign** in partnership with Unifab



October

**13**  
Approval of two new geographical indications: **argiles du Velay** (Velay clays) and **pierre du Midi** (stone from the South of France)

**19**  
**European Parliament:** Pascal Faure and Christophe Blanchet talk to MEPs about the anti-counterfeiting campaign

**26**  
Signing of an agreement with the **Fédération nationale des Autoentrepreneurs (National Federation of Auto-Entrepreneurs)**

December

**8**  
**CNAC General Assembly** and presentation of the initial **work** carried out by the **France Against Counterfeiting** project



**9**  
Signing of the agreement with **Réseau Entreprendre**

**11**  
Launch of the **START INPI** mobile learning application

**15**  
Meeting of the heads of the **G7 intellectual property offices** organised by the Japanese Presidency in the Metaverse

February

**28**  
Signing of an agreement with the **Hauts de France** region



April

**3**  
**Overhaul of the trademarks portal and digitalisation of appeals**

**6**  
**Joint Committee with the CNIPA (China)** and signing of a **PPH agreement** before the President of the French Republic and the President of the People's Republic of China

**26**  
**World Intellectual Property Day**

June

**1**  
Launch of the **European patent with unitary effect** and the **Unified Patent Court**

**9**  
A dynamic version of the **BOPI Trademarks and Geographical Indications** can now be consulted on **Data INPI**

**16**  
First **"Pitch contest INPI"**, in partnership with French Tech Tremplin at Viva Technology



September

**5**  
Signing of a **PPH agreement** with Morocco

**20**  
Publication of the **2022 regional ranking** of patent applicants

**26**  
Signing of an agreement with the **General Secretariat for Investment** as part of France 2030

**27-29**  
The INPI takes part in the **78<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Ordre des Experts-Comptables (Association of Chartered Accountants)**

November

**9**  
Publication of the book **Le génie humain [Human genius]** by historian Bruno Fuligni

**17**  
Signing of an agreement with the **Occitanie** region

**23**  
**INPI Awards Ceremony**

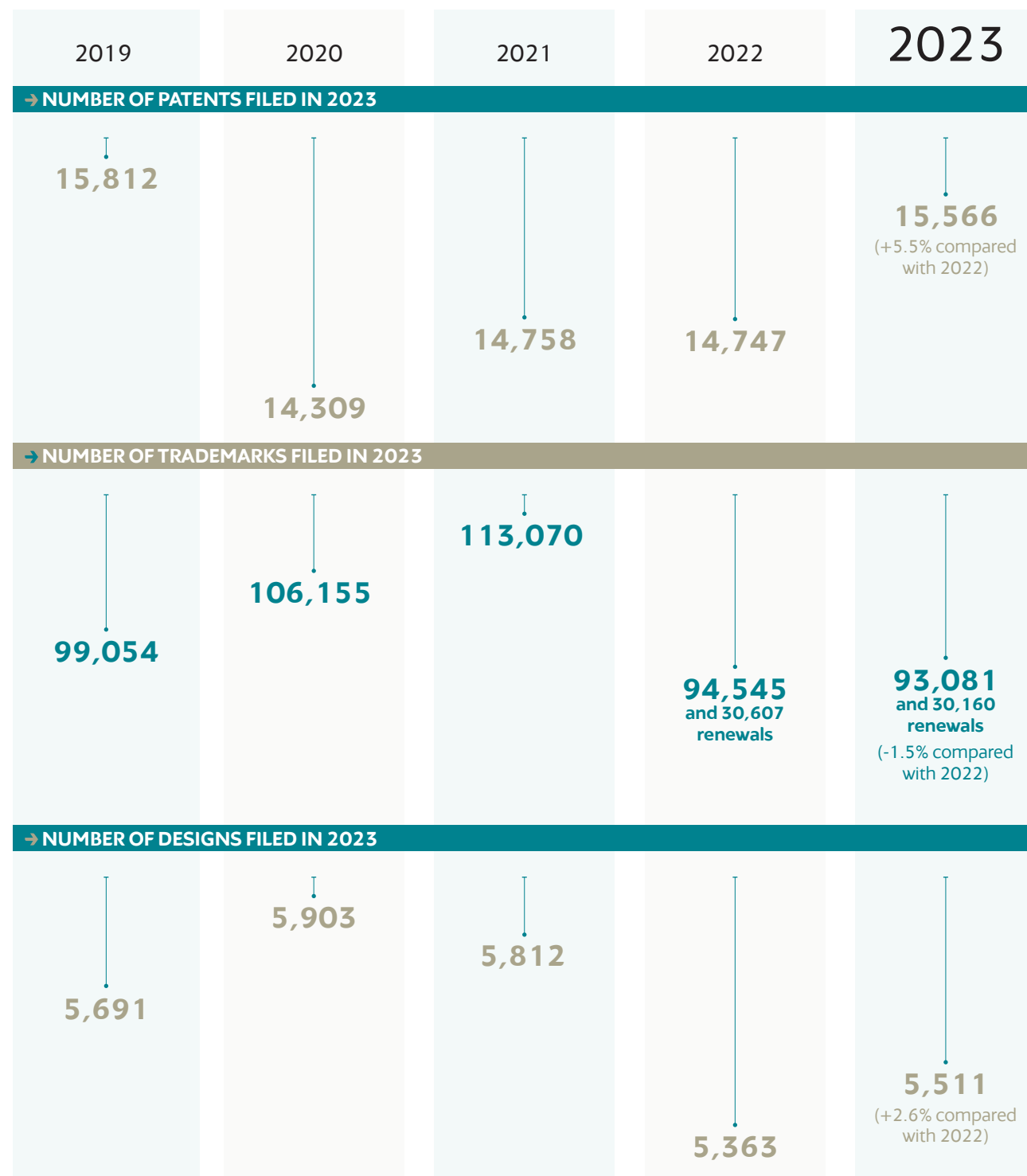
**28**  
Signing of a **PPH agreement** with Saudi Arabia



See page 34 for all the international cooperation highlights



# Key data



**16**  
geographical indications approved since the entry into force of the "Consumption" Act

**1,711**  
Soleau envelopes

**20,159**  
e-Soleau

## → NEW TYPES OF TRADEMARKS

**13**  
sound, motion or multimedia trademarks

**28**  
guarantee trademarks



**67**  
collective trademarks

## → UTILITY CERTIFICATES (UC)

**777**  
filed, i.e. **4.9%** of total filings

**6**  
UCs converted into patents, i.e. less than **1%**

## → INTER PARTES REVIEWS

**466**  
trademark revocations and declarations of invalidity

**4,764**  
oppositions to trademarks

**36**  
oppositions to patents

<sup>1</sup>Proceedings between two parties before the INPI.

## → INVENTIVE STEP

For patent applications filed on or after 22 May 2020

**90.6 %**  
of applications subject to Pacte requirements, i.e. **36,939** patents under examination

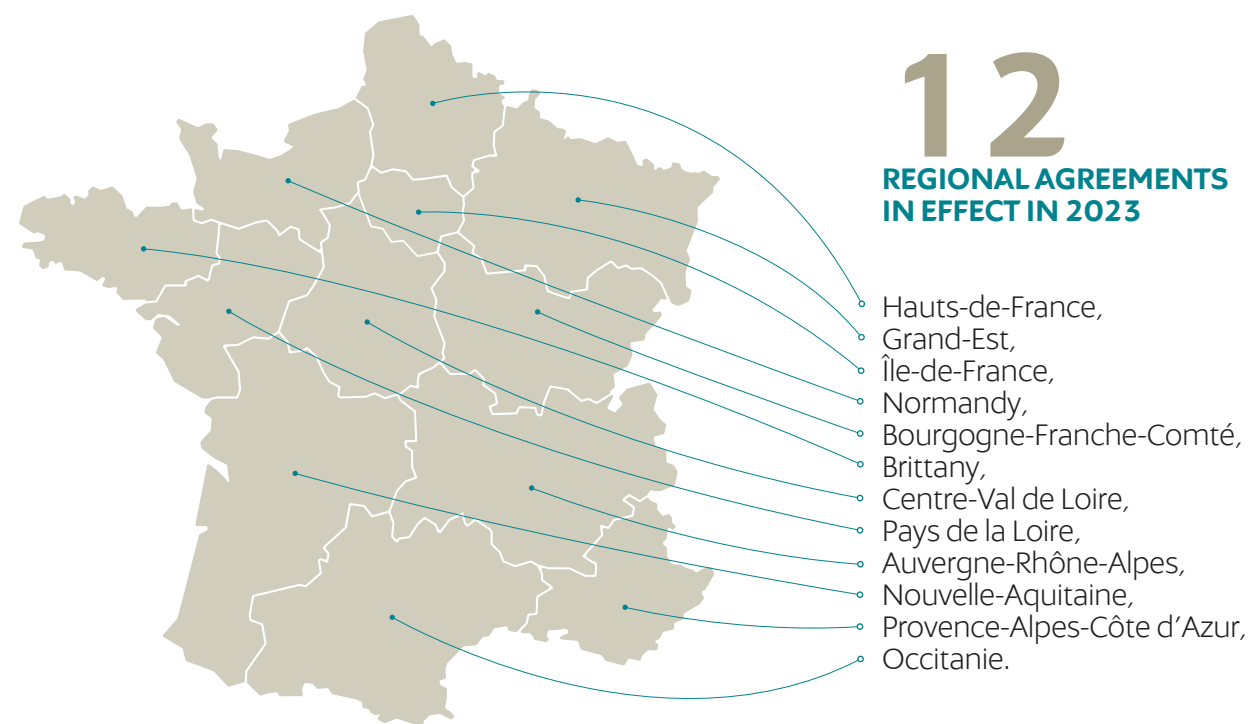
## → PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATIONS

**779**  
779 applications, i.e. **5%** of all patent filings

**13,454**  
notifications of preliminary search reports



# Key data



**9**  
STRATEGIC REGIONS ACROSS  
THE WORLD, COVERING  
NEARLY 100 COUNTRIES

→ **16 agreements signed in 2023,**  
including **3 PPH agreements:**

Two agreements with Chile, two agreements with **Canada**; new agreements with **the Philippines, Vietnam, China, Morocco, Mexico**, the **African Intellectual Property Organisation, India** and **South Korea, Colombia**; three **PPH agreements** with **Saudi Arabia, China** and **Morocco**.



## Customer support



TOP 3 TOPICS



**6,921**  
businesses supported  
in France

of which  
**1,428**  
benefitted from

**1,768**  
customised  
services



TOP 3  
RECOMMENDATIONS

## INPI Academy training

**2,247**  
trainee students, **81%**  
overall satisfaction rate

**19,173**  
registrations for MOOCs  
since launch in 2021

TRAINING LEADING TO QUALIFICATIONS



## International network

**350**  
clients supported

**4,488**  
clients informed about  
their industrial property  
rights abroad



TOP 3 TOPICS

**92.3%**  
Overall  
satisfaction  
with services



# Key data

## DIGITAL TO THE CORE

→ OPEN DATA

43.9 M

of open access and reusable data

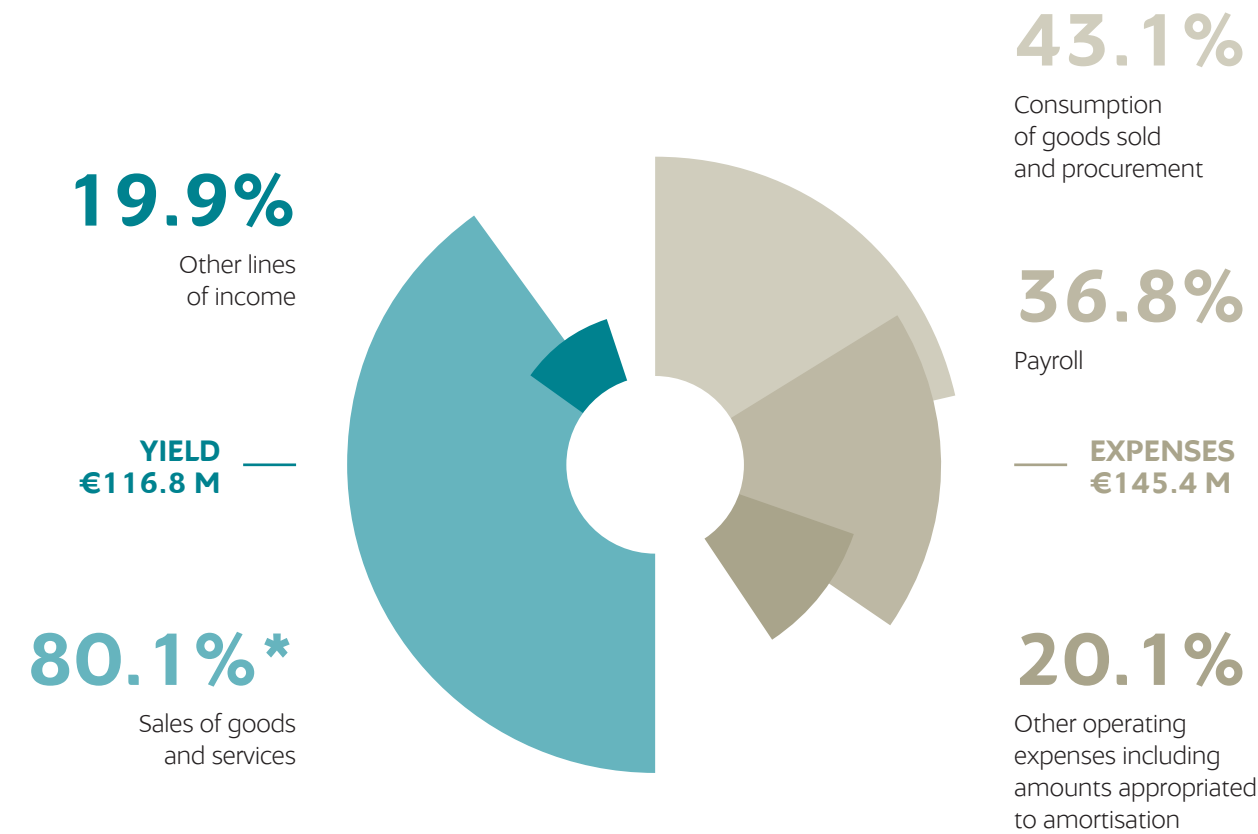
including → 24 M + 19.9 M / 15 M

from the French National Business Register      industrial property items      active companies

→ NUMBER OF IP DATA ITEMS ACCESSIBLE ONLINE AND FREE OF CHARGE



## MEANS OF ACTION INCOME STATEMENT



→ **Certification of the accounts**  
The INPI has implemented an accounting audit policy since 2012. All its financial statements from 2015 to 2023 have been fully certified.

**\*Cap on revenue**  
Pursuant to the Finance Act of 2021, the INPI transfers to the French State each year revenue in excess of a pre-determined cap set at €94M in both 2023 and 2022, and €124M in 2021, which it generates from the administration of intellectual property rights and business formalities. Without the cap, revenue would have totalled €186.7M.



# Guichet unique

## THE GATEWAY TO BUSINESS FORMALITIES

**The Guichet Unique (one-stop shop) is now the electronic platform for completing business formalities. The INPI has had the unfailing commitment of its teams in setting up this new tool, which is in great demand. At the same time, the French National Business Register (RNE) has been put online on DATA INPI.**

On 1 January 2023, the Guichet Unique operated by the INPI became the electronic platform for carrying out business formalities, whether they involve starting, changing or striking off a business or filing accounts. The platform has replaced the six networks of centres for business formalities (chambers of commerce and industry, chambers of trade and craft, chambers of agriculture, registries, tax services and Urssaf).

// The smooth operation of the Guichet Unique relies on the collective work all our partners have to do with us. Improving the system to make it ever more efficient is a major task for the long term. We must be proud of the work we have already done. "

**Pascal Faure,**  
CEO of the INPI

### → A VERY BUSY GUICHET UNIQUE

As the year progressed, the number of formalities carried out on the Guichet Unique grew steadily, reaching almost 15,000 per day by the end of the year. By 31 December 2023, the platform had registered almost 2.7 million formalities, including more than 1.4 million applications for registration!

### → BIGGER TEAMS

This exponential increase in applications has been accompanied by an increase in the response capacity of INPI Direct—the INPI's customer service—which has been strengthened internally and benefits from the support of additional external resources. The take-up rate is very high, at around 95%.

Webinar "One-stop shop to simplify your business formalities"



### → THE NATIONAL BUSINESS REGISTER GOES ONLINE

At the same time, the RNE was put online on DATA INPI as planned on 1 January. It replaced the National Trade and Companies Register, for which the INPI was responsible, as well as the Trade Register and the Register of Agricultural Assets, which were the responsibility of the consular chambers.

The RNE provides access to data on more than 12 million active companies. It is updated in real time, as and when procedures are carried out on the Guichet Unique.

#### → Some figures for 2023

Number of registration applications received  
**1,422,573**

Number of changes  
**447,766**

Number of strike-offs  
**306,760**

Filing of annual accounts  
**470,790**



### → THE SUPPORT OF OUR MINISTER

On 10 January, Pascal Faure welcomed Olivia Grégoire, Minister Delegate for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Trade, Craft Trades and Tourism, to the INPI headquarters in Courbevoie. She came to meet those working to implement and ensure the smooth running of the Guichet Unique and the National Business Register.

It was an opportunity for the Minister to thank everyone for their work, which she described as "colossal", and to emphasise that as an entrepreneur, she was aware how important the results of this work were "in making life easier for businesses".

## MANAGING CHANGE FOR A NEW SERVICE

**The aim of the Guichet Unique is to offer businesses a new way of completing all their administrative formalities electronically. To enable users to adapt to change and to the development of their environment, the INPI has been able to provide education.**

### → SIMPLIFYING PROCEDURES

Previously, entrepreneurs mainly used paper to complete their formalities. They did this through bodies linked to their areas of activity, a fairly complex organisational system based on six networks of centres for business formalities.

From now on, the process will be simpler and paperless for applicants: they will have a single point of contact—the Guichet Unique—which will manage the complex validation circuit and the many interactions with partners.

### → A NEW MISSION, NEW SKILLS, A NEW CHALLENGE

Until now, the role of the INPI Direct teams has been to provide answers to users' questions about intellectual property, ranging from what a patent or trademark is to questions about prosecution files or how to file an application.

When the Guichet Unique was attached to the INPI, their role changed, as they now also answer questions on business formalities.

*In application of the decree of 17 October 2023, two new procedures were opened on the Guichet Unique at the end of the year: procedures for correcting and completing data in the National Business Register, to further improve the quality of information.*

### → WHY THE INPI?

The INPI specialises in intellectual property. It works alongside businesses to help them promote their technical or commercial innovations. The Guichet Unique is fully in line with this mission, as the INPI can now be there for innovators from the creation of their business right through to the completion of their project.

The second reason why the INPI was chosen is that, since 2018, it has taken the lead in digitalising its services, which enabled it to deal with a crisis such as the COVID pandemic and demonstrated its ability to manage change.



### → A SPECIAL BROADCAST FOR MORE EDUCATION

A special one-hour broadcast devoted to the Guichet Unique was aired live on BFM Business on 10 November 2023. It provided an opportunity to present the reform as a whole, discuss the role of the INPI in detail and hear feedback from users.

In keeping with the format of this business news programme, the exchanges between participants took the form of very dynamic interviews. They covered all aspects of the new system and highlighted the work carried out by the INPI in its various areas of expertise.





Offering  
you  
even  
more  
services



# Making your life easier

## PAPERLESS PROCEDURES AND SERVICES

Reinforcing the quality of the services offered, taking the data change and improving processes, modernising tools and adapting them to new working conditions, ensuring efficient operations in line with its ambitions... These are just some of the reasons that have prompted the INPI to digitalise its procedures and services.

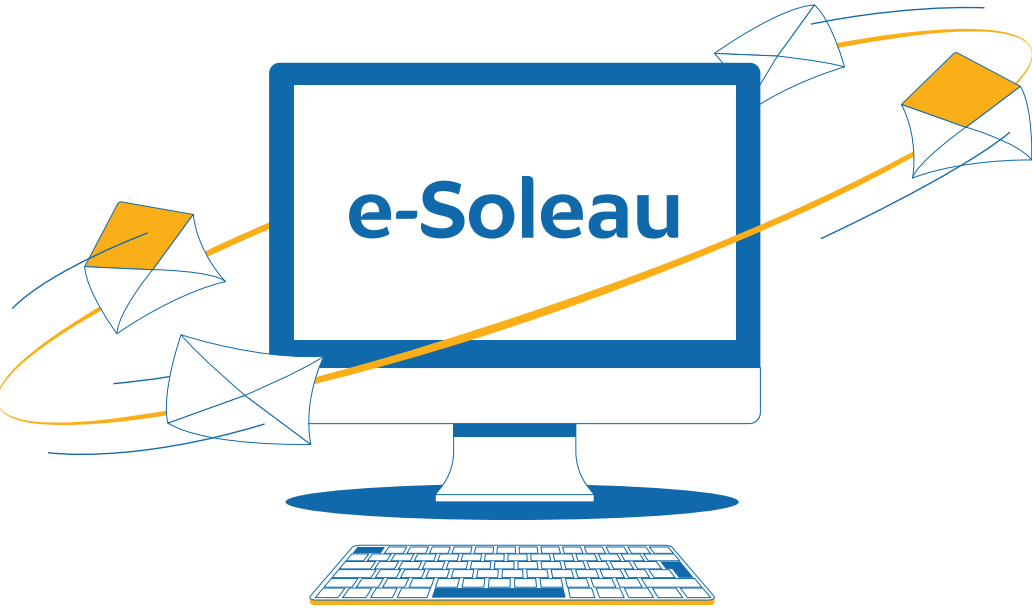
### → THE E-SOLEAU 3.0 PROJECT

The Soleau envelope –named after its creator, Eugène Soleau– is a simple and inexpensive way of providing proof of creation and stamping a specific date on ideas or projects.

The e-Soleau 3.0 project was one of the COP's (INPI's Performance Agreement) collective objectives for 2023. The aim was to adapt the Soleau envelope to the new needs and uses of economic stakeholders. An important step was taken on 9 March with the publication of the decree authorising

the CEO of the INPI to take all the necessary decisions regarding the development of this dating tool, in particular its full digitalisation.

From 1 April 2023, the e-Soleau on-line filing service, which is faster and more comprehensive, replaces the Soleau envelope system, still proving, as before, the existence of a creation on a given date.



By December 2023, the e-Soleau service had the following options:

- file attachments of up to 2 GB;
- the INPI retains only the digital imprint of the files, without retaining the source documents;
- extension for up to 20 years and several envelopes extended in one single process;
- transfer of an envelope to another holder;
- escrow function with the designation of beneficiaries with access to documents;
- interface in English.

### → OPENING OF THE TRADEMARK PORTAL

In October 2022, the INPI went live with an application that brings together all procedures relating to trademarks and provides easy access to data in real time, from the filing of a trademark application to its expiry. This new application consists of a new database for users and an interface for INPI staff.

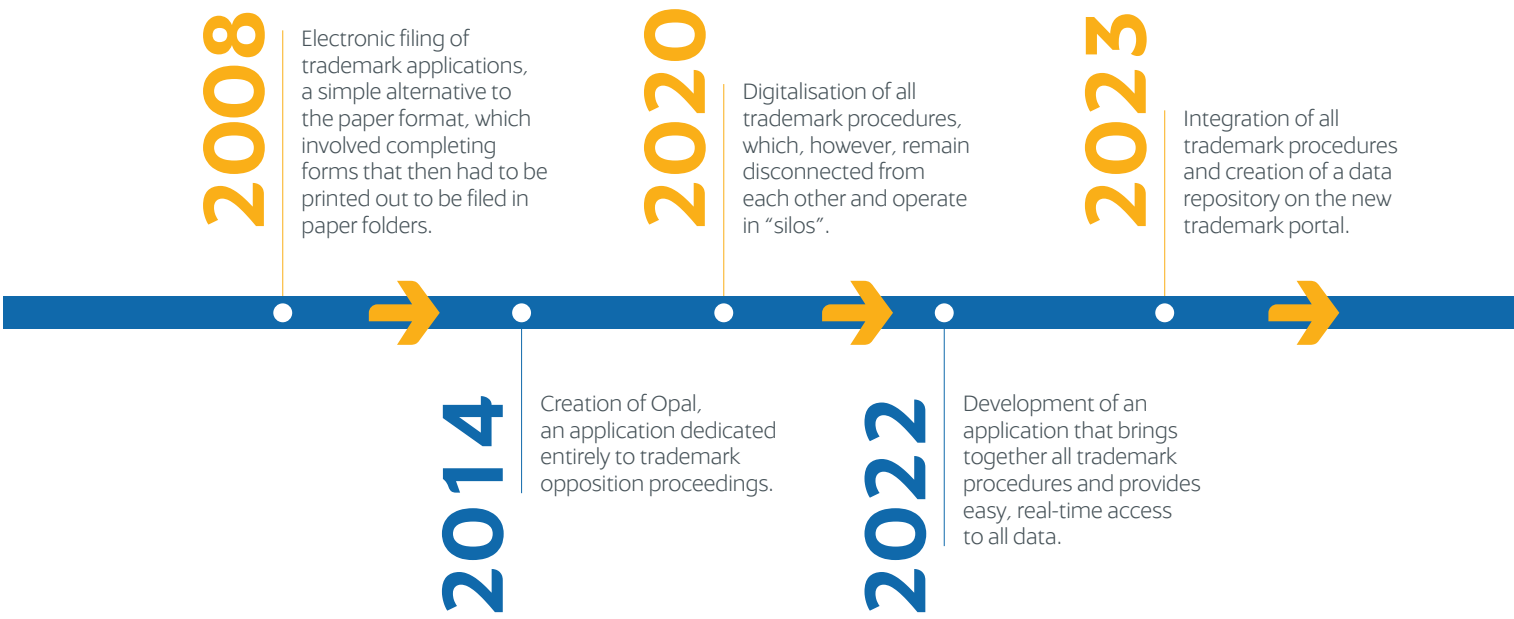
In 2023, the first full year of operation of this system, the INPI continued to digitalise

its procedures by integrating all procedures relating to trademarks: renewals, entries in the register, the filing of international trademarks, requests for official documents and the re-establishment of rights.

This tool is a major step forward for users and INPI staff alike, as it enables interaction between the various procedures and brings together all aspects of the life of a trademark in one single application. This

development is based on the implementation of a genuine data repository, guaranteeing up-to-date information on events in the life of the trademark.

The overhaul of the application has also made it possible to introduce exclusively electronic notifications for users who no longer wish to receive postal mail in connection with their online procedures.



### → DID YOU KNOW?

After the digitalisation of appeals for designs in 2021, in 2023 it was the turn of trademarks to benefit from a new digitalised interface. Today, all appeals, with the exception of patents, can be processed electronically.





# Making your life easier

## INCREASINGLY EXTENSIVE PROTECTION

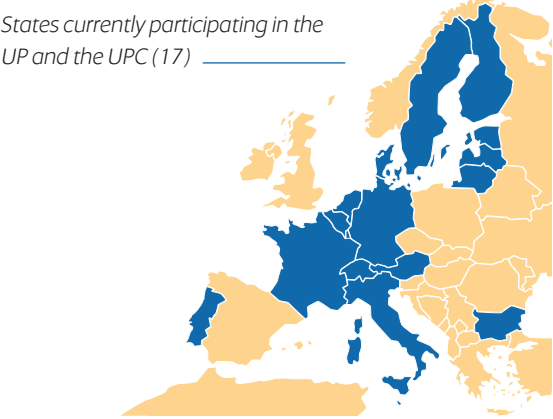
The year 2023 saw the entry into force of the European patent with unitary effect, under the aegis of the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Unified Patent Court (UPC). In the European Union (EU), a new European regulation has established a single system of protection for craft and industrial products across the EU. Two long-awaited advances that create more extensive and less costly user protection.

### → THE EUROPEAN PATENT WITH UNITARY EFFECT

The result of lengthy negotiations, to which the INPI made a major contribution, the European patent with unitary effect (UP) will eventually make it possible for holders to benefit from the same effects in twenty-five EU countries in one single step. It simplifies the formalities for protecting innovations and reduces the cost of filing and maintaining the patent. Seventeen countries have already joined the scheme.

Specially created for the occasion, a UP Register collates the information on the new title. It is managed exclusively by the European Patent Office (EPO). However, via its public database DATA INPI, the INPI publishes information concerning the filing of requests for a unitary effect for European patents, the acceptance of the unitary effect, the status of the unitary patent (granted, lapsed, expired) and the renewal fees paid.

In addition, the creation of this new title completes the existing range, especially national patents. The INPI therefore continues to grant French patents to its applicants.



States currently participating in the UP and the UPC (17)

### → THE UNIFIED PATENT COURT

Established by the agreement signed on 19 February 2013, the UPC is the culmination of a process launched over forty years ago.

It has exclusive jurisdiction over disputes concerning unitary patents, conventional European patents (before or after grant) and supplementary protection certificates. Its decisions are applicable in all signatory states, but other states are set to join in the future. The Central Division is seated in Paris.

### → EUROPEAN PROTECTION FOR CRAFT AND INDUSTRIAL GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS (GI)

On 27 October 2023, the Official Journal of the EU announced the creation of a single protection system for craft and industrial products across the EU. The corresponding European regulation is set to come into effect on 1 December 2025. It will complement the French system operated by the INPI.

The INPI will continue to prosecute applications at national level before they are forwarded to the European Union Intellectual Property Office for registration

but other states are set to join in the future. The Central Division is seated in Paris.

The UPC makes it possible to centralise all legal action relating to European patents at European level, while reinforcing legal certainty on issues relating to patent infringement and validity. It also simplifies court proceedings and reduces legal costs for patent applicants.

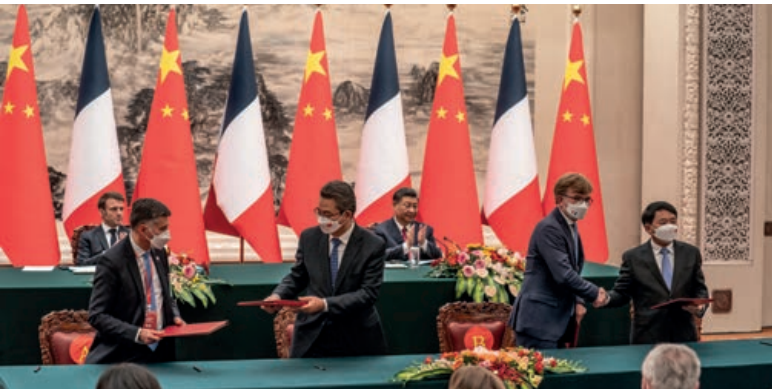
at European level. The INPI will also be able to transform GIs that have already been approved, directly at European level, without the need for a new registration procedure.

A total of 800 European products could be involved, enabling the protection and promotion of the traditional skills of the EU's craftspeople and manufacturers. These products include French GIs already approved by the INPI.

## THREE NEW PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY AGREEMENTS

Patent prosecution highway (PPH) agreements are agreements under which states undertake to recognise the validity of the examination of patents by the other party. In this way, they offer applicants in the respective countries the opportunity to benefit from faster grant procedures.

Once again, these agreements bear witness to the quality of our industrial property titles and the efficiency of the procedures put in place by the INPI in recent years. They make it easier for French applicants to access foreign markets.



### → AN AGREEMENT WITH CHINA

On 6 April, during the official State visit to the Great Hall of the People, the headquarters of the National People's Congress, and in the presence of the President of the French Republic, Emmanuel Macron, and the President of the People's Republic of China, Xi Jinping, the INPI signed a PPH with its Chinese counterpart, the CNIPA. It came into force on 1 June 2023.

French applicants rank fifth in terms of the number of patent applications filed with the CNIPA, behind those from Japan, the United States, Korea and Germany. Since 2021, Chinese applicants have ranked second among all foreign priority filings in France, behind Germany.

### → 8 Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) agreements in effect in 2023

Japan (JPO), United States (USPTO), Canada (CIPO), Brazil (INPI), South Korea (KIPO), Morocco, China and Saudi Arabia.

### → AN AGREEMENT WITH MOROCCO

On 5 September, at the end of the 26th annual Joint Committee, held this year in Casablanca, a PPH agreement was signed between the INPI and OMPIC, its Moroccan counterpart. This is the first agreement of its kind to be signed with an African country. It came into force on 1 November 2023.

Of all the foreign applicants to OMPIC, the French rank second behind the Americans, demonstrating a clear interest in obtaining protection for their innovations in Morocco.



### → AN AGREEMENT WITH SAUDI ARABIA

On 28 November, the bilateral meeting arranged between the INPI and the Saudi Arabian Intellectual Property Authority (SAIP) was marked by the signing of a PPH agreement between the two offices.

French applicants are relatively active in Saudi Arabia, ranking sixth among all foreign applicants.

→ European patent with unitary effect<sup>1</sup> vs. conventional European patent<sup>2</sup>

	European patent with unitary effect	"Conventional" European patent
Locations	Digitalised procedures with the EPO only	Steps to be taken in each of the required EU countries
Number of validations required	1 single validation	Up to 39 validations possible
Average cost	€5,000	€30,000

Source: EPO  
1: currently covering 17 EU countries, with a view to eventually covering 25.  
2: covering an average of 4 States for 10 years



# Providing support every day

## A PERFECTED POLICY OF REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The expansion of partnerships with the regions of France is a major focus of the INPI's Performance Agreement for 2021-2024. It involves stepping up awareness-raising and support initiatives aimed at positioning intellectual property as a key factor in the growth and competitiveness of innovative businesses. In 2023, the INPI completed its regional agreements by increasing the number to twelve, covering all the regions of metropolitan France.



### → HAUTS-DE-FRANCE REGION

On 28 February 2023, the INPI and the regional economic development agency Hauts-de-France Innovation Développement (HDFID) signed an agreement to support the economic activity of companies in the region by helping them to secure and speed up their development through the leverage of industrial property.

The partnership has four main aims: to promote industrial property and raise awareness among businesses; to support businesses in their intellectual property strategy; to support businesses in their international expansion; and to support business start-ups.

### → OCCITANIE REGION

On 17 November 2023, the INPI, the Occitanie Region and its development agency AD'OCC signed a partnership agreement.

This tripartite agreement focuses on four key areas: raising awareness of and supporting innovative businesses; leading, raising awareness of and training the regional ecosystem; promoting the geographical indications system for

craft and industrial products; and supporting collaborative research and development projects.

The signing of this agreement is also symbolic for the INPI, as it marks the completion of its policy of regional partnerships: today, agreements have been signed with all the regions or regional economic agencies in metropolitan France



### → 12 regional agreements in effect in 2023

Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Brittany, Centre-Val de Loire, Grand-Est, Hauts-de-France, Île-de-France, Normandy, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Occitanie, Pays de la Loire, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.



### → SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR INVESTMENT

On 26 September 2023, at the French Tech 2030 seminar organised by the Secrétariat Général pour l'Investissement (SGPI, General Secretariat for Investment), the SGPI and the INPI signed a partnership agreement for the beneficiaries of the France 2030 plan.

This partnership has two objectives. The first is for the plan's beneficiaries to be better informed about industrial property and made more aware of it.

The second is to help assess the impact of industrial property on the France 2030 plan. The data obtained on the number of industrial property applications filed by beneficiaries (particularly patents) and on the types of applicants (companies, research laboratories, etc.) is invaluable, as it will make it possible to fine-tune the targets sought by the strategies of the plan.

The aim of France 2030 is to increase the competitiveness of French businesses in order to guarantee our technological and economic sovereignty over the long term. The INPI is proud to be playing an active part in the collective effort by placing its industrial property expertise at the service of this great plan."

**Pascal FAURE,**  
CEO of the INPI

Starting a business is always a risk. It's our duty to support entrepreneurs to maximise their chances of success, whether it's a question of the formalities involved in setting up a business or industrial property issues. That's what this new partnership between the INPI and FNAE is all about "

**Pascal FAURE**



### → SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT WITH THE FÉDÉRATION NATIONALE DES AUTOENTREPRENEURS (NATIONAL FEDERATION OF AUTO-ENTREPRENEURS)

On 26 October 2023, the INPI signed an agreement with the Fédération Nationale des Auto-entrepreneurs (FNAE).

The aim of this partnership is to improve auto-entrepreneurs' knowledge of the business formalities carried out via the Guichet Unique and to raise their awareness of intellectual property issues.

Specifically, it will focus on three areas, all geared towards auto-entrepreneurs: support for the deployment and development of the Guichet Unique; the creation of teaching resources dedicated to auto-entrepreneurs on the Start INPI mobile learning application (see page 29); and the promotion of good practice in intellectual property and the fight against counterfeiting.

### → SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT WITH RÉSEAU ENTREPRENDRE

On 19 December, Rémy BOURDIER, President of Réseau Entreprendre, and Pascal Faure, CEO of the INPI, signed a new partnership agreement.

Réseau Entreprendre has 65 associations in 10 countries. It represents a community of over 15,000 business leaders who support job creators at every stage of the development and growth of their

business projects.

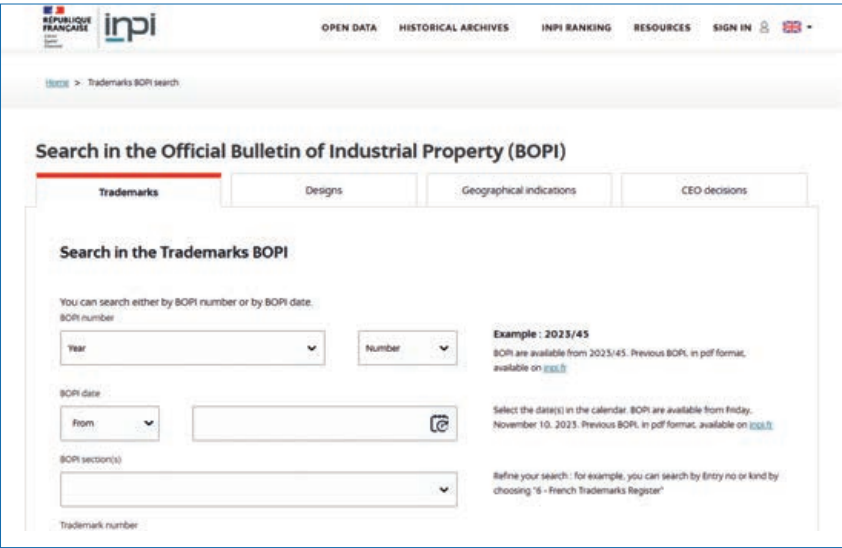
The purpose of this renewed agreement –for the period 2024-2027– is to implement a programme to make Réseau Entreprendre companies aware of the issues concerning business formalities and industrial property.



# Providing support every day

## THE TRADEMARKS AND GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS BOPI ON DATA INPI

The INPI is continuing to modernise the Bulletin Officiel de la Propriété Industrielle (BOPI), which lists all French patent, trademark and design applications filed with the INPI. This is one of the projects of the Area 1 of the INPI's Performance Agreement, which aims to develop the performance of its tools in order to improve the quality of the services provided to its users.



### → A DYNAMIC VERSION...

Following the integration of the Designs BOPI and the decisions of the CEO in DATA INPI in 2022, 2023 witnessed the new dynamic version of the Trademarks BOPI, which now also includes geographical indications.

After several weeks of testing by users, the final version of the Trademarks and Geographical Indications BOPI was put online on DATA INPI on 10 November 2023.

Since that date, this version has replaced the previous version, which was online at inpi.fr and until now had taken the form of a simple PDF document.

The new version will now be the only authentic version. However, previous publications can still be consulted in PDF format on inpi.fr.

### → ...FOR NEW FEATURES

The dynamic version of the Trademarks and Geographical Indications BOPI offers new features, such as access to richer information, an «advanced search» mode, the ability to download and print notices, etc. In particular, searches

can be carried out by BOPI number, year, date, section, registration number, keyword or the names of the party involved.

To work as closely as possible with users and meet their needs as effectively

as possible, these features, together with the search and display interfaces, have been designed by the INPI based on the results of a survey of industrial property professionals.

## THE INPI IS INCREASINGLY INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEITING

In 2023, the INPI presented the first report on the France Against Counterfeiting initiative launched one year earlier: two thematic studies and research work. However, the fight against counterfeiting also involves raising awareness among the general public, professionals and decision-makers, and once again this year, the INPI has been on the front line in this battle.

### → INITIAL WORK OF FRANCE AGAINST COUNTERFEITING

On 8 December 2023, at the General Assembly of the National Anti-Counterfeiting Committee, the INPI and four of its partners (Unifab, CPME, CEIPI and the French Customs and Excise Department) unveiled the results of the initial work carried out as part of the France Against Counterfeiting.

These studies and research projects have shed light on the issues involved in the fight against counterfeiting, all with the same objective in

mind: to put an end to this scourge, which is damaging for both our economy and the health and safety of our fellow citizens.

The results showed that the main efforts need to focus on improving consumer and business awareness, strengthening SMEs' use of industrial property, and changing regulations governing online sales platforms.



### → COMMUNICATING WITH THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Poster for the 26<sup>th</sup> World Anti-Counterfeiting Day, in partnership with UNIFAB, on the theme: “Is influence a solution to the fight against counterfeiting?”

“The work carried out this year by the INPI and its partners is enabling us to identify serious avenues for eradicating this scourge, which is damaging for both our economy and the health and safety of our fellow citizens”

Pascal FAURE,  
CEO of the INPI



Launch of the annual anti-counterfeiting campaign for the general public, at Cannes town hall, with the participation of Pascal Faure and Christophe Blanchet, in partnership with UNIFAB.



Participation in the European Intellectual Property Forum organised by UNIFAB: over 300 participants of all nationalities.



Raising the awareness of MEPs on counterfeiting issues by Pascal Faure and Christophe Blanchet.



# Informing you and helping you move forward

One of the INPI’s fundamental missions is to disseminate knowledge and understanding of industrial property issues among innovators and economic stakeholders. The INPI is building its learning and information tools to meet this objective and its adaptation to technological and social developments: webinars, MOOCs or professional training courses; statistics, rankings or studies.

→ INPI TRAINING COURSES: INPI ACADEMY

For over 20 years, under the INPI Academy trademark, the INPI has been running an industrial property awareness and training programme to help economic stakeholders meet the challenges of innovation and its protection and development.

Compulsory for organisations providing skills development initiatives from 1 January 2022, Qualiopi certification attests to the quality of these services. It was renewed on 14 June 2023, following a monitoring audit.

Promotion of and registration for the 2024 courses opened at the beginning of September.

→ IP MASTER CLASS

For over 10 years, the INPI has been offering its IP Master classes, a training programme combining personalised coaching and workshops. Its aim is to put in place a strategy for protecting and commercialising innovation and the intangible assets of companies both in France and abroad.

These training courses are based on long-term support from an INPI expert, customised coaching sessions recommended on the basis of a diagnosis, and group workshops. The latter make it possible for participants to benefit from the experience of a corporate intellectual property manager who leads the promotion, and from the expertise of an intellectual property attorney. It also enables them to draw inspiration from the practices of other participants.

→ FREE, PRACTICAL WEBINARS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY



Every month, the INPI offers a free, interactive 45-minute webinar on an industrial property topic. These «Rendez-vous de l'INPI» are aimed at project leaders, start-ups, SMEs and ISEs, as well as students. The aim is to support them in their innovation projects, provide training and give them practical tips on patents, trademarks and designs.

In 2023, in addition to the Rendez-vous de l'INPI, the INPI organised eight webinars on business formalities, including five in collaboration with the Conseil national de l'Ordre des Experts-Comptables (CNOEC, Association of Chartered Accountants) and three in collaboration with Notaires

Conseils d'Entreprises (NCE, Notaries for Enterprise), involving a total of 5,350 participants. In partnership with the EUIPO, the INPI also organised a webinar entitled IP4YOU, aimed at IP attorneys and lawyers, and a webinar entitled Ideas Powered for SMEs, aimed at SME managers. The aim was to inform them of the procedures for accessing the SME Fund, a European subsidy fund specifically for intellectual property which, in 2023, provided beneficiaries with up to €2,725 each in reimbursements on patent, trademark and design filings.



Finally, on 12 May, the INPI organised the 2nd IP Strategy Day, a day of webinars and testimonials from entrepreneurs on the importance of industrial property for the growth of SMEs.

“All the people I’ve met during the sessions have been excellent in terms of their professionalism, teaching skills and kindness. Their generosity in sharing their experience is unrivalled, their technical expertise is enviable, and the discussions open up the chakras. This IP Master Class exceeded all our expectations!”

Isabelle Dupret,  
Segula Technologies, participant  
in the IP Master Class in Lyon

→ LAUNCH OF THE START INPI APPLICATION

December 2023 saw the launch of Start INPI, a free mobile application for entrepreneurs. It simply provides them with all the information they need to complete the formalities involved in starting, changing or striking off a business, and to integrate intellectual property into their business.

The application offers information content, interactive activities and educational games to help prepare for business formalities and industrial property procedures.



→ THE REGIONAL RANKING OF PATENT APPLICANTS

The INPI also produces a regional ranking of patent applicants. In 2023, the analysis methodology changed: the ranking of the main patent applicants in the regions of France, usually indexed on the basis of the addresses of the legal persons, is now drawn up on the basis of the inventors’ addresses. This provided another view of the contribution made to inventions by businesses and public research in the regions.

For each region, the INPI has drawn up a TOP 10 list of applicants contributing to the number of patent applications published in 2022. A TOP 20 and a TOP 15 have been drawn up for the Ile-de-France and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes regions, respectively, due to the large volumes of filings from these areas.

There has also been a regional focus on French SMEs and ISEs contributing to patent applications. This shows that patent applications published by SMEs in 2022 accounted for 17.4% of the 12,627 patent applications published at the INPI, while ISEs accounted for 5.7% of the 12,627 patent applications published at the INPI.

Finally, as in previous years, but in a new and shorter format, the INPI presented a top 50 list of the most active French legal persons in terms of number of patents worldwide.

→ HAVE FUN AND LEARN INTERACTIVELY WITH THE INPI’S MOOCs

Video content, interactive activities, contributions from recognised specialists, validation quizzes, etc. INPI MOOCs provide the first essential notions of intellectual property directly online.

In December 2023, the INPI registered its 19,000th participant!



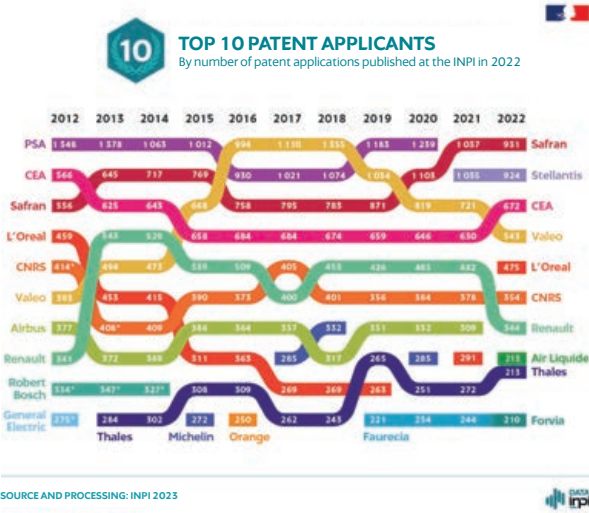
→ THE NATIONAL RANKING OF PATENT APPLICANTS

Each year, the INPI publishes a list of the top patent applicants in France. Available online, the ranking lists the most active legal persons in terms of French patent applications. There is focus by category of legal person and by region of origin of inventors.

The 2023 edition of the ranking thus shows the names of the fifty legal persons responsible for the highest number of

patent application publications in 2022, i.e. the highest number of filings between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021, at the height of the COVID pandemic.

In particular, it shows that the activity of the main applicants remained stable despite the health situation and the economic context of 2020 and 2021, which indicates a reassuring continuity in terms of innovation for these players.







# 2↓

**Promoting your  
innovations**



# Meeting and listening to entrepreneurs

Once again this year, the INPI took part in a number of trade fairs in France and abroad with a view to meeting company directors, creators and project leaders. Our aim is to provide them with our expertise in the creation, development and optimisation of their industrial property strategy. The following is feedback on three unmissable annual events: GO Entrepreneurs, Viva Technology and CES Las Vegas.



### → SUCCESS AT THE GO ENTREPRENEURS TRADE FAIR

To mark its 30th anniversary, the GO Entrepreneurs trade fair, a key event for business creation and development, brought together the entire entrepreneurial ecosystem in Paris on 5 and 6 April, and again in Lyon on 22 June.

The INPI has been a partner of the event since its launch in 1993, and was once again in attendance. Its specialists and business experts met more than 1,000 visitors over three days (including 900 in Paris) to provide information on industrial property and business formalities. They also presented to them the various support solutions offered by the INPI, tailored to their requirements.

The INPI also organised four conferences and workshops, during which INPI experts and company founders shared their experience regarding the key role played by industrial property in the development of their company.

### → THE INPI AND GO ENTREPRENEURS IN FIGURES

1,080  
visitors to our stands

645  
participants in our various conferences

140  
trademark clearance searches carried out free of charge

55  
INPI employees mobilised

“To succeed in your entrepreneurial project, you need to think ahead, ask yourself the right questions, and surround yourself with the right people, such as business incubators and the INPI, who simplify the process of setting up a business”

**Alexandra Emery,**  
President and Founder of Proplink,  
at the Go Entrepreneurs 2023 trade fair

“If you have innovative technology, take the time to get informed, observe and get help!”

**Mohamed Soliman,**  
founder of AtmosGear,  
winner of the Pitch Contest 2023

### → THE INPI AND VIVA TECHNOLOGY IN FIGURES

14  
start-ups invited to the stand

319  
participants in the workshops

150 to 200  
spectators at the INPI Pitch Contest (new in 2023)

57  
employees mobilised

### → VIVA TECHNOLOGY 2023: INNOVATION IN FULL SWING ON THE INPI STAND

From 14 to 17 June, the INPI was at Viva Technology, the trade fair for innovation and new technologies. Its experts welcomed more than 500 innovators, entrepreneurs and students. They answered their questions about industrial property and presented to them the various help and support services offered by the INPI. Fourteen start-ups supported by the INPI on a daily basis exhibited their innovations on our stand.

In addition to the fifteen workshops led by the INPI on topics ranging from IP

strategy financing to patent taxation and the protection of new types of trademarks, this seventh edition also featured an important first: the organisation of a pitch contest involving five start-ups supported by the INPI, in partnership with the French Tech Tremplin programme.

The winning start-up, AtmosGear, has been offered the opportunity to exhibit at the INPI Awards ceremony on 23 November 2023 and on the INPI stand at Viva Technology 2024.



“The work we’re doing here is a very good illustration of what we do at the INPI, i.e. local contact and the use of a wide range of tools to provide customised support for businesses.”

**Pascal Faure,**  
CEO of INPI, at Vivattech 2023

Arterya, a finalist at the INPI 2023 Awards, was present in the French pavilion at CES Las Vegas 2023.



### → THE INPI CONNECTING ONCE MORE WITH CES LAS VEGAS

From 5 to 8 January, the INPI was present at CES Las Vegas, the world’s leading annual technology event, with almost 200 French start-ups and companies presenting a wide variety of innovations.

For the third time at this event, the Consumer Technology Association (CTA), the show organiser, published a ranking after analysing 71 countries and classifying them in four categories: “Innovation Champion”, “Inno-

vation Leader”, “Innovation Adopter” and “Modest Innovator”. France is now one of the world’s Innovation Champions, joining 23 other countries in its category. The prize was presented to Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister Delegate attached to the Minister of the Economy, Finance and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty, who was visiting CES accompanied by the INPI Regional Counsellor for the United States, Canada and Mexico.



# Representing you internationally

## A HIGHLY ACTIVE YEAR FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Harmonising national laws, making life easier for businesses by supporting them as closely as possible in what they need, working in the fight against counterfeiting, protecting French geographical indications, etc. In 2023, the INPI once again made French industrial property shine on the international scene by promoting dialogue and contact with its counterparts all over the world.

### → The INPI at the heart of European work

In 2023, a new European regulation was adopted as the basis of a European protection system for craft and industrial products. This year also saw the completion of the European patent with unitary effect and the Unified Patent Court (see page 22).

Other discussions at European level have also been initiated or continued in 2023, with the European Commission's "design" and "patent" packages.

From the initial preparatory work to publication, including the amendments, the INPI made a major contribution to defending national interests by providing all its expertise and support to the ministries involved and to the French Permanent Representation to the European Union.

The INPI is now helping to adapt national legislation to incorporate the new provisions set out in the regulation

on craft and industrial geographical indications, and is ready for future texts. It is also already actively involved in the operation of the system for the European patent with unitary effect, in effect since 1 June 2023.

March

14-16

Bilateral meeting with the **INAPI (Chile)** to renew the memorandum of understanding and sign a new licence for our IP Master Class tools.

May

15-17

Visit to Singapore for an **International Trademark Association** event. Two bilateral meetings were organised on the fringes of the annual meeting: one with the **IPOS (Singapore)**, and the other with the **IPOPHL (Philippines)**, leading to the signing of a memorandum of understanding.

15-17

In **Singapore**, meeting at the **French Embassy** between **Unifab** member companies and social platforms and networks, co-organised by the **INPI**.

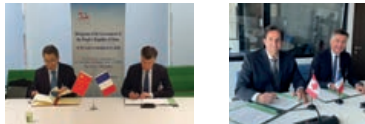
July

7-11

Meetings on the fringes of the **WIPO** General Assemblies with the national industrial property offices of **Australia, South Korea, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Qatar, Brazil, Japan** and **China**; signing of a new agreement and work plan with the **CIPO (Canada)** for 2023-2025, and of the minutes of the joint commission meeting previously organised in Beijing with the **CNIPA (China)**.

12

34th joint commission meeting between the **INPI** and the **CNIPA (China)**, held in Paris on the premises of the Union of Manufacturers (**Unifab**).



December

1

Bilateral meeting and signing of a work plan with the **Indian office**, organised at the **INPI** headquarters.

12

**OAPI** Administrative Council meeting in **Burkina Faso**, with the participation of Pascal Faure, the CEO of the **INPI**, by videoconference.

February

15-16

Meeting with the **IMPI (Mexico)** to define future areas of cooperation.

16

Participation in a working meeting at the French Embassy in Mexico on the protection of Intellectual Property and the fight against counterfeiting.



April

6

Joint commission with the **CNIPA (China)** and signing of a PPH on the occasion of the State visit to the Great Hall of the People, in the presence of the President of the French Republic and the President of the People's Republic of China.

25

Bilateral meeting with the **USPTO (USA)** to strengthen bilateral cooperation beyond the PPH that has been in force since December 2021.

June

2

Meeting with the Vietnamese Intellectual Property Office (**IP Vietnam**) and signing of a Memorandum of Understanding.



2-3

Ministerial conference on the promotion of the geographical indications system in **Abidjan**.

13-14

Joint seminar with **Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS)**, dedicated entirely to the protection of industrial property and the fight against counterfeiting.

September

1

Reception of a delegation from **KIPO**.

5-6

Joint commission meeting with **OMPIC (Morocco)**. Signing of the seventh PPH agreement for the **INPI**.

12-14

Organisation of a regional seminar for North African countries on the fight against counterfeiting in Tunis in conjunction with **AfriPI (EUIPO)**.

October

3-4

Cooperation on the potential of geographical indications (GIs) between **France** and **Mexico**, organised in **Mexico City**.

12-13

18th annual joint commission meeting, held in **Côte d'Ivoire** with the **African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)** and joint commission meeting between the French Anti-Counterfeiting Committee (CNAC) and its Ivorian counterpart CNLC.

November

27-29

Regional GI Forum dedicated to the Arab countries of the Maghreb and the Middle East, organised in **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**. On the fringes of this event, a bilateral meeting was organised with the **SAIP**, leading to the signing of a PPH agreement with **Saudi Arabia**.





# Highlighting success stories

Created in 1991, the INPI Awards are given to companies that are emblematic of French innovation and stand out for the exemplary nature of their industrial property strategy and the way they commercialise their intangible assets. This year again, the companies selected were spotted by INPI business experts, who are present throughout France to support innovators in their intellectual property procedures.

## 15 FINALISTS WITH INSPIRING INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY STRATEGIES



### Export

- Axess Vision Technology
- BCF Life Sciences
- Barrisol Normalu



### Research partnership

- Arterya
- Lify Air
- Phost-in Therapeutics



### Industry

- Dirickx
- EDAP TMS SA
- Sokoa



### Start-up

- Dronisos
- Giskard AI
- Hippy-Indienov



### Responsible innovation

- Valorex
- Aproték
- Mini Green Power



WATCH THE VIDEOS OF THE FINALISTS

The 2023 INPI Awards spotlighted the expertise of 15 SMEs and start-ups in five categories:



“Congratulations to the winners of the 2023 INPI Awards. Once again, it is a pleasure to celebrate these innovative companies and the inspiring careers of their leaders. The INPI is proud to reward their efforts to make industrial property as a driving force for growth. It is indeed a show of support for innovation!”

**Pascal Faure,**  
CEO of the INPI



“Congratulations to the winners of the 2023 INPI Awards. I’m very honoured to support and encourage the innovation strategies of these companies. Each one has its own industrial property strategy, and it is a pleasure to see that these managers and their teams have used this tool to better guarantee the income associated with their innovations.”

**Géraldine Guery-Jacques,**  
Chair of the jury of the 2023 INPI Awards

For this 25<sup>th</sup> edition, the INPI asked Géraldine GUERY-JACQUES to do it the honour of being chair of the jury. An engineer with a passion for innovation and a specialist in industrial property, Géraldine GUERY-JACQUES is President of the Association Française des Spécialistes en Propriété Industrielle de l’Industrie (ASPI, French Association of Industrial Property Specialists in Industry) and Director of Industrial Property at SEB.



## → A JURY OF PRESTIGE

The jury reflected the French innovation ecosystem and was made up of leading figures and experts from the private and public sectors.

**Association des Conseils en Propriété Industrielle (ACPI, Association of Industrial Property Attorneys):**  
Marc Levieils, President

**Afnor (French Standardisation Association):**  
Christine Kertesz, Head of Member Relations

**Bpifrance:** Sophie Rémont, Director of Expertise and Programmes

**Centre d’Etudes Internationales de la Propriété Intellectuelle (CEIPI, Center for International Intellectual Property Studies):** Jean-Marc Deltorn, Professor

**Compagnie nationale des conseils en propriété industrielle (CNCPI, French Patent & Trademark Attorneys Institute):**  
Guylène Kiesel le Cosquer, President

**Direction générale des entreprises (DGE, Directorate-General for Enterprise):** Olivier Deschildre, “Innovation and Industrial Property” Project Manager

**Direction générale de la recherche et de l’innovation (DGRI, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation):**  
Stéphanie Arrabal, Head of Department SITTAR C2

**Réseau Curie (Curie network):** Stéphanie Kuss, CEO

**Union des fabricants (Unifab, Union of Manufacturers):**  
Philippe Lacoste, Vice-President

**Abolis Biotechnologies, winner of the 2022 INPI “Research Partnership” Award:** Valérie Brunel, General Manager

**Gattefossé, winner of the 2022 INPI “Industry” Award:**  
Paula Lennon, Director for Cosmetics



# And the winners are...

**Export**  
**Barrisol Normalu**  
KEMBS, HAUT-RHIN, GRAND EST



- **1967** CREATION DATE
- **199** EMPLOYEES
- **€22.2M** TURNOVER, OF WHICH **68 %** FROM EXPORT
- **389** FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL PATENTS
- **233** FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARKS
- **56** DESIGNS

Barrisol Normalu is an intermediate-sized enterprise (ISE) in Alsace, specialising in the creation of stretched ceilings. It focuses on private individuals, local authorities, architects and interior designers in both the secondary and tertiary sectors. Innovation is seen by the company as a true guarantee of growth, which it exports worldwide through a network of exclusive distributors: Barrisol Normalu operates on every continent, and 68% of its turnover come from exports.

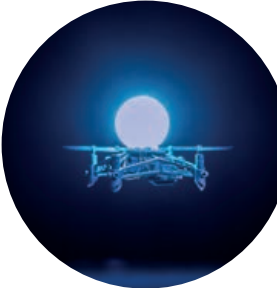
**Industry**  
**EDAP TMS SA**  
VAULX-EN-VELIN, RHÔNE, AUVERGNE-RHÔNE-ALPES



- **1994** CREATION DATE
- **154** EMPLOYEES
- **€31.8M** TURNOVER
- **80** PATENTS
- **15** TRADEMARKS

EDAP TMS designs, develops, manufactures, markets and installs medical devices based on the use of ultrasound: therapeutic alternatives that help minimise the need for certain major surgical procedures and maintain patients' quality of life. Its industrial property strategy is based mainly on patents, which it files only for high value-added inventions and extends internationally on a systematic basis.

**Start-up**  
**Dronisos**  
BÈGLES, GIRONDE, NOUVELLE-AQUITAINE



- **2016** CREATION DATE
- **45** EMPLOYEES
- **5** PATENTS
- **1** TRADEMARK

Dronisos specialises in indoor and outdoor drone shows. It provides services for permanent events (e.g. theme parks) and one-off events (e.g. official ceremonies, sporting events, product launches, corporate evenings, etc.). Dronisos innovates constantly on two fronts: technology and artistic creation. A pioneer in its sector, its industrial property strategy focuses on protecting its technological innovations and its methods through patents so that it is always one step ahead.

**Responsible innovation**  
**Valorex**  
COMBOURTILLÉ, ILLE-ET-VILAINE, BRETAGNE



- **1993** CREATION DATE
- **121** EMPLOYEES
- **€130M** TURNOVER
- **101** PATENTS
- **73** TRADEMARKS

Valorex develops processes for manufacturing food for animal and human consumption based on cooked seeds using extrusion cooking techniques. The company designs its products to meet the challenges of decarbonising agriculture and, more broadly, of changing our dietary model. These are topics that are behind numerous collaborative research partnerships in France and abroad. Industrial property rights form the basis of this partnership strategy and give the company visibility for its investors, helping to ensure its continued independence.

**Research partnership**  
**Lify Air**  
ORLÉANS, LOIRET, CENTRE-VAL DE LOIRE



- **2018** CREATION DATE
- **12** EMPLOYEES
- **€225,000** TURNOVER
- **1** PATENT
- **4** TRADEMARKS

Lify Air develops and markets a unique solution for real-time air pollen detection using connected sensors. The information obtained is then distributed directly to allergy sufferers, using a free application available on app stores. The company sees its efforts to obtain industrial property rights as proof of its value and soundness in the eyes of its investors. Their international extension has enabled the company to launch its development outside France.



The INPI Awards ceremony took place in the evening of Thursday, 23 November 2023 and was attended by over 230 figures of the innovation ecosystem.



15 finalists and as many innovative products and services for guests to discover during an exhibition.



At the ceremony, the winners spoke to R2PI, the podcast of the Center for International Intellectual Property Studies, about their nominations, their company's journeys and their expertise.



RELIVE THE BEST MOMENTS OF THE CEREMONY ON VIDEO



# Revealing our heritage

## TWO NEW GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS APPROVED

A geographical indication (GI) is a sign that can be used on products that have a specific geographical origin and qualities, a reputation or characteristics associated with their place of origin. On 13 October 2023, two new GIs were approved by the INPI: pierre du Midi [stone from the South of France] and argiles du Velay [Velay clays].



“Congratulations to those involved in these two sectors, who have worked in a collaborative and efficient manner.”

**Pascal Faure,**  
CEO of the INPI.

### → “PIERRE DU MIDI”

Pierre du Midi is a limestone rock of marine origin. It is made up of several stone families—the best known being Fontvieille stone, Rognes stone and Pont-du-Gard stone—and comes in several varieties, shades, densities and hardnesses, depending on the cements of which it is constituted. Thick, resistant and with excellent thermal properties, it was used very early on in the region for housing and construction, as shown by the troglodytic sites of Rocsalrière and the Roman monuments of Arles and Nîmes.

The “pierre du Midi” geographical indication covers raw products (blocks, riprap), semi-finished products (slices), stones cut from quarried blocks, veneer stones and replacement stones.

When the professionals—led by the pierre du Midi association—obtained the geographical indication, this drew attention to the rarity and specificity of this material, as well as the techniques used for its extraction and processing, which must now be carried out in the geographical areas defined in a specification.

Since the scheme came into force, a total of sixteen geographical indications have now been approved by the INPI.



### → “ARGILES DU VELAY”

Velay clays are natural minerals with properties and benefits that have been valued for thousands of years. Free from chemical treatments and among the purest on the market, they stand out for their diversity and composition.

Intense volcanic activity in the Velay region created the right conditions for the formation of these sedimentary rocks. As far back as the Neolithic period, they were used by local populations for pottery and to make everyday objects, as well as cosmetics, traditional medicine and agriculture.

The new “argiles du Velay” GI covers primary processing products (raw clay, packaged or in bulk) and secondary processing products (clay mud, clay paste). It acknowledges the mineral quality of the Velay basin and the clay processing expertise in a geographical area limited to the Haute-Loire department (43), which is where the extraction and processing operations must be carried out. Considering that the beauty and cosmetics sector is one of the hardest hit by counterfeiting, seeking GI status has been a major quality initiative undertaken by those involved, led by the association for the protection and promotion of Velay clays.

### → DID YOU KNOW?

Adopted in March 2014, the so-called “Consumption” Act broadened the sphere of geographical indications beyond agricultural and wine products to include those of manufacturing and crafts.

## THE INPI ARCHIVES, THE MEMORY OF TECHNICAL AND ARTISTIC INNOVATION IN FRANCE

In its archives, the INPI carefully preserves all patents filed since 1791, trademarks since 1857 and designs since 1910. This unique scientific and cultural potential needs to be nurtured and promoted, by facilitating access for specialists and the general public alike.



“I would like to pay tribute to Bruno Fuligni’s exceptional, well-documented work. I am convinced that this book will be very popular with all the generations who are tempted to discover the genius of French inventors.”

**Pascal Faure,**  
CEO of the INPI

### → LE GÉNIE HUMAIN (THE HUMAN GENIUS), A BOOK BY BRUNO FULIGNI

9 November 2023 saw the publication in bookshops of the first book entirely dedicated to the patents collection kept by the INPI: Le génie humain, written by historian Bruno Fuligni and published by Gründ.

Conceived with the help of INPI archivists, this elegant, illustrated book has helped promote a rich and still little-known archive by putting “inventors’ archives” into perspective through nine major categories: walking, driving, sailing, diving, flying, fighting, appearing, feasting and dreaming.

Throughout the book, the patents are the basis for the structure, based on the author’s research in the INPI’s archives. The many quotes give the inventors a voice. The drawings and sketches are reproduced in full-page format, and some of them are true works of art.

### → ARCHIVES EXHIBITED IN PARIS, THE PROVINCES AND BEYOND

In its archives, the INPI keeps a large number of original documents (manuscripts, photographs, drawings, descriptive plans in paint, sketches, etc.) covering all areas of technical knowledge and creation.

Every year, the INPI unveils the technical, historical, social and cultural value of these by organising or contributing to exhibitions. In 2023, the INPI took part in 17 exhibitions, including three that benefited from loans of original works, such as the “Des cheveux et des poils” [“Hair and bristles”] exhibition at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs from 5 April to 17 September 2023,

where visitors saw a “false toupee that can be applied to the head without glue or gum”. This exceptional object was shown to the public for the very first time in this retrospective exhibition, which explored the social function of our hair.

In addition, for the first time, three cultural venues included visuals from our archives into their permanent exhibitions: the Musée du Rhum in Saint-Pierre (Réunion island), the Maison Louis Pasteur in Arbois (Jura) and the Musée d’Art et d’Industrie in Saint-Etienne (Loire).

### → DID YOU KNOW?

Over 2.7 million! That’s the number of patent applications kept in the INPI archives since 1791



### → 2023 in figures

441

search requests

3,133

copies of documents provided


17

exhibitions

4

publications of works





Upgrading  
systems for  
management

→ 3



# MANAGEMENT

## The board of directors



Number of employees  
as of 31 December 2023:

800

→ MEMBERS WITH  
THE RIGHT TO VOTE

**Sylvie Guinard - Chair**  
CEO of Thimonnier SAS

**Géraldine Guery Jacques  
– Vice-Chair**  
Director of Industrial Property/  
SEB Group

**Sophie Remont**  
Director of Expertise - Department  
of Innovation, Bpifrance  
Financement

**Olivier Gicquel**  
Director of Intellectual Property,  
CNH Industrial Group

**Élodie Belnoue**  
Director in charge of coordinating  
research and development  
activities at AMAL Therapeutics

**Bernard Reybier**  
Chairman of the Board of Directors  
of the Fermob Group

**Guylène Kiesel Le Cosquer**  
President of the French Patent  
& Trademark Attorneys Institute  
(CNCPI)

**A representative  
of the Directorate of Civil  
Affairs and the Seal (DACs)**  
Ministry of Justice

**A representative of the  
Director of Legal Affairs**  
Ministry of the Economy,  
Finance and Industrial  
and Digital Sovereignty

**A representative of the  
Director of the Budget**  
Ministry of Public Action  
and Accounts

**A representative of the  
Director-General of the  
Directorate-General for  
Enterprise (DGE)**  
Ministry of the Economy, Finance  
and Industrial and Digital  
Sovereignty

**A representative of the  
Minister for National  
Education and Higher  
Education and Research**

**Bernard Barbier**  
Representative of the staff  
of the INPI

**Hocine Ihaddadene**  
Representative of the staff  
of the INPI

→ MEMBERS IN AN  
ADVISORY CAPACITY

**Pascal Faure**  
CEO of the INPI

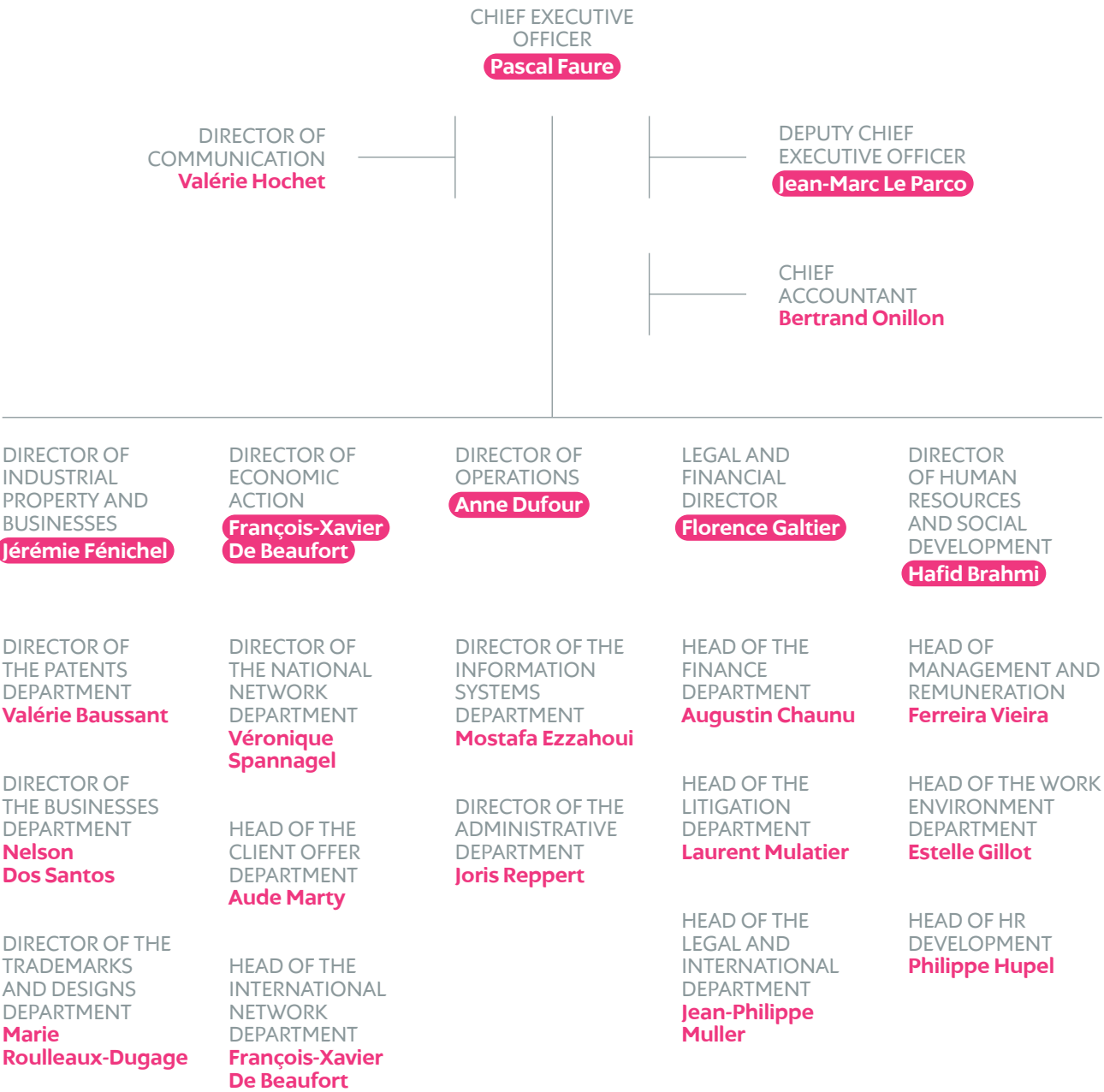
**Bertrand Onillon**  
Chief Accountant of the INPI

**Hubert Gicquelet**  
Budget Auditor at the  
Department for General  
Economic and Financial  
Audits (CGEFI), Ministry of the  
Economy, Finance and Industrial  
and Digital Sovereignty

Board of Directors as of 1 January 2024

# THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The executive committee



Management Committee and Executive Committee as of 14/03/2024



# Optimising

Every year, the INPI improves its employees’ working environment and upgrades their tools. This contributes greatly to quality of working life (QWL) and to strengthening the quality of the services offered to users.



The INPI archiving site

→ **APEALS AGAINST DECISIONS  
MADE BY THE INPI CEO**

In 2023, 184 appeals were lodged against decisions made by the INPI CEO.

Most of these appeals still relate to trademarks (91% of appeals). In this category, appeals relating to oppositions remains the majority (62%); however, appeals relating to invalidity continue to increase in number (22% in 2023 compared with 19% in 2022); appeals relating to revocation have fallen (9% in 2023 compared with 17% in 2022).

In patent matters, appeals still account for 5% of the total, mainly due to appeals against opposition decisions. SPC appeals are on the rise (5% in 2023 compared with 3% in 2022). On this last matter, there is still a significant volume of litigation before the Court of Cassation.

Lastly, two appeals were lodged against GI approval decisions in 2023, representing 1% of total appeals.

→ **A SAFER WORKING ENVIRONMENT**

The ideal working environment—a key factor in employee well-being and efficiency—combines friendliness, cleanliness, comfort, ergonomics and, above all, safety.

In 2023, the INPI put in place measures to increase its employees’ safety by carrying out fire safety work on its archiving site. Fire safety training has also been provided for all staff members at every site. Videos were also broadcast to improve information on the evacuation of buildings in Courbevoie and Lille.

The INPI has also continued to adapt its buildings, moving into new premises in Orléans and bringing together the Nancy and Strasbourg teams in the Strasbourg Delegation.

→ **AUDITING THE ORGANISATION**

Seven internal audit tasks were carried out in 2023: four on process and compliance; and three on the security of information systems, strengthening confidence in the INPI’s IT infrastructures and applications. The Audit Committee, which meets twice a year and reports to the Board of Directors, is regularly informed of internal audit activities.



→ **A NEW ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION SYSTEM**

After intensive preparations in 2022, involving design, configuration and data transfer, the INPI rolled out its new budgeting and accounting solution on 1 January 2023.

The INPI has switched to Progiciel Établissements Publics (PEP), its new accounting and financial system. This tool is fully adapted to the problems of public accounting and per-

mits modernised financial management in compliance with the rules applicable to budget management and public accounting.

It also responds to the challenges of digitalisation with new generation ergonomics.

Thanks to the commitment of the finance department, the accounting department,

the operational departments, the information systems department and the service provider INETUM, the year 2023 ended without a hitch.

→ **AN OPTIMISED PROPERTY  
PORTFOLIO**

As part of the monitoring of its multi-year property operations, the INPI is committed to optimising its property assets, adapting them to its needs as closely as possible. In particular, this year it sold 463 m² of space in a listed building in Nantes: the Hôtel de la Villestreux.

This transaction marks the completion of the disposal programme defined by the INPI as part of its multi-year property strategy plan (SPSI).

→ **COMBATING CORRUPTION**

In 2023, in compliance with the Sapin 2 Act that came into force on 1 June 2017, the INPI continued to apply its anti-corruption plan.

This took the form of a dedicated training plan to raise awareness among employees.



# Ensuring success

## THE INPI AS A RESPONSIBLE EMPLOYER

The INPI is continuing to implement its policy of social and environmental responsibility. It does everything it can to retain its talents and provide them with the best possible training.



### → AN ORGANISATION THAT IS COMMITTED

The INPI has been committed to an environmental policy for many years, and the Courbevoie site is an energy-efficient (Bâtiment basse consommation, BBC) and high environmental quality (haute qualité environnementale, HQE) building. In 2023, the INPI stepped up its action to promote energy savings as part of the energy efficiency plan drawn up by the State for all its operators. Action includes an energy audit of the Lille site, which will eventually lead to a targeted action plan.

The INPI has also been particularly active in the field of sustainable mobility, an important area given that

mobility is what contributes most to greenhouse gas emissions in France. A number of internal campaigns have been conducted to raise awareness of the importance of soft mobility. The INPI has also applied the new terms of the Forfait Mobilités Durables (Sustainable Mobility Package), a financial support scheme for sustainable means of transport for home-work journeys. At the same time, a car-sharing scheme has been launched for INPI employees in partnership with BlaBlaCar Daily.

### → NURTURING SOCIAL DIALOGUE

INPI's responsibility can also be seen in its ongoing social dialogue.

As part of Act No. 2019-828 of 6 August 2019 on the transformation of the civil service, which renews social dialogue, several changes were made to social dialogue bodies in 2023.

Consequently, since 1 January 2023, there has been just one single body for social dialogue: the Comité social d'administration (CSA, Social Administration Committee), which is the result of the merger between the former Comité technique d'établissement public (Public Establishment Technical Committee) and the former Co-

mité d'hygiène, de sécurité et des conditions de travail (Committee for Health, Safety and Working Conditions).

In addition, as a public administration and establishment with over 200 employees, the INPI now has a specialised body for health, safety and working conditions (FSSSCT), an emanation of the CSA.

Furthermore, on 4 October 2023, the general conditions for the use of information and communication technologies by trade union organisations at the INPI were the subject of a decision by the CEO (Decision No. 2023-130), which changed these conditions.



### → ATTRACTING NEW TALENT

As part of its employer branding policy, one of the INPI's main objectives is to attract new talent. One of the key initiatives for 2023 has been attendance at trade fairs, targeted according to the INPI's recruitment requirements. For example, the INPI took part in the PhD Talent Career Fair to introduce the INPI's professions to PhD students with a view to recruiting them. It has also attended other fairs, such as the CEIPI Job Fair and Viva Technology, and has taken part in events organised by engineering schools and law faculties.

In 2023, to raise future applicants' awareness of the INPI and the professions it involves, the INPI broadcast a corporate video on its social media, its website at [inpi.fr](http://inpi.fr) and recruitment websites, as well as portraits of employees presenting their professions. This action has increased the number of applications received by around 28%.

### → PROMOTING IT SECURITY

The INPI is a controller of sensitive data and the nature of its activity calls for the utmost vigilance in the use of its information system. Regular campaigns are carried out to raise awareness of IT security among the members of our teams. This was the case in 2023, with compulsory two-hour training sessions for our teams in Courbevoie and Lille.

### → TRAINING OUR STAFF

At the INPI, the aim of training is to support and, above all, anticipate developments in technology and society that affect our work. It focuses entirely on the notion of service to the public.

### → KEEPING EMPLOYEE LOYALTY

"Public service", "innovation", "professionalism", "good atmosphere", "benevolence", "kindness", "friendliness": this year, our 98 new employees used a wide range of words to express what impressed them when they joined the INPI, and most of them tell the same story: the INPI is becoming an increasingly attractive employer, working to keep its talent.

Initiatives benefitting employees include the implementation of a number of government measures relating to remuneration (1.5% pay rise on 1 July 2023, increase from 50% to 75% in the reimbursement of travel pass expenses, sustainable mobility package, etc.), together with a campaign of promotions on the basis of selection to enhance employees' potential.

#### → Key figures for staff training in 2023





**The INPI would like  
to thank the companies  
and innovators  
mentioned for their kind  
permission to publish  
their testimonials  
and reproduce their  
achievements in this  
annual report.**

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