20 Annual report 24

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

inpi

contents

04
Editorial

06
Highlights & key data

18
Providing even more services

34
Promoting your innovations

50
Fine-tuning our governance

Editorial

Pascal Faure

Chief Executive Officer
of the INPI

2024 marked the final year to fulfil our Performance Agreement (COP 2021-2024), a four-year cycle of significant milestones for the INPI. This particularly ambitious COP required the INPI to upgrade its organization, adapt some job positions and incorporate new skills.

The one-stop shop *Guichet unique* for business formalities, opened in 2023, demonstrates our ability to meet the growing needs of businesses. In 2024, it processed over 4.2 million formalities, an impressive number reflecting the usefulness and effectiveness of this new digital platform.
Regarding industrial property, filings of patents, trademarks and designs remained stable, confirming the importance of protecting innovation in a climate of economic uncertainty. Six new geographical indications have been formally approved, raising to 21 their total number. As part of our digitalisation process, two new portals were launched in 2024: one dedicated to Soleau envelopes (p. 20) and the other to our historical archives, accessible from DATA INPI (p. 21). In addition, we intensified our reflections on artificial intelligence, a strategic lever for the future of intellectual property (p. 22).
We also progressed in our training activities. Our INPI Academy platform was modernised with the launch of the academie.inpi.fr website. And the "Start INPI" application, dedicated to entrepreneurs, won over 10,000 users in 2024 (p. 31).
Cooperation remains a central pillar of our action. In metropolitan France, we collaborate with all Regions (p. 24) to strengthen our territorial anchoring and our understanding of local needs.

We also work in close collaboration with major national partners such as the SGPI (Secretariat General for

This positive track record, resulting from the efforts of INPI staff, attests to **our commitment to adapt** to economic, technological, and societal challenges.

Investment; p. 32), the CNRS National Research Centre (p. 25), and the French Customs authority (p. 27)

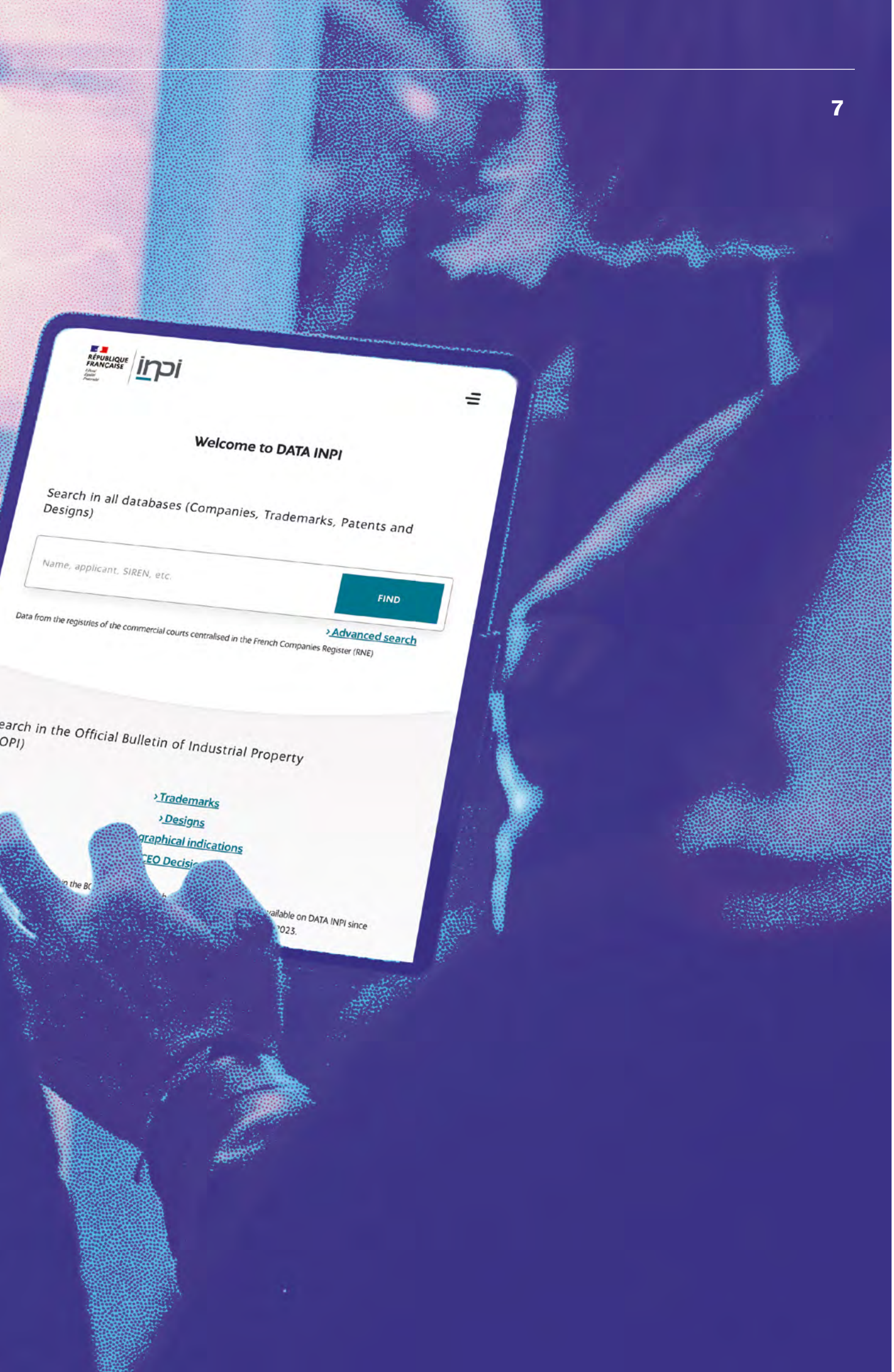
Last but not least, we meet with businesses at key trade events such as Viva Technology or Go Entrepreneurs (pp. 36 to 37), and we spotlight them at the INPI Awards, with a highly successful 2024 edition of these Awards (pp. 41 to 45).

In foreign countries, we pursue our mission to represent France in European and international bodies (EPO, EUIPO, WIPO). Two new Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) agreements were signed in 2024, raising to ten the total number of PPH agreements (p. 23).

Lastly, societal changes—particularly on corporate social and environmental responsibility—remain central to our concerns. A training programme designed to tackle gender-based and sexual violence, as well as discrimination, has been implemented (p. 57). Teleworking, adopted by a vast majority of our staff in 2024, was backed by layout adjustments in our premises (p. 54).

This positive track record, resulting from the efforts of INPI staff, paves the way for a new horizon, with the start of our new COP 2025-2029 (p. 17) attesting to our commitment to adapt to economic, technological, and societal challenges.

Highlights & key data


RÉPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE
inpi
Welcome to DATA INPI
Search in all databases (Companies, Trademarks, Patents and Designs)
Name, applicant, SIREN, etc.
FIND
Advanced search
Data from the registries of the commercial courts centralised in the French Companies Register (RNE)
earch in the Official Bulletin of Industrial Property
OPI)
Trademarks
Designs
graphical indications
EO Decisi
in the BO
ailable on DATA INPI since
2023.

Highlights

January

9 → 12

The INPI at CES Las Vegas alongside Business France and French Tech

24 Signature of an agreement with the French Foreign Trade Advisors

26 Approval of the GI ***"dentelle de Calais-Caudry"*** (Calais-Caudry lace)

Read all the highlights of international cooperation on pages 38-39

March

8 **International Women's Day**
Signature of a joint declaration with WIPO

12 Opening of the INPI historical archives portal

April

8 New e-Soleau portal

25 Publication of the 2023 list of the top patent applicants in France

26 World Intellectual Property Day

May

13 → 24

Diplomatic Conference on Genetic Resources and Associated Traditional Knowledge

24 ***Pitch contest INPI,*** in partnership with French Tech Tremplin at Viva Technology

June

4 IP Strategy Day

14 Approval of the GI ***"pierre de Vianne"*** (Vianne stone)

28 Approval of the GI ***"bottes camarguaises"*** (Camargue boots)

July

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

22 Publication of the study entitled ***"Innovation dans le cyclisme : pari gagnant grâce à la propriété intellectuelle !"*** **(Innovation in cycling, a winning bet thanks to intellectual property!)**

September

10 Publication of the 2023 regional list of top patent applicants

October

2 **Inauguration of the Francophone Alliance for Intellectual Property**

9 → 11

Participation of the INPI in the 78th Congress of the Order of Chartered Accountants

16

19th Joint Commission between the INPI and the African Intellectual Property Organization and signature of a new cooperation programme

31 Publication of the book *Le génie gourmand (The Gourmet Genius)* by historian Bruno Fuligni

November

6

Publication of the study on "The dynamics of French patent-filing ISEs and SMEs, 2019–2023" *("La dynamique des ETI et PME françaises déposantes de brevets 2019 – 2023")*

11 → 20

Diplomatic Conference to Conclude and Adopt a Design Law Treaty (DLT/DC)

21 Launch of the website academie.inpi.fr

27 INPI Awards Ceremony

27 Conference on *Quantique : de la recherche au marché, le rôle incontournable des brevets* (Quantum: From Research to Market, the Essential Role of Patents) and publication of the study *L'informatique quantique dans les brevets en 2024* (Quantum Computing in Patents in 2024) in partnership with the SGPI

December

6 Approval of the GIs ***"pierre de Mareuil"*** (*Mareuil stone*) and ***"pierre de Paussac/Paussac-et-Saint-Vivien"*** (*Paussac/Paussac-et-Saint-Vivien stone*)

9 Launch of an awareness campaign on counterfeiting risks in partnership with the CNAC (National Anti-Counterfeiting Committee) and Unifab

Key data

Total number of formalities completed on the *Guichet unique* :

4,262,360

of which

Requests for business creations:

1,561,292

Modifications:

1,045,694

Annual accounts:

852,250

Terminations:

579,919

Other procedures:

223,205

Number of patents, trademarks, and designs filed in 2024

	B	M	D
2024	**15,458**	**90,874**	**5,303**
	-0.7%*	- 2.4%*	- 3.8%*
		+ 29,822 renewals	
2023	**15,566**	**93,081**	**5,511**
2022	**14,747**	**94,426**	**5,363**
2021	**14,758**	**113,070**	**5,853**
2020	**14,309**	**106,155**	**5,903**

* versus 2023

21 geographical indications (GIs) approved since the entry into force of the 2014 "Consumption" Act

20,488 e-Soleau envelopes

New types of trademark

133

Non-traditional trademarks

Non-traditional trademarks protect a particular sign that manifests itself as a colour, a 3D shape, a hologram, a sound, a position, a pattern, a movement or a multimedia recording that allows the consumer to attribute an origin to a product.

55

Collective trademarks

26

Guarantee trademarks

Utility Certificates (UCs)

→ **1,024 filed,** i.e. 6.6% of filings

→ **12 UCs converted into patents,** i.e. less than 1%

Inter partes Procedures*

* Inter partes procedure: procedure between two parties before the INPI.

432 trademark revocations and declarations of invalidity

4,316 trademark oppositions

32 patent oppositions

Inventive step

For patent applications filed since 22 May 2020

95.5% of applications subject to patent granting criteria as provided under the "Pacte" Act, i.e. **36,939** patents under examination

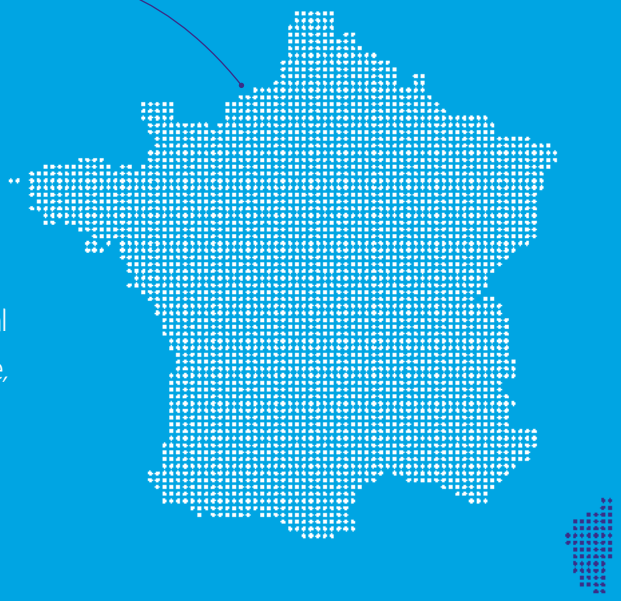
13,454 preliminary search report notifications

Provisional patent applications

883 applications i.e. **5.7%** of patent filings

12 regional agreements in force in 2024

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



9 strategic regions across the world covering nearly 100 countries

18 agreements signed in 2024, including 2 PPH agreements:

New agreements with the *Agence universitaire de la Francophonie* (Francophone University Agency – AUF), Saudi Arabia, Argentina, China, Colombia, the United Arab Emirates, the United States of America, Indonesia, Morocco, the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, Singapore, Tunisia, Vietnam; two PPH agreements with Mexico and Singapore.

Supporting economic stakeholders

7,673 businesses supported in France

↗ + 10.9% versus 2023

1,662 INPI Coaching services

Exchanges processed by INPI Direct:

→ **2,573,043** calls

→ **576,931** emails

13,163 users registered on Start INPI

TOP 3
topics addressed with Start INPI:

1. modifying a sole proprietorship or company,
2. setting up a sole proprietorship,
3. learning to use the *Guichet unique*.

Training

90% overall satisfaction including MOOCs, short training sessions

17,659 beneficiaries of INPI training, including

→ **1,702** participants in short training courses and certificates

→ **6,294** having followed at least one training course on Start INPI

→ **7,617** registered for MOOCs

→ **2,046** participants in IP webinars

26,552 registered for MOOCs since their launch in 2021

Focus on training leading to qualifications

52 persons certified in 2024:

→ 25 patent assistant certificates

→ 14 trademark and design assistant certificates

→ 13 intellectual property coordinator certificates

International network

→ **387** businesses supported

3,317 businesses informed about their rights abroad as regards industrial property

TOP 3
topics addressed:

1. general information on industrial property,
2. local intellectual property environment,
3. counterfeiting.

Digital
to the core

Data accessible on DATA INPI

46.5 million free and reusable data items in open-access

including

→

25.7 million data items on enterprises
(including 15 million active enterprises)
and **20.8 million** data items on industrial property

Number of IP data items accessible online, free of charge

12 million patents database
7.2 million trademarks database
1.4 million designs database
127,000 case law database

Means and **resources**

Revenue

110.4 million euro

85.7%
Sales of goods and services

14.3%
Other revenue from operations

Expenses

158 million euros

45.5%
Purchases of goods and procurement

35.9%
Personnel expenses

18.6%
Other operating expenses including amortisation charge

Capped revenue

Since the 2021 Finance Act, the INPI has paid back to the French State the revenue from the administration of industrial property rights and business formalities, in excess of a predefined cap: €124 million in 2021, then €94 million in subsequent years. Excluding this cap, budget receipts would have reached €189.9 million.

Accounts certification

The INPI has followed a policy of accounts certification since 2014. Financial statements from 2015 to 2024 were all certified without reservations by the auditors.

2021-2024 Performance Agreement: target reached!

The Performance Agreement (COP) 2021-2024 was the fifth COP agreement signed by the INPI with the French State since 2004. It marked a key milestone in the history of the INPI, with the incorporation of new tasks focused on business formalities, major advances in supporting innovative enterprises, and the modernisation of the services provided. This solid track record has paved the way for fresh ambitions to tackle the challenges of an ever-changing world.

This particularly ambitious COP has required the INPI to upgrade its organization, adapt some occupations and incorporate new skills. Bolstering the quality of the services provided, enhancing the promotion of intellectual property and international influence, and ensuring effective functioning aligned with ambitions were the three pillars guiding the INPI's actions throughout this period.

Pillar 1

Bolstering the quality of the services provided

- Creation of the online *Guichet unique* portal for business formalities and the National Business Register.
- Upgrades of digital tools related to industrial property procedures (trademarks, designs, e-Soleau portal).
- Full digitalisation of all procedures and dissemination of data on industrial property and enterprises on DATA INPI.

Pillar 2

Enhancing the promotion of intellectual property and international influence

- Every year, 7,000 businesses benefit from personalised support from the INPI thanks to its regional network, to partnering initiatives, and to the presence of the INPI at numerous events on business creation and innovation.
- Development of new services such as Start INPI, the first mobile application dedicated to entrepreneurs; enhanced training offers (MOOCs, webinars, etc.)
- Signature of an unprecedented number of bilateral agreements with our counterparts, such as Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) and other bilateral agreements.
- Creation of *France Anti-Contrefaçon* (Anti-Counterfeiting) programme.

Pillar 3

Ensuring effective functioning aligned with ambitions

- Reinsourcing of our electronic archives.
- Several projects based on artificial intelligence to increase occupational efficiency.
- Attractiveness of the INPI boosted thanks to the promotion of IP jobs and changes in working conditions, such as a new teleworking protocol.

On our way to **the new COP** 2025-2029

The 2025-2029 Performance Agreement fits ambitiously in a continuum with the existing dynamics. Backed by our committed, efficient and recognised staff, we intend to provide ever more numerous services to meet the needs of entrepreneurs and innovators and contribute to the growth of the country.

This five-year roadmap is structured around four pillars, which are divided into eight directions:

Pillar 1

Improve user service level

- Guarantee high quality user experience on the *Guichet unique* portal for business formalities, and the efficiency of the National Business Register.
- Develop new procedures in line with changes in the ecosystem.

Examples of actions:
- improve the ergonomics and user experience on the *Guichet unique* portal for business formalities,
- adapt the procedures for registering designs and geographical indications in compliance with EU legislation.

Pillar 2

Support enterprise growth

- Promote simplification services for businesses and the benefits of industrial property to boost the economy
- Strengthen intellectual property awareness services.

Examples of actions:
- conduct studies and analyses on economic and innovation topics related to intellectual property to provide strategic insight,
- bolster the training offer.

Pillar 3

Roll out innovative infrastructure and leverage the data

- Develop ergonomic and inclusive digital solutions for all users.
- Modernise the infrastructure.

Examples of actions:
- rethink the INPI website,
- prevent IT risks, to ensure business continuity.

Pillar 4

Address environmental and societal challenges to enhance performance

- Reassert the societal and environmental responsibility of the INPI and ensure it is recognised.
- Enhance the attractiveness of the INPI.

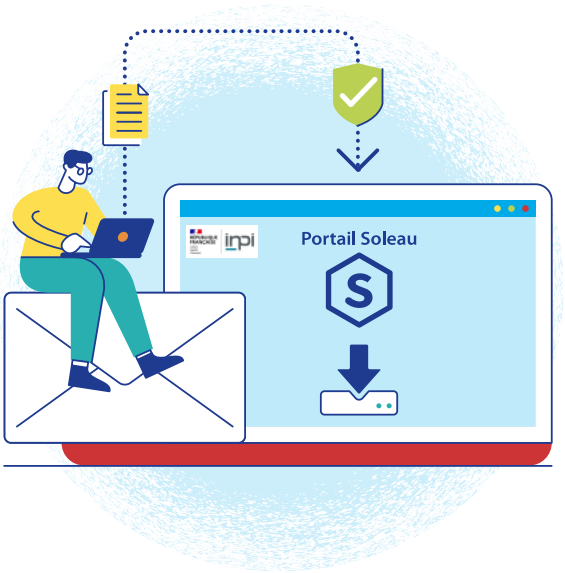
Examples of actions:
- carry out an assessment of greenhouse gas emissions,
- adapt the organization of work to changes in society.

Providing even more services

Making your life **easier**

New paperless services

Under the first pillar of its Performance Agreement 2021-2024, INPI aimed to bolster the quality of its services. In 2024, this goal gave rise to numerous projects to improve the user experience and modernise online procedures. The introduction of the new e-Soleau portal and the launch of a new website dedicated to the INPI's historical archives are two emblematic examples.



The new e-Soleau portal

Since 8 April 2024, the INPI now provides a modernised portal, replacing the previous version from 2016.

This new portal is the outcome of a lengthy process to fully digitalise the Soleau envelope. The portal enables users to establish reliable proof of the existence of their creations, projects, or simply their ideas on a specific date.

In addition to the e-Soleau online filing service—replacing the traditional Soleau envelope in 2023—the new portal provides an escrow service that allows users to securely and confidentially archive documents intended for release to one or more beneficiaries, according to conditions predefined at the time of filing.

The INPI thus keeps the documents securely in custody until the conditions indicated on the day of filing are fulfilled.

Features of the new escrow solution:

- **Simple:** no need to draft or manage a contract.
- **Fast:** drop-off takes just minutes and is available at any time.
- **Evolutive:** it is possible to add documents to the escrow agreement at any time.

Opening of the INPI historical archives portal

The INPI provides new online access to its historical archives through the DATA INPI platform under the "historical archives" tab.

This service is intended for researchers, professionals, and the general public. It provides straightforward access to two considerable collections: 410,000 patents from 1791 to 1901 and 460,000 trademarks from 1857 to 1920.

The new platform allows visitors to explore 19th-century inventions and maximise the INPI's archive collections through regular virtual exhibitions.

Students and researchers can also make an online appointment to view original documents or obtain high-definition copies of patents and trademarks.

The images from the archives may be freely reused, provided that the INPI is acknowledged as a source, whether for research or original creative works.

Established in 1951, the INPI maintains these unique archives that result from the creativity of inventors, engineers, and artists. Under a 2008 convention, the INPI possesses rare autonomy in France, as it directly safeguards these historical treasures.

Did you know?

In December 2024, the INPI launched a six-month mission to inventory and showcase its historical archives collection. The project targets the contents of approximately 600 boxes of archives and will enable the development of a classification plan. The next step will be to create a search tool to further facilitate access to and the use of these valuable documents.

2,500
requests for archives in 2024

i.e. nearly
25,000
scanned pages

680,000
files packaged

In brief

The online portal of INPI historical archives provides:

- a search among nearly 900,000 digitised patents and trademarks,
- news,
- virtual exhibitions.

Making your life easier

Embedding artificial intelligence into INPI procedures

The rise of artificial intelligence (AI) is driving significant transformations in our societies, impacting environmental preservation, consumption, and production. These changes affect all sectors of human activity. The INPI must support this evolution by raising awareness among its staff members about digital tools, and AI in particular.

Some thoughts on the use of AI

The globalised economy generates an unprecedented influx of data. Artificial intelligence enables in-depth analysis thanks to its powerful capabilities for processing, understanding, and extracting information. This presents an opportunity that the INPI aims to leverage in order to be equipped with high-performance solutions and provide services increasingly tailored to its users. In 2024, the INPI reviewed the potential for using AI, including security of the infrastructure and information entrusted to it, valuable use of data, information analysis, and more. Numerous opportunities exist. The INPI's teams have shown particular interest in the experience feedback from projects undertaken by other public sector entities to grasp how to implement AI in various INPI procedures and best meet the needs of businesses and innovators.

In preparation for the COP 2025-2029

A survey was conducted to determine the INPI's needs in the field of data in general, followed by workshops to explore the identified needs; nearly forty needs were identified in the process.
Scopes of application were subsequently defined for industrial property and for business formalities. Use cases were prioritised for which artificial intelligence solutions could be developed, based on the complexity of implementation and the potential added value for the end user. This includes, for instance, the identification of similar trademarks for trademark clearance searches or assistance in customising responses to be provided to our interlocutors according to their context. The objective was to formulate a roadmap that fully accounts for AI in INPI procedures, preparing for the numerous projects set to start as part of the COP 2025-2029. This new Performance Agreement prioritises in particular the deployment of innovative infrastructure and the exploitation of data using AI.

Did you know?

As part of the "France Anti-Counterfeiting" programme, discussions were held in 2024 in collaboration with the Center for International Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI). They are the forerunners of work on the development and evaluation of a centralised model for the detection of online counterfeiting assisted by artificial intelligence.

Making your life easier

Two new mutual recognition agreements to speed up the granting of patents

In 2024, two new Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) agreements were introduced to speed up the processing of patent applications. Thanks to these agreements, applicants can request free-of-charge fast-track processing of their application from one of the IP Offices signatory to the PPH agreement once it has been examined by the other Office, regardless of the chronological order of filings or priority claims. The only mandatory condition is the existence of patentable claims that are sufficiently similar to those contained in the original application.

PPH agreement with Mexico

The INPI has signed a new PPH agreement with the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property (IMPI), that came into force on 3 June 2024. This is the third PPH with a North American country. The INPI is already bound by PPH agreements with the United States Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO), both of which were signed in late 2021. By facilitating the protection of French inventions in Mexico, the new agreement strengthens bilateral cooperation with this Latin American country while offering a fast track for businesses seeking to capitalise quickly on their innovations in the sizeable North American economic area. French applicants rank seventh for patent applications filed with the Mexican IP Office, which shows a strong interest in obtaining protection for their innovations in Mexico.

PPH agreement with Singapore

Against the backdrop of the 65th series of meetings of WIPO Assemblies, the INPI signed a PPH agreement with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), marking its tenth international partnership and the fourth in Asia. Our exports to Singapore have grown sharply since 2022 and are now approaching the 10 billion euro mark. Thanks to this new agreement with a particularly dynamic partner, that came into force on 1 September 2024, French applicants who rank 8th in number of patent filings in Singapore, will be able to bolster their presence there, reduce the processing time for their applications, and leverage the competitive benefits of this key and highly attractive market for innovation.

Did you know?

The INPI's first PPH agreement was signed with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and entered into force on 1 January 2021.
At the end of 2024, France has PPH agreements in force with each of the following ten countries: Japan (JPO), United States (USPTO), Canada (CIPO), Brazil (INPI), South Korea (KIPO), China, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, Singapore.

Providing support **every day**

A dynamic and diverse partnership policy

In order to expand its presence by the side of businesses, the INPI has significantly amplified its partnerships with business stakeholders at local, regional, and national levels. With the comprehensive coverage of the French territory provided by its network of regional delegations, the INPI adopts a proactive approach to identify the partners most capable of supporting our activity, and closely aligned with the economic realities of our country.

Renewal of regional agreements

In 2023, the INPI had completed its regional agreements, bringing their number to twelve, i.e. all metropolitan Regions in mainland France. These agreements highlight the strong partnership approach to innovation and industrial property between the INPI and the French Regions, whose remit includes economic development among others.

These agreements enable the INPI to intensify its awareness-raising and support initiatives, both on issues of intellectual property or access to the *Guichet unique* portal.

In 2024, six of these regional agreements were renewed, with the Regions of Brittany, Grand Est, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Pays de la Loire, and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur.

François-Xavier de Beaufort, INPI Director of Economic Action, and Vincent Gaud, President of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes CMA

Signature of an agreement with the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Chamber of Trades & Crafts (CMA)

The INPI is a long-standing partner of Chambers of Trades & Crafts (CMA), thanks in particular to several agreements signed with departmental chambers in 2007, 2011 and 2016. It was, therefore, only natural for the INPI and the CMA Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes to sign a partnership agreement on 30 May 2024.

This new contract will promote innovation and intellectual property in craftsmanship throughout the Region, as well as provide support to artisans by facilitating access to the *Guichet unique* portal for business formalities.

Pascal Faure and Jean-Luc Moullet, Deputy Director-General for Innovation at CNRS

Dominique Resino, President of the Paris–Île-de-France CCI and Pascal Faure

Signature of an agreement with the National Research Centre (CNRS) in Centre-Val de Loire Region

On 30 April 2024, the INPI and the CNRS signed an agreement reflecting the partners' intention to act jointly in favour of economic growth and the development of public research and innovation in the Centre-Val de Loire region.

The agreement includes several key areas of cooperation: raising awareness on intellectual property among CNRS research staff; mobilising the services offered by the INPI for the benefit of businesses that have emerged from, are backed or are hosted by the CNRS, and of CNRS partner businesses; promoting industrial property; joint reflections on issues of data originating from public research and on the recognition of researchers.

Signature of an agreement with the Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) of the Paris–Île-de-France Region

On 3 April 2024, at the Go Entrepreneurs Paris trade fair, the INPI signed a partnership agreement with the Paris–Île-de-France Chamber of Commerce and Industry to strengthen the support provided to innovators both on aspects of industrial property and business formalities.

Signature of a partnership agreement with the French Foreign Trade Advisors (CCEs)

On 24 January 2024, the INPI and the CCE network signed a partnership agreement intended to facilitate initiatives to raise awareness on industrial property among a greater number of businesses. This agreement, signed for a period of three years (2024-2027), will be backed by meetings organized between the networks in France and abroad, joint visits to businesses, talks by CCEs during IP master-classes, jointly organized webinars, and cooperation within the France Anti-Counterfeiting programme.

Pascal Faure, INPI CEO, and Henri-Jacques Citroën, Chairman of the Economic Intelligence & Compliance Expert Group of the CCE Network

Did you know?

The CCEs are present in all regions of France and in more than 140 countries through Regional and Foreign Committees. They are entrusted by State authorities to carry out four missions: advising public authorities, supporting businesses, training young people internationally and promoting France's attractiveness.

"I am convinced that industrial property represents a decisive lever to commercialise innovation and develop the economy. This is particularly true in the healthcare sector, whether biotech, medtech or digital health businesses. This partnership is a way to support research and encourage hospital practitioners to innovate, and this is the common wish shared by our two establishments."

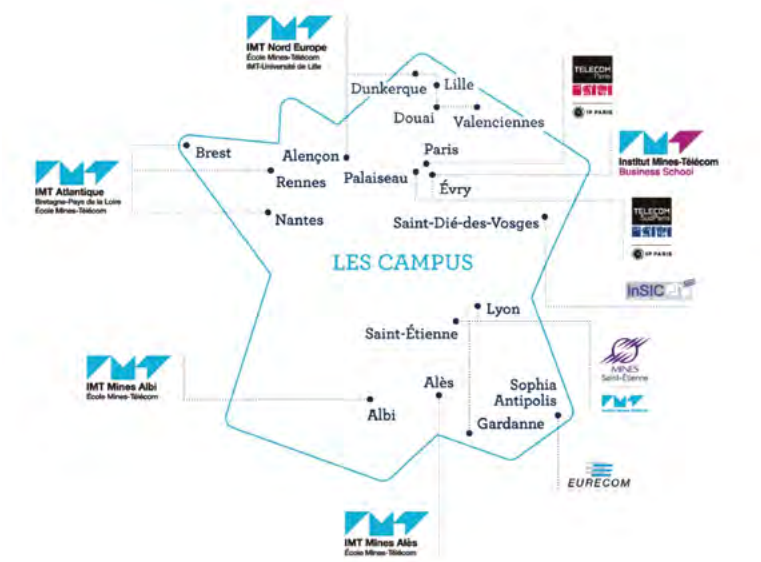
Pascal Faure.

Stéphanie Decoopman, Deputy Director-General of AP-HP and Pascal Faure

On 18 June 2024, the INPI and AP-HP *(Assistance Publique-Hôpitaux de Paris)* signed an agreement to intensify cooperation between the two institutions.

The INPI has long been working alongside researchers and entrepreneurs from AP-HP, helping them achieve the highest possible level of competitiveness thanks to industrial property.

Establishment of IMT campuses in France



Centre left, Florian Colas, Director General of Customs & Indirect Duties; on the right foreground, Pascal Faure

Signature of a partnership agreement with the Institut Mines-Télécom (IMT)

On 31 July 2024, the INPI and the IMT signed an agreement to promote intellectual property within the leading engineering and management group in France.
The IMT represents more than 14,000 students, some 1,500 research professors and R&D engineers, and 1,400 PhD candidates and post-doctoral researchers. It also backs around one hundred start-ups every year.
The new agreement will enable the IMT to benefit from the INPI's awareness-raising and training expertise, along with its network of intellectual property experts.

Signature of a partnership agreement with the General Directorate of Customs & Indirect Duties (DGDDI)

On 5 November 2024, the INPI and the DGDDI signed a new cooperation agreement. The two organizations however have a long-standing relationship, as their first agreement was signed back on 27 May 2003 and has been renewed ever since.
Apart from awareness-raising activities for businesses and the general public, international and technical cooperation, training, information exchange, and the organization of work carried out in various working groups involved in anti-counterfeiting, the signing of this new agreement - for five years instead of three previously – establishes the Customs Directorate as an active member of the INPI "France Anti-Counterfeiting" programme.

From left to right: Yann Basire, Director General of CEIPI, Michel Deneken, President of the University of Strasbourg and Pascal Faure

Signature of a cooperation agreement with the Center for International Intellectual Property Studies (CEIPI)

On 16 October 2024, on the 60th anniversary of the Center for International Intellectual Property Studies, the INPI and the CEIPI signed a new agreement. This agreement provides a framework for joint initiatives conducted by the INPI and the CEIPI in the field of intellectual property, both at the national and international levels.
In particular, it provides for the implementation of joint initiatives such as training programmes, the organization and promotion of events and conferences, as well as participation in the France Anti-Counterfeiting action plan. In addition, the two institutions are committed to contributing to the work of the Francophone Alliance for Intellectual Property.

Providing support **every day**

Combatting counterfeiting

Unfair competition for businesses, job losses, health or safety hazards for consumers... The fight against counterfeiting is a necessity and a priority for the INPI. Once again this year, the INPI and its partners have deployed all means and resources available to raise public and professional awareness on the various aspects of this scourge in our society.

Watch the video of the ad campaign "La contrefaçon, c'est non!" (Say no to counterfeiting)

Campaign "La contrefaçon, c'est non !" as at 31/12/2024

1 million
views on connected TV

85,000
visits to the website www.contrefacon.fr

55 million
views on social media

A year-end campaign to denounce the dangers of counterfeiting

As the year-end holiday festivities came near, the INPI, the National Anti-Counterfeiting Committee (CNAC) and the Manufacturers Union (Union des Fabricants, Unifab) launched a joint campaign to alert consumers to the dangers of counterfeiting and encourage them to adopt the right reflexes. This ad campaign involved a twenty-second video broadcast on the TF1+ catch-up platform from 9 to 31 December 2024 and was viewed over a million times. It was also available on a web page dedicated to the prevention of counterfeiting.

Targeted communication actions for SMEs

A survey conducted in 2023 as part of the "France Anti-Counterfeiting" programme showed that SMEs are particularly impacted by counterfeiting.
In 2024, in collaboration with the Confederation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (CPME), the INPI therefore conducted several awareness-raising initiatives targeting SMEs: organization of an awareness and information workshop on the INPI stand at the VivaTech trade fair, participation in a CPME podcast, and co-organized webinar on the settlement of disputes related to counterfeiting.

Other anti-counterfeiting initiatives:

On 5 June, the INPI and the CNAC, in partnership with UNIFAB, participated in the 27th World Anti-Counterfeiting Day

24 Jan — **Signature of the first agreement between the INPI and the French Foreign Trade Advisors:** Both partners now cooperate within the "France Anti-Counterfeiting" programme set up by the INPI (see also p. 26).

21-22 March — **Participation** in the 28th European Intellectual Property Forum.

5 June — **French edition of the World Anti-Counterfeiting Day:** Speaker at the round-table on "Intellectual property issues in the organization of sports events. What actions? For what results?"

11 July — **Launch of the summer anti-counterfeiting campaign:** Like every year, the campaign led by Unifab was rolled out on the beaches and markets of southern France, as well as on the Internet via partnerships with eBay, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Google.

Poster of the 2024 summer anti-counterfeiting campaign

5 Nov — **Renewal of the INPI-DGDDI agreement:** The Customs authority officially became an active member in the INPI "France Anti-Counterfeiting" programme (see also p. 27).

8-9 Nov — **"Made in France" trade fair:** joint stand with Customs and Unifab to exchange with the public and exhibitors about protecting their creations and combatting counterfeiting.

From 8 to 11 November, the INPI and the CNAC, in partnership with UNIFAB, participated in the "Made in France" trade fair in the presence of several ministers

... and many other international operations, featured on pages 38 and 39 of our Annual Report.

Providing support **every day**

Supporting businesses

In 2024, companies made extensive use of the INPI's services, whether to accomplish their formalities or to protect their industrial property. More than 7,000 businesses received support from the INPI, with a 12% increase in diagnostics and services provided to SMEs alone. The services provided keep evolving to meet their expectations and fit the legal framework as closely as possible.

Continuously upgraded *Guichet unique*

After two years in use, businesses and professionals in charge of corporate formalities are making massive use of the *Guichet unique* portal. They have also contributed to the continuous upgrades that have been regularly implemented on the one-stop shop portal.
This year, although a continuity procedure was operating in parallel for certain formalities, the majority were submitted via the *Guichet unique*: 100% for registration requests, 65% for modifications, 90% for terminations and 80% for the submission of annual accounts.
In total, more than 4.2 million formalities were carried out via the *Guichet unique*, confirming the growing importance of the tool. In October, the *Guichet unique* even reached a record number of visitors, handling more than 413,500 formalities, including more than 150,000 registration requests, the highest number ever since the platform opened.

Access to the data of beneficial owners of a company: Rules are changing

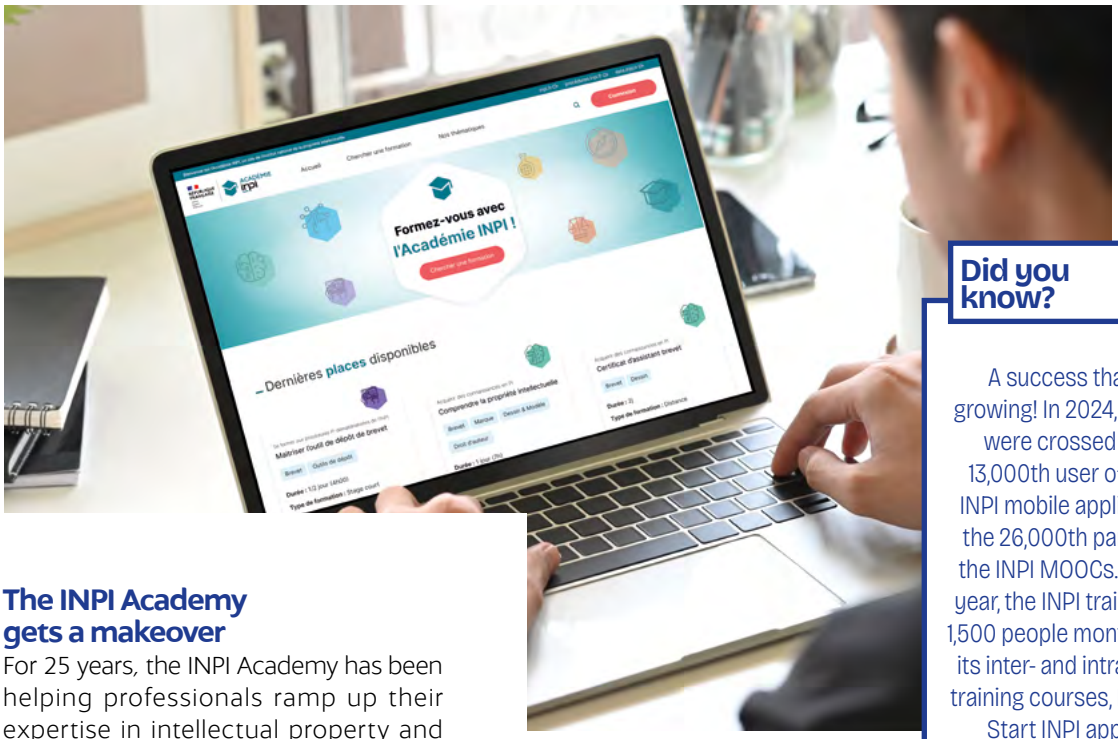
From 31 July 2024, access to the data of the beneficial owners of companies will be restricted to persons showing proof of a legitimate interest. The supervisory authorities and persons subject to the obligations of due diligence under the terms of Article L. 561-2 of the French Monetary and Financial Code retain full access. This follows a judgment handed down by the Court of Justice of the European Union on 22 November 2022.

On the DATA INPI site, you can find:
- **the procedure** for accessing the data of the beneficial owners of companies,
- **the access request form**
- **the list** of categories of entities and persons authorised to have access.

Informing you and helping you progress

Training and raising awareness

In order to increase knowledge about intellectual property and business formalities, the INPI has developed a set of tools designed to disseminate knowledge and information. Training courses, webinars, studies, case files, rankings, etc. They are all intended to help entrepreneurs take action rather than just react to the many changes affecting their environment.



New INPI training website

The INPI Academy gets a makeover

For 25 years, the INPI Academy has been helping professionals ramp up their expertise in intellectual property and business formalities.
In 2024, the INPI Academy website was given a makeover. Entirely dedicated to the INPI training offer, the site allows you to discover the content, consult the available dates, register in a few clicks, and gain access to an enriched learner space.

Did you know?

A success that keeps growing! In 2024, milestones were crossed with the 13,000th user of the Start INPI mobile application and the 26,000th participant in the INPI MOOCs. That same year, the INPI trained around 1,500 people monthly through its inter- and intra-company training courses, MOOCs and Start INPI application.

Start INPI

Providing even more services

Studies on industrial property issues

The success of a business depends on properly understanding its ecosystem. The INPI studies provide essential insight into the challenges of industrial property.

On the occasion of the Tour de France and the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the INPI published a thematic dossier entitled *Innovation dans le cyclisme : pari gagnant grâce à la propriété intellectuelle!* ("Innovation in cycling: A winning bet thanks to intellectual property!")

That same year, the INPI conducted a study entitled *L'informatique quantique dans les brevets en 2024* (Quantum Computing in Patents in 2024) in partnership with the General Secretariat for Investment.

The study was unveiled publicly on 27 November, at a conference entitled *"Quantique : de la recherche au marché, le rôle incontournable des brevets"* (Quantum: From research to the market, the essential role of patents).

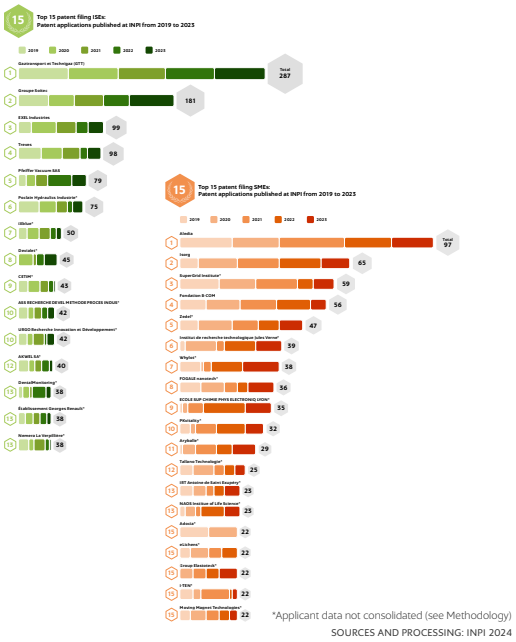
Conference "Quantum: From Research to Market, the Essential Role of Patents", 27 November 2024

The dynamics of French patent-filing ISEs and SMEs, 2019 – 2023.

On 6 November 2024, the INPI published for the first time an overview of the patent activity of French SMEs (small- and medium-size enterprises) and ISEs (intermediate-size enterprises) over 5 years (from 2019 to 2023). Based on a segmentation by type, size and business sector, this study deciphers the dynamics followed by these stakeholders to protect and promote their innovations through patents.

The study reveals that 7% of the approximately 6,600 French intermediate-size enterprises file at least one patent application every year. And one in six ISEs has filed at least one patent between 2019 and 2023. This number has increased by 12% since 2021, demonstrating a renewed inte rest for this category of enterprises who file on average one patent for every 7.5 million euros invested in research and development.

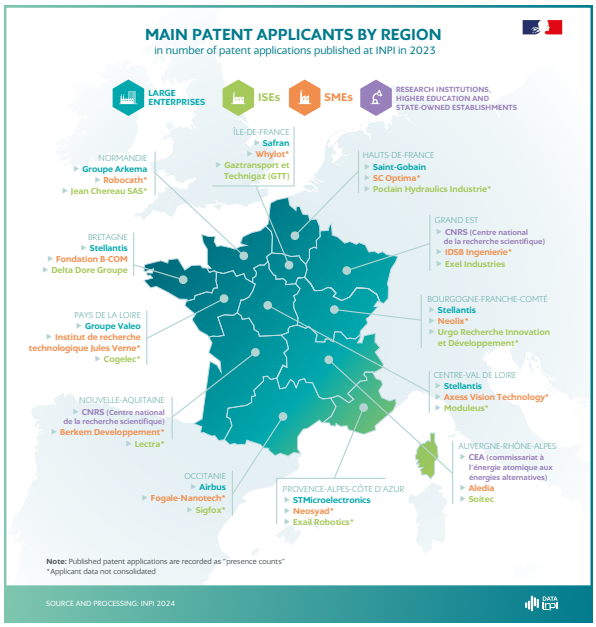
Another lesson from the study is that ISEs and SMEs alike show a strong propensity to extend their patents internationally, with a notable presence in Asia, where they even outperform large companies in number of filings.

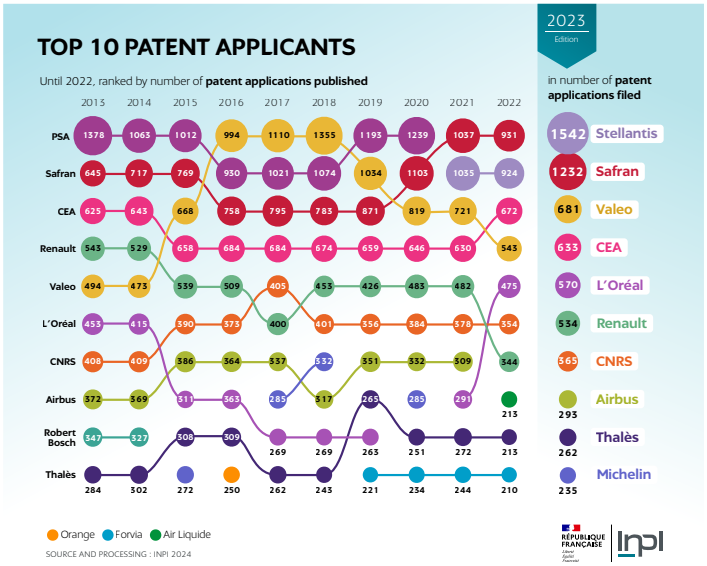


*Applicant data not consolidated (see Methodology)
SOURCES AND PROCESSING: INPI 2024

"In 2023, patent applications saw a historic increase of 5.6%. This is good news. The 2023 edition of the list of top patent applicants in France shows that the concentration of filings remains high and highlights the significant capacity for innovation of our national champions."

Pascal Faure





List of Top patent applicants

The list of Top patent applicants filing with INPI published each year highlights the most active organizations in terms of patented innovations at the national and regional levels. This ranking, unveiled exclusively in the daily newspaper Les Échos on 25 April 2024, is based for the first time this year on patents filed with the INPI during the previous calendar year, and no longer on applications published the previous year. This new methodology provides a closer view of the innovative activity of INPI applicants, the majority of whom are French. In addition, an unprecedented ranking of the 25 main valid patent holders in France was also introduced for the first time, making it possible to identify the companies for whom the French territory constitutes a strategic area.

Among the highlights, the notable increase in SMEs filing patents should be noted: their number has increased by 4.3% compared to 2022, illustrating an encouraging trend for protecting and commercialising research findings and development efforts.

Promoting your innovations

#TROPHEESINPI
TROPHÉES
INPI

Meeting and listening to **entrepreneurs**

INPI at the heart of all top events dedicated to innovation and entrepreneurship

Like every year, the INPI was present in 2024 at numerous trade fairs in France and internationally. INPI experts met with entrepreneurs and innovators, whatever their projects or business size, and shared our expertise on business formalities and industrial property. Read our feedback on three unmissable annual events: CES Las Vegas, GO Entrepreneurs and Viva Technology.

INPI at CES Las Vegas: Promoting and protecting French innovation in the United States

From 9 to 12 January, INPI was present at CES Las Vegas, an opportunity to make the French entrepreneurs aware of the importance of protecting themselves in the United States by showing them concretely the risks they incur while exhibiting their innovations to some 120,000 visitors.

More than 150 French businesses were represented, in fields as diverse as cybersecurity, education, entertainment, green technologies, healthcare, industry 4.0, the metaverse, mobility, sales, robotics/AI, smart city, smart homes, sports technologies, telecoms and tourism technologies. On site, the public also had opportunities to meet with start-ups such as Hippy-Indienov, finalist at the INPI 2023 Awards in the "Start-up" category, and Vaonis, finalist at the INPI 2021 Awards in the "Export" category. Both receive support from the INPI, which enables them to implement a global intellectual property strategy, plan their application filings and thus confidently access the American market.

Pascal Faure presented the "Hardware" trophy to Enchanted Tools, the creator of innovative social robots protected by three patents and one trademark

Lucile Derly, founder of Arterya, and finalist at the INPI 2023 Awards in the category "Partnership Research", speaks at a panel discussion on the main stage alongside Pascal Faure

Success story at Go Entrepreneurs

Go Entrepreneurs and the INPI have been working together for 31 years now! This year, once again, the 1,200 or so entrepreneurs and innovators who visited the INPI's stand at the Go Entrepreneurs trade fair benefitted from valuable information shared by our experts.

The experts answered questions on intellectual property, business formalities, and available assistance solutions. They were also given a chance to carry out trademark clearance searches free of charge to inform their contacts about the availability of the trademark they wanted to protect. Go Entrepreneurs was also the occasion for several highlights: visit of the INPI stand by Olivia Grégoire, Minister Delegate at the Ministry of Economy, Finance, and Industrial and Digital Sovereignty, in charge of Business, Tourism and Consumer Affairs; two round-table panels and a workshop hosted by INPI experts; signing of an agreement with the Paris - Île-de-France Chamber of Commerce and Industry; conversations with the Fédération Nationale des Autoentrepreneurs (National Federation of Autoentrepreneurs) to discuss support and promotion of innovation...

"The difficulty in a deep-tech business is that you have to be careful. You have to quickly seek help and find an expertise that you do not have. From the moment you have an entry point at the INPI, it is great because you get support and strategy."

Lucile Derly, leader and founder of Arterya

1,409 visitors on the INPI stand

213 free trademark clearance searches

665 attendees to various talks

57 INPI staff members on board

Competitors in the 2nd Pitch Contest: Magesh Purushothaman (third from the right), co-founder of Shape Eat, was the winner

"Why are we here? To show today what we can do tomorrow!"

Lilian Rabin, founder of the start-up DigitaLandmarks, invited on the stand

Viva Technology 2024: INPI at the heart of high tech innovation

From 22 to 25 May, the INPI was present at Viva Technology with a special focus on the international development of tech companies and the presence of personalities such as Antonio Campinos, President of the European Patent Office (EPO), and Bruno Bonnell, Secretary General for Investment in charge of the France 2030 Plan: a unique opportunity to raise awareness on the challenges of industrial property (IP) in innovation processes.

Numerous workshops were organized and co-hosted with our partners on topics as varied as the impact of artificial intelligence on industrial property, the relationship between industrial property and fundraising, protection against counterfeiting, free services to analyse your technological environment, and more.

Like last year, spectators had a chance to attend the Pitch Contest, in which five start-ups present their projects in less than three minutes in front of a jury of four experts (INPI, French Tech Tremplin, Bpifrance, EPO).

10 start-ups invited on the stand

550 participants in 17 workshops

200 spectators at Pitch Contest INPI

51 staff members mobilised

Representing you **internationally**

An ever-changing international cooperation

In a globalised economy, where innovation and industrial property are essential levers of competitiveness, the INPI asserts its strategic role. Actively involved in international and European bodies, the INPI contributes to building legal frameworks favourable to the protection of innovation. Backed by its international network, the INPI supports businesses every day in their expansion abroad, by fostering their attractiveness and growth on a global scale.

January

31 → 1 february

Bilateral meeting in Paris with the **United Arab Emirates Ministry of Economy** and signature of an action plan.

February

28

Signing of the first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Ministry of Trade and Industry of Qatar** in the context of the France-Qatar Economic Forum held in Paris.

March

8

JInternational Women's Day: Joint statement and participation in the **Women in IP** symposium organized by **WIPO.**

25 → 27

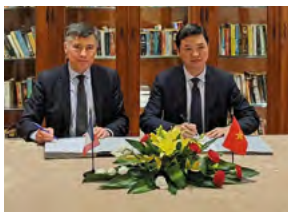
Joint Commission with the **National Institute for the Defence of Competition and the Protection of Intellectual Property of Peru,** ending with the signature of a work programme. A seminar on artisanal geographical indications (GIs) was organized on the sideline.

April

23 → 25

Seminar on intellectual property rights, organized at INPI headquarters in collaboration with the **USPTO** for **Algerian civil servants** from various ministries.

24 → 26



72nd meeting of the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations** Working Group on Intellectual Property Cooperation in Danang, Vietnam, bringing together the IP office directors from the ten ASEAN member states. In addition to this event, three bilateral meetings were organized with the **Intellectual Property Office of Vietnam, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS)** and the **Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines,** each marked by the signature of a work programme.

May

24 **United Nations** Agreement on Intellectual Property and associated Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge.

27 Exchange meeting between INPI and the **Taiwan Intellectual Property Office** on the subject of artificial intelligence.

June

3 Entry into force of the PPH agreement signed on 8 April 2024 with **the Mexican Institute of Industrial Property.**

July

9 → 17

65th series of meetings of the Assemblies of Member States of the **World Intellectual Property Organization;** numerous meetings on the sidelines of this event, including the signing of a PPH agreement with **IPOS,** an MoU. with the **Directorate General of Intellectual Property of Indonesia,** the new work plan 2024-2025 with the **Colombian Superintendence of Industry and Commerce**, and the renewal of the cooperation agreement with the **National Institute of Industrial Property of Argentina.**

September

9 Participation in the event organized by the USPTO: **International Dialogue on AI and Intellectual Property.**

25 Bilateral meeting with the **Intellectual Property Authority** and signing of an action plan.

October

1 Bilateral meeting with the USPTO with signing of the first MoU between INPI and the USPTO and renewal of the PPH agreement

2 Inauguration of the ***Alliance francophone de la propriété intellectuelle***; on the sideline of the 19th Francophonie Summit; signature of a partnership agreement between INPI and the *Agence universitaire* de la Francophonie.

2 Bilateral meeting with the **Canadian Intellectual Property Office** (CIPO) and renewal of the INPI-CIPO PPH agreement.

3 Joint Commission with the **Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office (OMPIC)** and signature of the cooperation programme.

4 Participation of INPI CEO in the 19th Francophonie Summit at the Cité internationale de la langue française in the Château de Villers-Cotterêts.

17 19th Joint Committee between INPI and the **African Intellectual Property Organization**, organized on the sideline of the 60th anniversary of CEIPI in Strasbourg: Signature of the new cooperation programme 2024-2025.

November

22 **United Nations** Design Law Treaty.

26 Participation in **IP Day 2024**, in collaboration with **OMPIC** and Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6p); signing of a MOOC transfer agreement between INPI and UM6p.

December

10 → 12

Regional Seminar on "Industrial Property and its impact on Economic Security" organized by INPI, CEIPI and Naif Arab University for Security Sciences.

16 Joint commission with the **Chinese National Intellectual Property Administration** and meeting with the Chinese Market Regulatory Authority, including the signing of the first MoU.

Discover the portal of the Alliance francophone de la propriété intellectuelle (French-speaking alliance for intellectual property)

From left to right: Slim Khalbous, Rector of Agence universitaire de la Francophonie, Konstantinos Georgaras, CEO of the Canadian Intellectual Property Office, Dalila Hamou, Director in charge of International Relations – World Intellectual Property Organization, Thani Mohamed Soilihi, Minister Delegate to the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, in charge of Francophonie and International Partnerships, Pascal Faure, Abdelaziz Babqiqi, Director-General of the Moroccan Industrial and Commercial Property Office, Denis Bohoussou, Director-General of the African Intellectual Property Organization.

Alliance francophone de la propriété intellectuelle

Initiated by the INPI and inaugurated on 2 October 2024 on the sidelines of the 19th Francophonie Summit, the Francophone Intellectual Property Alliance brings together the major players in the innovation ecosystems of the French-speaking world. This new initiative aims to promote the French language as a working language in innovation ecosystems, as well as French-speaking expertise in intellectual property. A real lever to boost cooperation between the various players in innovation, this Alliance is intended to encourage exchanges. It also stimulates the attractiveness of intellectual property training and research centres in the French-speaking world.

Agreement on Intellectual Property and associated Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge

The Member States of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) have signed a new treaty on Intellectual Property and associated Genetic Resources and Traditional Knowledge, thus marking a decisive step forward after more than two decades of negotiations. This Treaty provides, inter alia, for the introduction of a requirement to disclose the origin and/or source of genetic resources or associated traditional knowledge used in patent applications.

Design Law Treaty, Riyadh

The Design Law Treaty adopted in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) on 22 November 2024 deals with harmonising and streamlining procedures related to rights and practices to register designs. Its adoption marks a decisive step forward after nearly two decades of negotiations.

The talks led to a well-balanced text, governing among other the content of applications, the requirements for design representation, the grace period, the relief measures and the granting of a filing date.

Highlighting **success stories**

INPI Awards

For their 26th edition, the INPI Awards were presided by Bruno Bonnell, Secretary General for Investment, in charge of the France 2030 Plan. Fifteen SMEs and start-ups spotted by INPI business experts during the year were competing in five categories. A new feature was introduced for this 2024 vintage, as a sixth Award in partnership with France 2030 was awarded to one of the fifteen finalists.

Fifteen finalists with an exemplary industrial property strategy

The INPI 2024 Awards highlighted the know-how of fifteen small businesses and start-ups who competed in five categories:

Start-up
- Bioxegy
- ProovStation
- Quantum Surgical

Export
- Gys
- Infaco
- Quantel Medical

Partnership research
- Funcell
- Hemerion
- Wise-integration

Responsible innovation
- Boreales Energy
- Purple Alternative Surface
- Waga Energy

Industry
- Adhex
- Cristalens
- Olikrom

See the finalists' portraits and the winners' videos

"This year, we had fifteen exceptional talents, as finalists in this edition. Six of them received an award, but all deserve to be applauded! These start-ups, SMEs and ISEs have understood the importance of a good intellectual property strategy; they all proved able to use efficiently the tools available to them. Congratulations to all of them!"

Pascal Faure

This year, the INPI asked Bruno Bonnell to preside over the jury. Passionate about new technologies, a multi-entrepreneur, and the creator of the first European investment fund for robotics in 2013, Bruno Bonnell is the Secretary General for Investment, in charge of the France 2030 Plan.

"These INPI Awards are a great way to spotlight entrepreneurs who have proved able to place intellectual property at the core of their strategy and priorities, and to show to their peers that this is possible, beneficial and even indispensable."

Bruno Bonnell, Chairman of the INPI Awards Jury 2024

A prestigious jury

The jury, reflecting the French innovation ecosystem, comprises personalities and experts from the private and public sectors, as well as some of the 2023 winners.

- **SGPI:** Bruno Bonnell, Secretary General for Investment
- **INPI:** Pascal Faure, CEO
- **Afnor:** Christine Kertesz, Head of Membership Relations and Education
- **Association of Trademark and Design Law Practitioners (APRAM):** Julien Delucenay, Chairman
- **French Association of Industrial Property Specialists in Industry (ASPI):** Sébastien Vieillevigne, Vice-President
- **Bpifrance:** Sophie Rémont, Director of Expert Appraisals
- **Business France:** Didier Boulogne, Deputy Director-General in charge of export
- **Centre for International Studies on Intellectual Property (CEIPI):** Yann Basire, Director-General
- **National Company of Industrial Property Attorneys (CNCPI):** Emmanuel Potdevin, President
- **Direction générale des Entreprises (DGE) (Directorate for Enterprises):** Olivier Deschildre, project manager "Innovation and Industrial Property" at Innovation sub-directorate
- **Direction générale de la recherche et de l'innovation (DGRI) (Research & Innovation Directorate):** Corinne Borel, Deputy Director and Head of Research & Innovation Strategy
- **Curie Network:** Stéphanie Kuss, Director-General
- **Union of Manufacturers (Unifab):** Christian Peugeot, President
- **Dronisos, INPI 2023 Award winner (Start-up):** Jean-Dominique Lauwereins, co-founder and CEO
- **Lify Air, 2023 INPI Award winner (Partnership Research):** Jérôme Richard, CEO
- **EDAP TMS, 2023 INPI Award winner (Industry):** Jérémy Vincenot, Head of Innovation & Technology

And the winners are...

Export: Infaco
Cahuzac-sur-Vère, Occitanie

In 1985, Infaco became the first family-run company in the world to manufacture electric secateurs. Today, the company distributes its pruning shears to professionals in the sectors of wine-growing, olive growing, arboriculture and landscaping in more than forty-five countries around the world. All of them are protected by one or several patents in force worldwide, as well as registered designs and trademarks, enabling Infaco to keep its technological lead and competitive edge.

1985 date of creation
€42.5 M revenue of which **57%** exported
60 patents
12 trademarks
22 designs

Industry: ADHEX
Chenôve, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté

Adhex has provided innovative adhesive solutions for over 70 years. Its customers work in sectors as diverse as the automotive, building or healthcare industries. Its innovation methods are backed by its corporate values: technical inventiveness, customer focus, team spirit and tenacity.

1952 date of creation
€115 M revenue
70 patents
5 trademarks

Responsible Innovation: WAGA Energy
Eybens, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes

Waga Energy recycles the methane emitted by waste storage sites in the form of biomethane, a renewable substitute for fossil natural gas. It thus contributes to the fight against global warming. As owner of the production units it develops – the Wagaboxes – Waga Energy seeks to protect its technology as best as possible, in particular through industrial property rights, to preserve the value of its assets in the eyes of its investors.

2015 date of creation
€33.3 M revenue
7 patents
9 trademarks

Partnership Research: Hemerion
Villeneuve-d'Ascq, Nord, Hauts-de-France

Hemerion is developing a technology designed to eradicate residual cancer cells as a complement to other therapies in the treatment of glioblastoma, a particularly aggressive form of brain cancer. The company is also working on R&D programmes to keep improving its technology and adapt it to other types of cancer.

2020 date of creation
€1.2 M R&D budget
1 patent
4 trademarks

Start-up: Quantum Surgical
Montpellier, Occitanie

Quantum Surgical develops solutions that combine robotics and artificial intelligence applied to more targeted and less invasive cancer treatments. Its innovation strategy is based on two main pillars: the team's expertise in robotic devices, medical navigation, and artificial intelligence, and close collaboration with world-class practitioners involved in early development phases.

2017 date of creation
42 patents
22 trademarks
7 designs

INPI - France 2030: GYS
Saint-Berthevin, Pays de la Loire

GYS is involved in design and manufacturing of welding stations and battery chargers. This family-owned company generates more than 60% of its sales internationally. GYS manufactures all its semi-finished products in-house, enabling it to quickly modify and upgrade its products, according to new customer requests.

1964 date of creation
€135 M revenue
10 patents
2 trademarks

The INPI 2024 Awards were given to the winners on Wednesday, 27 November 2024 at a Ceremony attended by over 230 personalities from the innovation ecosystem

The R2PI podcast

Live from the ceremony, the winners talked about their nomination, their background and their expertise on R2PI, the podcast of the Centre for International Studies on Intellectual Property, a special programme introduced for the occasion by João Negrão and Pascal Faure.

João Negrão, Executive Director of EUIPO, presenting the Export Award.

Relive the highlights of the ceremony in video.

Listen to the R2PI podcast dedicated to the INPI 2024 Awards.

Showcasing our **heritage**

Six new geographical indications and a new dedicated website to showcase local know-how

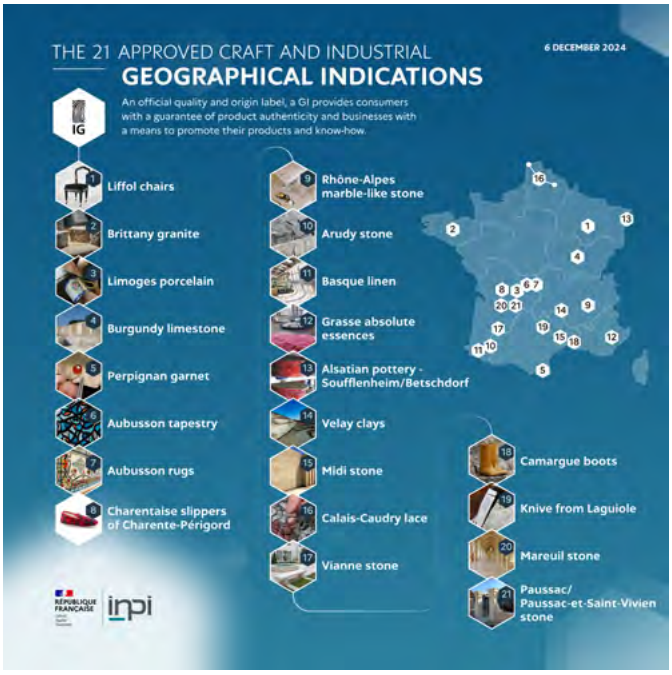
A Geographical Indication (GI) distinguishes an artisanal or industrial product originating from a specific geographical area, and possessing qualities,a reputation or characteristics linked to its place of origin. With six new GIs approved in 2024, the INPI is continuing its work to showcase and introduce this artisanal and industrial expertise to the broadest public.

A new website to promote French GIs

The INPI publishes a new website dedicated to GIs named *"Voyage dans les indications géographiques"* (A Journey through Geographical Indications), an invitation to travel across the French regions and introduce as many people as possible to the artisanal and industrial know-how from a specific geographical area.

Designed as an interactive experience, the website brings the data to life to tell the story of these GIs from several angles:

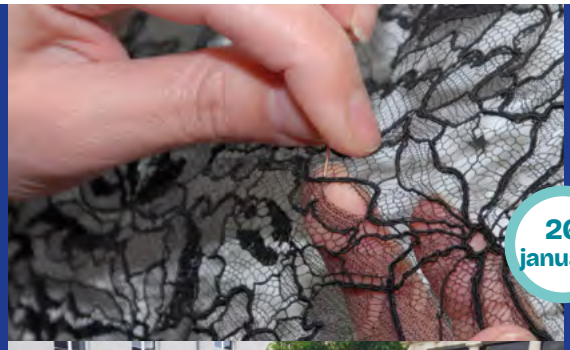
- **geographical,** with an interactive map providing access to detailed fact sheets for each GI;
- **temporal,** with a chronological timeline giving an overview from the first approval in 2016 to the most recent to date;
- **economic,** with quantified data on the number of towns and businesses concerned by these GIs.



Thanks to a dedicated directory, users can find, according to city, Département, region or business sector of their choice, the fact sheets of the geographical indications they wish to discover.

Visit the website Voyage dans les indications géographiques

Six new GIs approved in 2024



26 january

Dentelle de Calais-Caudry (Calais-Caudry lace)

The *"dentelle de Calais-Caudry"* is a lace manufactured in northern France for 200 years, using a precise technique that involves weaving the threads exclusively on a Leavers loom (named after its inventor). These cast-iron and steel machines produce lace that is both delicate and resistant.

14 june

Pierre de Vianne (Vianne stone)

The *"pierre de Vianne"* is a type of limestone renowned for its warm colour ranging from beige to golden, and its robustness. This local stone has been used to build historic monuments emblematic of south-western France, such as the canal bridge of Agen, the stone bridge of Bordeaux and the castles of Montgaillard and Nérac.

28 june

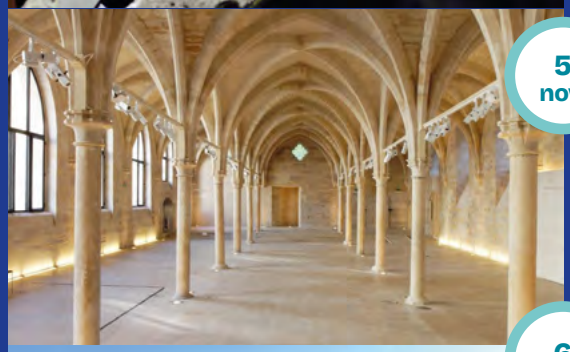
Bottes camarguaises (Camargue boots)

The *"bottes camarguaises"* boots have been worn since the beginning of the 20th century by the horse and bull breeders in the Camargue region of south-eastern France, known locally as "gardians". The quality of the leather – fatty, thick and water-resistant – and the use of non-slip soles provide protection suited to the climate of Camargue and to their wear by the gardians. Each pair is entirely hand-made.

18 oct.

Couteau de Laguiole (Laguiole knives)

The *"couteau de Laguiole"* is a knife characterised by its shaped handle, its "yatagan" or "bourbonnaise" type steel blade with a centred tip and the decorative bee that adorns the head of its spring. Its invention is linked to livestock farming and the production of speciality cheeses. An object of daily life that was once found in the pocket of local farmers, it has become a luxury item with strong symbolism that now enjoys international renown.



5 nov.

Pierre de Mareuil (Mareuil stone)

The *"pierre de Mareuil"* is a type of stone quarried in the Périgord region since the Middle Ages. It is characterised by its shades ranging from ochre-white to pale yellow. This marble-like limestone is composed of delicate granular layers, sometimes with small pebbles and marine fossils that bear witness to past underwater sedimentary movements.

6 dec.

Pierre de Paussac/Paussac-et-Saint-Vivien (Paussac/Paussac-et-Saint-Vivien stone)

The *"pierre de Paussac/Paussac-et-Saint-Vivien"* refers to the natural stone quarries located in the eponymous towns. Its white to slightly ochre shades give this limestone its natural elegance. Its beauty and high resistance, particularly to frost, make it a material of choice for restoring historic monuments. It is also being incorporated into modern construction projects following a renewed interest in natural and sustainable building materials.

Showcasing our **heritage**

INPI exhibits and preserves the memory of French innovation legacy

The INPI archives contain patents granted since 1791, trademarks registered since 1857, and designs registered since 1910. These valuable documents, attesting to the technical and artistic innovation capacity of our fellow citizens, offer a wonderful scientific and cultural journey through inventions and French industry.

Archives on exhibit

Under an agreement signed with the French Ministry of Culture, the INPI is directly in charge of managing the historical archives it stores, preserves and makes available to the public, in particular via loans to museums worldwide.
In 2024, the INPI was a contributor to ten exhibitions, and some of its documents are now on display in a permanent exhibition at the Musée du Rhum in Saint-Pierre (Réunion Island).

Sydney Hudeson trademark registered in 1889.

Exhibit "À bras-le-corps" at the Collège de France

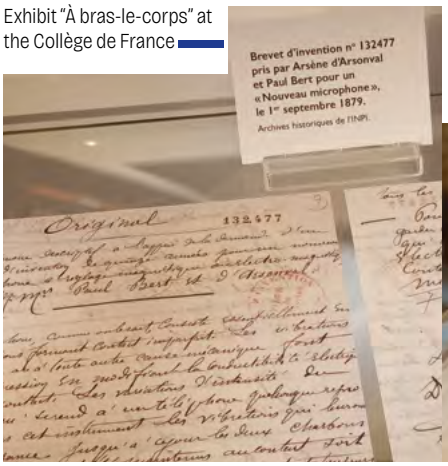


Exhibit "Roues libres, la grande histoire du vélo" (Freewheeling, the Great Cycling History) at the Département Museum of the Domaine de Sceaux

More than 106,000 visitors were able to admire precious original documents from INPI archives loaned to five of these exhibitions, now closed, such as *"Roues libres, la grande histoire du vélo"* (Freewheeling, the great history of the bicycle) at the Domaine de Sceaux Département Museum, *"À bras-le-corps"* at the Collège de France, or "Soutenir" at the Pavillon Sicli Foundation in Switzerland.

Exhibit "Soutenir" at the Pavillon Sicli Foundation

INPI on Olympic time with its exhibition *"Terrains d'innovations"* (Lands of Innovations)

On the occasion of the Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the INPI wanted to showcase the French "sporTech" gems, which all stand out for the exemplary nature of their industrial property strategy.

The *"Terrains d'innovations"* exhibition was held at the INPI sites in Courbevoie and Lille, and was also displayed at the Ministry of the Economy during the European Heritage Days in September 2024.

The exhibition highlighted today's businesses who are revolutionising the sports industry, and drew parallels with iconic inventions from our history, conceived by illustrious predecessors or utopian inventors.

The exhibition was also adapted for display on the new INPI website of historical archives (ref. page 21) alongside two other virtual exhibits: *"L'invention du vélo"*(Invention of the Bicycle) and *"Le coffre à jouets brevetés"* (The patented Toy Chest).

Did you know?

Every year, the documents loaned for temporary exhibitions are first entrusted to an art restorer specialised in graphic works. The documents can then be exhibited in a perfectly preserved state thanks to regular restoration work. In 2024, three restorations were thus commissioned and breathed new life into 18 different 19th-century patent files.

Facts and figures about the INPI website of historical archives

110,000
visits in 10 months

240,000
page views

15,000
downloads

Le génie gourmand: More genius… but for gourmets this time!

This second opus, published by Gründ in October 2024, follows on the success of the book Le génie humain - Les archives des inventeurs (Human Genius: Inventors' Archives), the first exploration of the INPI heritage collection by author and historian Bruno Fuligni.

Le Génie gourmand (The Gourmet Genius) immerses the reader in the history of French cuisine and gastronomy through a selection of patented inventions and trademarks – some of them a little curious and unusual – filed with the INPI from 1791 to the present day, from the "pyramid-shaped oyster holder" to the indispensable "device for cutting off the top of the shell of soft-boiled eggs", without forgetting the "spoon with a swinging lid to protect your moustache from dipping in the contents of the spoon".

Fine-tuning **our** governance

Leading

Board of Directors
as of 13 March 2025

810
Employees
as of 31 December 2024

Members with voting rights

- **Sylvie Guinard - Chair**
  CEO of Thimonnier SAS
- **Geraldine Guery Jacques – Vice-Chair**
  Director of Industrial Property/Patents, SEB Group
- **Sophie Rémont**
  Director of Expert Appraisal, Bpifrance
- **Olivier Gicquel**
  Director of Intellectual Property, CNH Industrial Group
- **Elodie Belnoue**
  Doctor in Immunology, Director of Research & Development Coordination, AMAL Therapeutics
- **Bernard Reybier**
  CEO of Fermob Group
- **Emmanuel Potdevin**
  President of the National Company of Industrial Property Attorneys (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 Economy, Finance and Industrial & Digital Sovereignty
- **A representative of the Budget Director,**
  Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industrial & Digital sovereignty
- **A representative of the Director-General of the Directorate-General for Enterprise (DGE),**
  Ministry of Economy,Finance and Industrial & Digital sovereignty
- **A representative of the Minister of National Education,Higher Education and Research**
- **Bernard Barbier**
  Representative of INPI personnel
- **Hocine Ihaddadene**
  Representative of INPI personnel

Non-voting Advisory Members

- **Pascal Faure**
  CEO of the Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI)
- **Bertrand Onillon**
  Chief Accountant of the Institut national de la propriété industrielle (INPI)
- **Hubert Gicquelet**
  Economic & Financial Comptroller General at General Economic & Financial Control Department - Ministry of Economy, Finance and Industrial & Digital sovereignty

Management Board
as of 13 March 2025

- **Pascal Faure**
  CEO

- **Jean-Marc Le Parco**
  Deputy CEO

- **Bertrand Onillon**
  Chief Accountant

- **Valerie Hochet**
  Director of Communication

- **Jeremie Fenichel**
  Director of Industrial Property and Businesses
  - **Valerie Baussant**
    Director of Patent Department
  - **Nelson Dos Santos**
    Director of Businesses Department
  - **Marie Roulleaux-Dugage**
    Director of the Department of Trademarks and Designs

- **François-Xavier de Beaufort**
  Director of Economic Action
  - **Paul Perpere**
    Director of National Network Department
  - **Aude Marty**
    Head of Customer Offer Development Department
  - **François-Xavier de Beaufort**
    Head of International Network Department

- **Anne Dufour**
  Director of Operations
  - **Mostafa Ezzahoui**
    Director of IT Systems Department
  - **Joris Reppert**
    Director of Administration Department

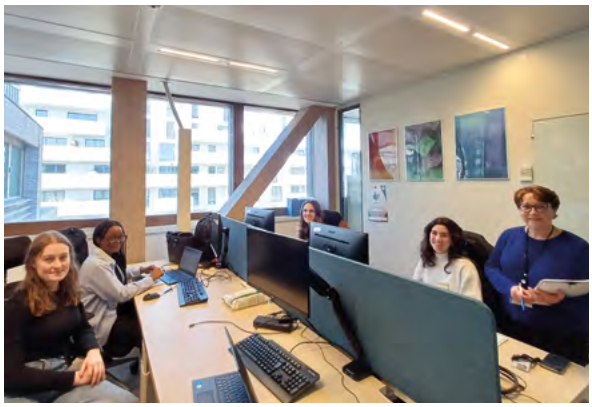
- **Florence Galtier**
  Legal and Financial Director
  - **Augustin Chaunu**
    Head of Finance Department
  - **Laurent Mulatier**
    Head of Litigation Department
  - **Jean-Philippe Muller**
    Head of Legal and International Department

- **Hafid Brahmi**
  Director of Human Resources and Staff Development
  - **Isabelle Ferreira Vieira**
    Head of Personnel Management and Remuneration Department
  - **Estelle Gillot**
    Head of Work Environment Department
  - **Tarik Bahnas**
    Head of HR Development Department

Optimising

Spaces and tools redesigned for more agility

The INPI continued to improve its work environment and upgrade its tools in 2024, ensuring consistently efficient operations, aligned with the needs of its users.



Shared workspace, a new work environment

The widespread roll-out of teleworking at INPI meant that the use of available workspace needed to be readjusted. At the headquarters in Courbevoie, the workspace layout was rearranged to better fit the needs of hybrid working modes and varying team sizes. The new work environment features shared, standardised offices that can be booked online via a dedicated app. The new workspaces can be used for a wide variety of purposes (meetings to work on the same project, privacy booth, etc.), and provide enhanced working conditions with improved comfort (lighting, acoustics, etc.), while taking into account the technical constraints of the building.

New time management application

As planned in the third pillar of the COP 2021-2024, support function tools were to be modernised, with an overhaul of the Human Resources IT applications, including the time management application. The goal was to have an optimised tool designed to enhance the efficiency and meet the current needs of the staff and managers.

After an initial phase to study the existing systems, collect the needs and reconfigure the parameters, followed by a phase of acceptance testing and training of administrators in 2024, the new Incovar+tool was ready to go live on 6 January 2025, in parallel with a training and information period for managers and staff.

Auditing the organization

In 2024, six internal audits were carried out: three audits focused on process and compliance, while the remaining three addressed IT systems security, thereby enhancing confidence in the INPI's IT infrastructure and applications. Internal audit activities are consistently reported to the Audit Committee, which convenes twice a year and subsequently reports to the Board of Directors.

Appeals against decisions made by the INPI CEO

In 2024, 179 appeals were lodged against the decisions taken by the INPI CEO.

This type of litigation mainly concerns trademarks (90% of appeals). Litigation relating to oppositions remains in the majority (61%); appeals relating to invalidity and revocation remain relatively stable (21% in 2024 versus 22% in 2023, and 7% in 2024 versus 9% in 2023 respectively).

Regarding patents, the number of appeals represents 4% of the total. Appeals relating to supplementary protection certificates (SPCs) are stable (4% in 2024 versus 5% in 2023). On this latter topic, it is worth noting the still significant number of litigation cases brought before the Court of Cassation.

Finally, four appeals were lodged against GI approval decisions in 2024, representing 2% of the overall litigation volume.

The new INPI offices in Nantes...

... and in Rouen

Financial data visualisation with MyMetriks

INPI has implemented the budget data visualisation software MyMetriks, imbedded into PEP (the financial and accounting monitoring software rolled out in 2023), for purposes of financial monitoring.

Each Department now has its own personalised dashboard, a genuine decision-making tool that provides a real-time view of the activity thanks to daily updates.

MyMetriks helps the staff navigate easily from one key indicator to another and display with a single click the consumption rate of each budget allocated.

An ever-changing real estate portfolio

In line with its multi-annual real property management strategic plan, the INPI has been optimising its real estate portfolio. On 25 September, the Nantes regional branch, previously housed in the premises of the *Maison de l'administration nouvelle*, moved to new premises hosted by the Regional Directorate of Cultural Affairs in Nantes.

On 8 February, in Rouen, the Customs department offered to provide new offices for the Normandy branch of the INPI, whose premises had become too small, close to the Customs departments dealing with businesses (customs procedures and support to economic activity).

Sustaining success durably

INPI: A responsible employer

In line with a proactive policy of Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility (CSR), the INPI pursues its initiatives in favour of ever more fulfilling working conditions and environment, thus preparing the successes of tomorrow.

European Disability Employment Week

The INPI organized several in-house interactive events during the European Disability Employment Week held from 18 to 24 November 2024.
In this Olympic year, employees were invited to participate in a quiz, a simulation workshop and a participative theatre play about disability and sport.

Adoption of a Sustainable Mobility Plan

In November, the INPI adopted its Sustainable Mobility Plan (SMP), a set of measures intended to optimise the efficiency of business travel and contribute to the reduction of polluting emissions and road traffic.
Some of these measures have already been implemented, including a partnership with the cooperative La Fabrique des Cyclistes (the Cyclists' Factory), to promote and encourage active mobility. For instance, bicycle maintenance and repair workshops were offered to employees at the Courbevoie, Lille and Lyon sites. In addition, additional bicycle parking spaces were created in Courbevoie and Compiègne.

Some examples of actions advocated by the SMP and already implemented:

- Installation of electric charging stations
- Installation of bicycle parkingracks
- Sustainable mobility package
- Free access to a car-sharing platform
- Activities relating to bicycle riding and maintenance

Reaching out to the talents of tomorrow

Like every year, INPI staff members reached out to students looking for a work-study programme or a first job, as well as potential candidates to join the INPI's staff. These encounters are great opportunities to introduce the future talents to the INPI's activities.

On 15 February, the INPI took part in the Rhône-Alpes Forum, a recruitment fair organized by the student association Forum Organization in partnership with six regional engineering schools.

On 27 and 28 February, INPI attended the CEIPI Job Fair, an annual event organized by the Centre for International Studies on Intellectual Property at the University of Strasbourg for its students.

On 25 May, two INPI trademark lawyers presented their profession to the public at the Viva Technology trade fair. On the INPI stand, the HR team answered questions and collected job applications.

Lastly, on 26 November, the INPI attended the PhD Talent Career Fair 2024 in Paris, the largest European recruitment forum dedicated to doctoral students and PhD holders.

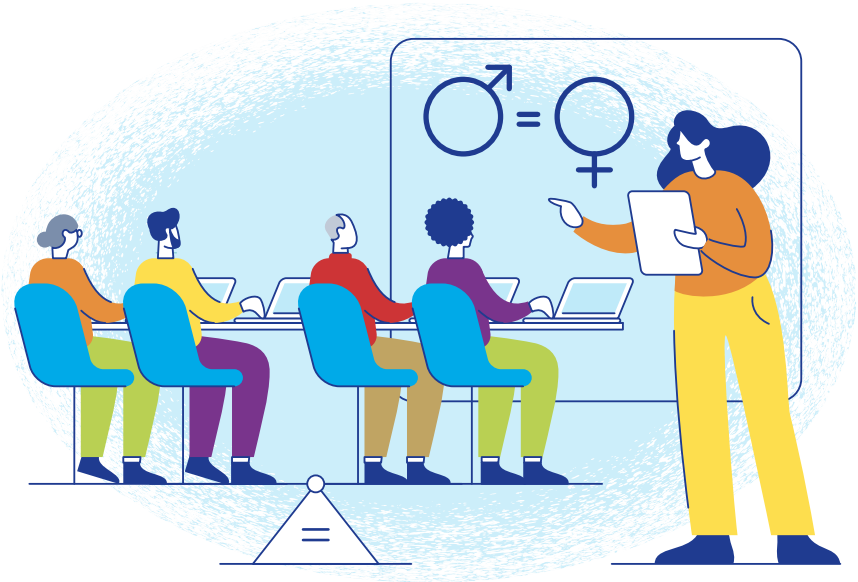
In 2024, 93 new employees of all ages joined the INPI.

Lifelong learning for INPI employees

The INPI's CSR policy includes several in-house training initiatives conducted by the INPI in 2024.

Under the terms of the INPI collective agreement signed in 2022 on professional gender equality, a new 2024-2025 training plan was implemented on preventing and combatting gender-based and sexual violence. It includes among other a video conference to raise awareness among the staff and a compulsory e-learning module for managers.

In addition, training on new leadership methods (Management 3.0) was provided to INPI managers during the annual Managers' Seminar, giving them insights on modifying their management practices.



The INPI also pursues its awareness-raising policy about anti-corruption with an e-learning programme for the entire staff.

Finally, a training programme to raise awareness and share best practices in IT security was implemented for all employees.

Key figures on personnel training in 2024

3,536
days of training completed

806
employees trained

The INPI wishes to thank the businesses and innovators cited here for their kind permission to publish their testimonies and show their achievements to illustrate this Annual Report.

Credits
All visuals are the property of INPI except:
p. 4: Maxime Montabord
p. 9, p. 18, p. 19, p. 25, p. 32, p. 34, p. 35, p. 36, p. 37, p. 41, p. 42, p. 44, p. 45: Jean-Marie Cras
p. 27: Institut Mines-Télécom
p. 29: Unifab
p. 40: Philippe Zamora
p. 43: Infaco, Adhex, Waga Enegery, Hemerion, Quantum Surgical, Gys,
p. 47: Solstiss, Marie d'Agen - Association Pierres naturelles Nouvelle-Aquitaine, La Botte Gardiane, Couteau de Laguiole - Coutellerie Honoré Durand, OMYA, Carrières Constant
p. 56, p. 57: Shutterstock

Graphic Design: entrecom

ISSN 3098-1565 (en ligne)

www.inpi.fr

Follow INPI France on

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
Liberté
Égalité
Fraternité

inpi