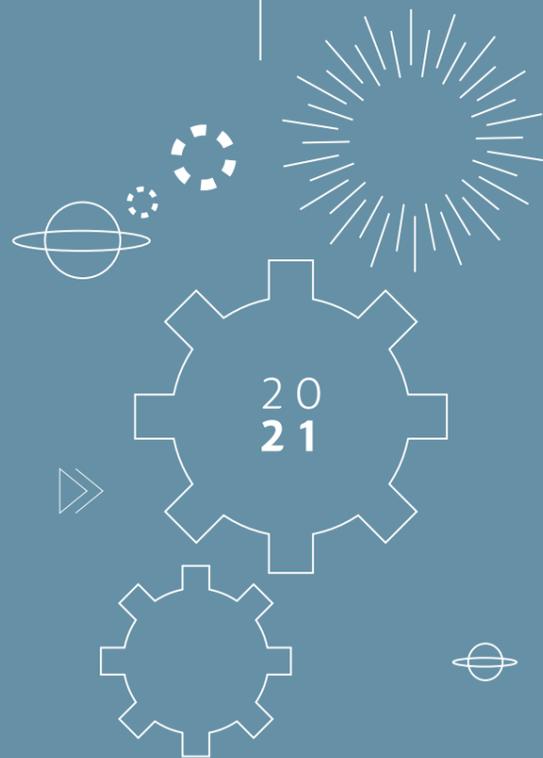




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INTRODUCTION



Pascal Faure



“Despite the challenges of Covid-19-related uncertainties and complications, 2021 was a particularly busy and successful year for the INPI.”

Despite the challenges of Covid-19-related uncertainties and complications, 2021 was a particularly busy and successful year for the INPI. An impressive number of projects were initiated in line with our Performance Agreement for this first year of its implementation, and that thanks to the INPI’s staff who tackled the difficulties they encountered with determination and perseverance. I sincerely thank them for their dedicated commitment.

In this report you will discover the many projects that marked the past year. I would like to mention three of them here. The first is the *Guichet unique*, an online one-stop-shop for business formalities, a new mission assigned to the INPI pursuant to the Pacte Act. As planned, the *Guichet unique* opened on schedule to all representatives carrying out business formalities on 1 July 2021 and then to the general public on 1 January 2022. The next deadline is set for 1 January 2023, when the *Guichet unique* will become the one and only service in France for companies to carry out their business formalities (see pages 22 and 48).

The second area of success I want to highlight concerns our growing international influence. The INPI signed three mutual recognition agreements for patent examinations, so-called PPHs: the first two with the IP offices of Japan and the United States, which came into effect on 1 January 2021 and 1 December 2021, respectively, and the third with Canada, which was signed on 3 December. These bilateral agreements enable each office to fast track examination procedures, which for France and French applicants is a major step forward. Furthermore, the INPI was appointed to take on new responsibilities at international agencies in 2021.

The INPI is unfailingly committed to delivering a broader range of services to its customers, further promoting intellectual property, and increasing its influence internationally whilst adapting and optimising its working methods.

We ensure that French innovation and its protection are always synonymous with economic growth and competitiveness.

At WIPO, for example, the INPI serves as chair for two general assemblies and vice-chair for a third. Such responsibilities go far to strengthen our global status (see pages 20, 30-31).

The third accomplishment concerns our ongoing upgrade to the service we provide our customers through online tools. After completing the digitisation of all our industrial property procedures, which allowed us to process applications without interruption throughout the successive lockdowns, we began an overhaul of our IT applications to provide more operational and fit-for-purpose online tools for our in-house teams and applicants. The first stage of this overhaul focused on our design IT system. Completed in 2021, it has been welcomed by users (see pages 24-25).

As you can see, the INPI is unfailingly committed to delivering a broader range of services to its customers, further promoting intellectual property, and increasing its influence internationally whilst adapting and optimising its working methods. We ensure that French innovation and its protection are always synonymous with economic growth and competitiveness.

Enjoy your read!

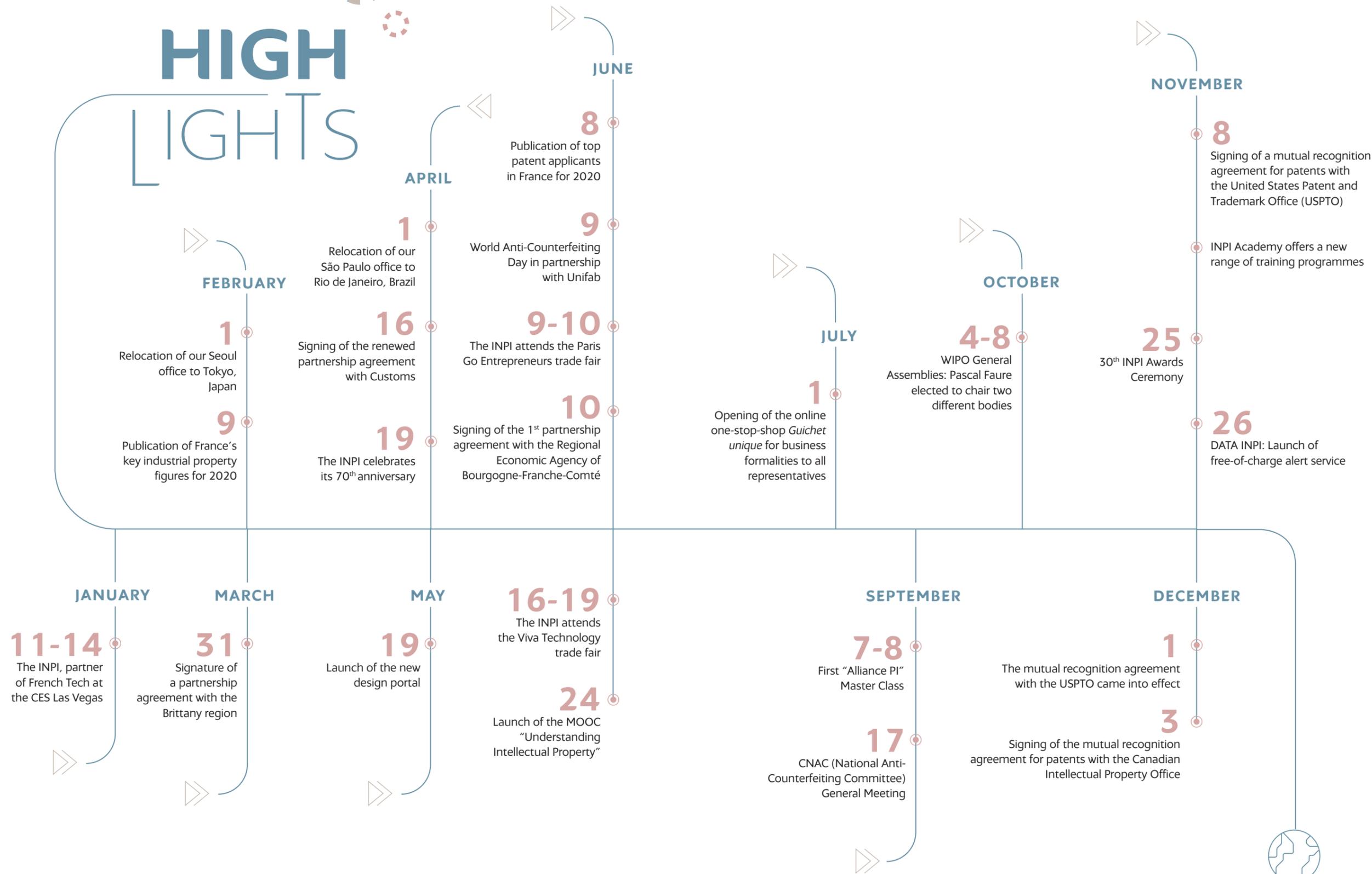


HIGH
LIGHTS

&

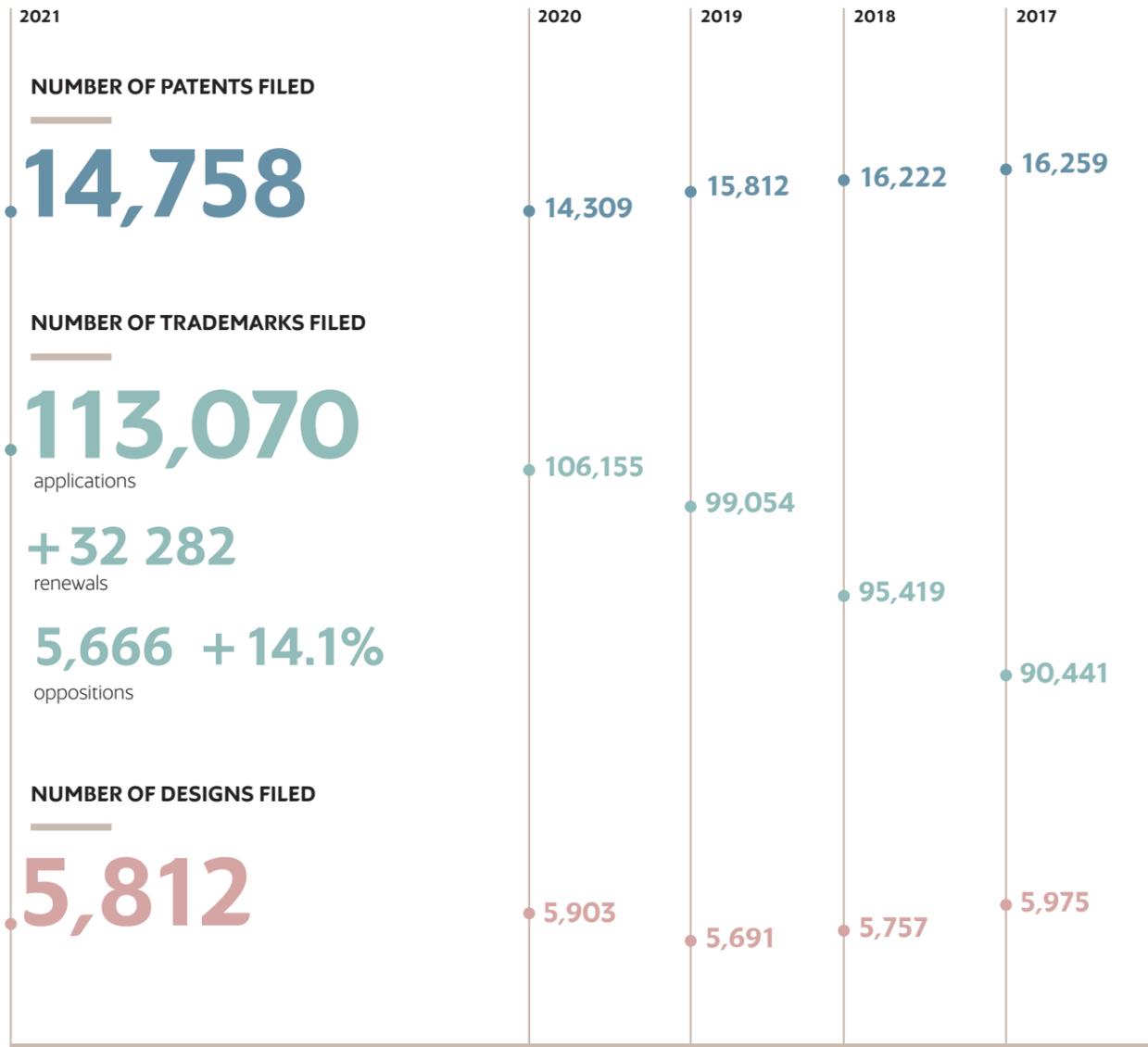
KEY
DATA

HIGH LIGHTS



GLOBAL COOPERATION
HIGHLIGHTS
PAGE 31

KEY DATA



720,146 + 38.6%
company registrations vs. 2020

369,372 + 33.3%
companies struck off the register vs. 2020

12 approvals of geographical indications since the entry into force of the 'Consumption' Act

4,052 Soleau envelopes
19,912 e-Soleau

145KM stored archives

THE PACTE ACT: FIRST FULL-YEAR FIGURES

NEW TYPES OF TRADEMARK



UTILITY CERTIFICATES (UCS)

UCs filed:
674
i.e. 4.6% of total filings

188
UCs converted into patents, i.e. 27.9%

POST REGISTRATION/GRANT PROCEDURES

M 465
trademark revocations and declarations of invalidity

B 19
oppositions to patents (1st oral proceedings on 25 January 2022)

EXAMINATION FOR INVENTIVE STEP FOR PATENTS FILED AS OF 22 MAY 2020

22,356 applications subject to PACTE requirements for grant, namely 57% of patents under examination

11,884 notifications of preliminary search reports

PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATIONS

612 applications, namely 4.1% of patent filings

DIGITAL TO THE CORE

OPEN DATA

61.2M

OPEN ACCESS AND REUSABLE DATA ITEMS

43M

FRENCH COMPANIES REGISTER DATA ITEMS (RNCS)

including

6,5M

COMPANIES IN ACTIVITY

+

18.2M

INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY DATA ITEMS (IP)

NUMBER OF IP DATA ITEMS ACCESSIBLE ONLINE AND FREE OF CHARGE

10.6M

Patent database



6.3M

Trademark database



1.3M

Design database

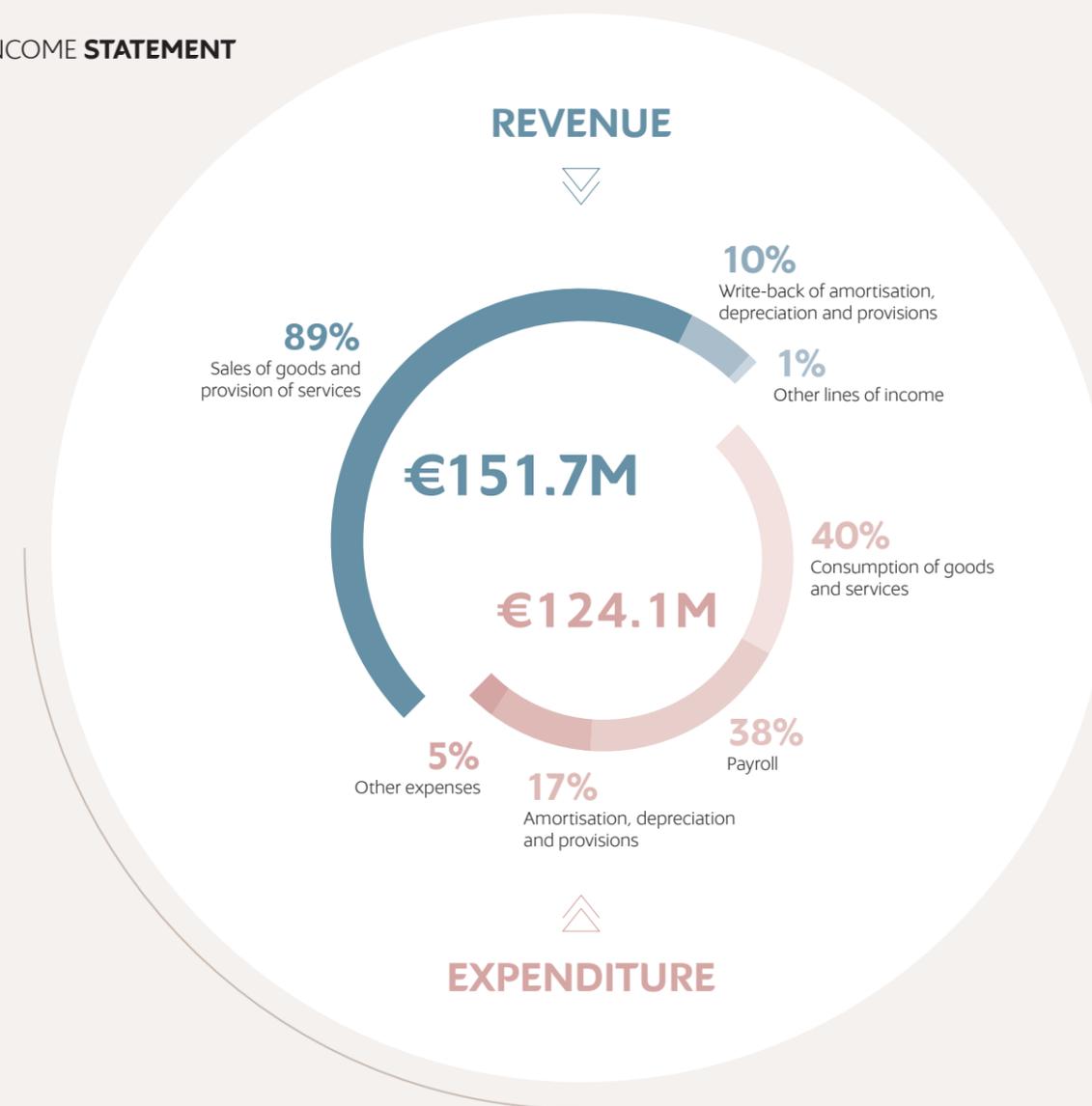


118K

Case law database

ACTION MEANS

INCOME STATEMENT



CERTIFICATION OF THE ACCOUNTS

The INPI has implemented an accounting audit policy since 2012. All the financial statements from 2015 to 2021 have been fully certified.

KEY DATA



14

offices across France

REGIONAL AGREEMENTS IN EFFECT IN 2021

Brittany, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Centre-Val de Loire, Grand Est, Nouvelle-Aquitaine, Pays de la Loire, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

10

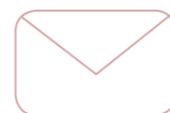
strategic regions across the world, covering almost **100** countries



BI-LATERAL AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN 2021*

African Intellectual Property Organisation, Canada, China, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, United States of America

CUSTOMER SUPPORT

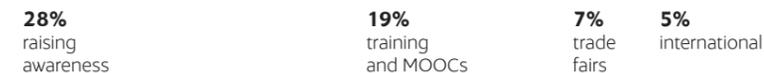


240,000

emails or calls

34,933

contacts provided with information



FOCUS ON START-UPS

3,702

qualified interviews

476

current start-up programmes

5,430

visits to businesses

+12% vs. 2020



TOP 3 SUBJECTS DISCUSSED

916

services delivered



1,695

contacts with companies operating internationally



88%

overall satisfaction rate



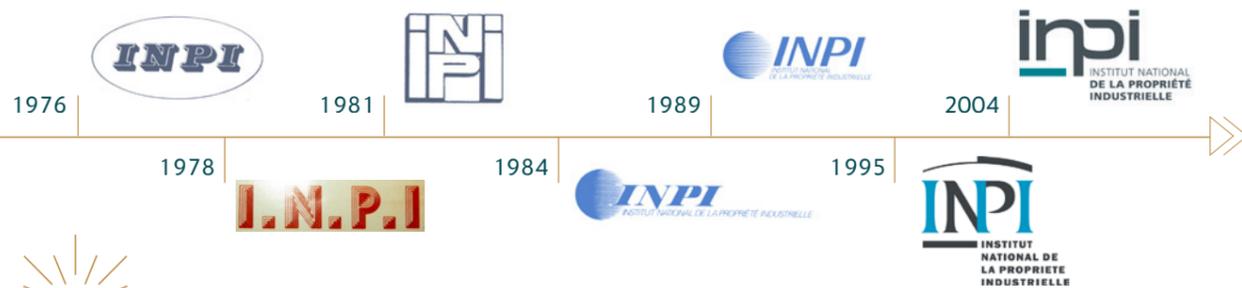
*These bi-lateral agreements do not include those already in effect.

THE INPI CELEBRATES ITS 70th ANNIVERSARY



The INPI was founded on 19 April 1951 to meet the industrial property requirements of economic players and innovators in France. The INPI has supported businesses ever since, regardless of their stage of development, facilitating the transformation of their projects into innovation, and their innovations into value, which underpins progress in our society and the economy. The INPI works alongside innovators and entrepreneurs to raise their awareness of industrial property. Protection, value creation, durability, support and promotion are terms that aptly reflect our activity at the INPI. Our seventy years of experience and achievement have firmly established industrial property as a strategic tool at the service of businesses and competitiveness.

REFLECTING TRENDS IN DESIGN, OUR LOGO HAS CHANGED OVER THE YEARS



Over
1,700,000
French patent applications
filed since 1951

Almost
750,000
design applications
published since 1951

Almost
3,000,000
applications to register a French
trademark since 1961*

*Figures from 1951 to 1961 are not known.

“Since the INPI was founded on 19 April 1951, it has acquired a central place in the industrial property ecosystem. Today, the INPI is firmly anchored in the economic landscape of our country, its wealth of talent enabling it to adapt successfully to the issues and challenges of the moment. For me, its long life and past and present accomplishments are a source of great pride, which inspire confidence in the future. At 70, the INPI is raring to go!”

Pascal Faure, INPI CEO

FRENCH CREATIVE GENIUS WAS GIVEN PRIDE OF PLACE TO MARK THIS ANNIVERSARY

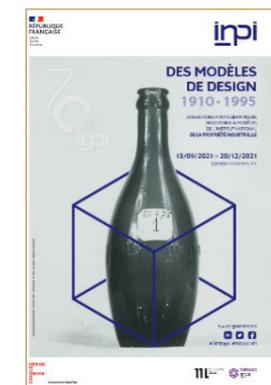
A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE JOURNAL SPÉCIAL DES SOCIÉTÉS

The *Journal Spécial des Sociétés* published a special INPI anniversary edition celebrating the INPI's core professions, missions, women and men who pave the way for innovation. INPI staff collaborated with the magazine's editorial board to write the articles featuring in this edition.



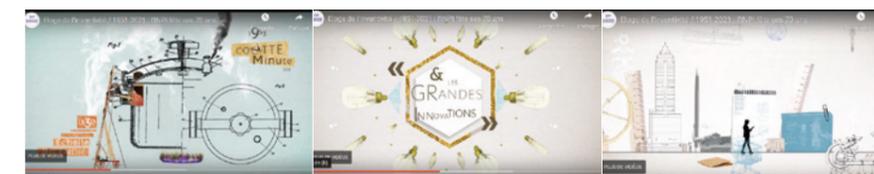
AN EXHIBITION “DESIGN FROM 1910 TO 1995: THE INPI’S PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION OF DESIGNS”

From the INPI's precious heritage archives, a selection of photographs of designs was exhibited in turn at the coworking and exhibition space Onzième Lieu, the INPI head office in Ile-de-France and the Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery. Visitors could discover, or rediscover, iconic symbols of French design, such as the LC4 reclining chair by Le Corbusier, the Perrier bottle, the first Adidas football boot, the LU biscuit packet, the billboards for metro trains and the so-called “Morris column” for displaying advertising posters.

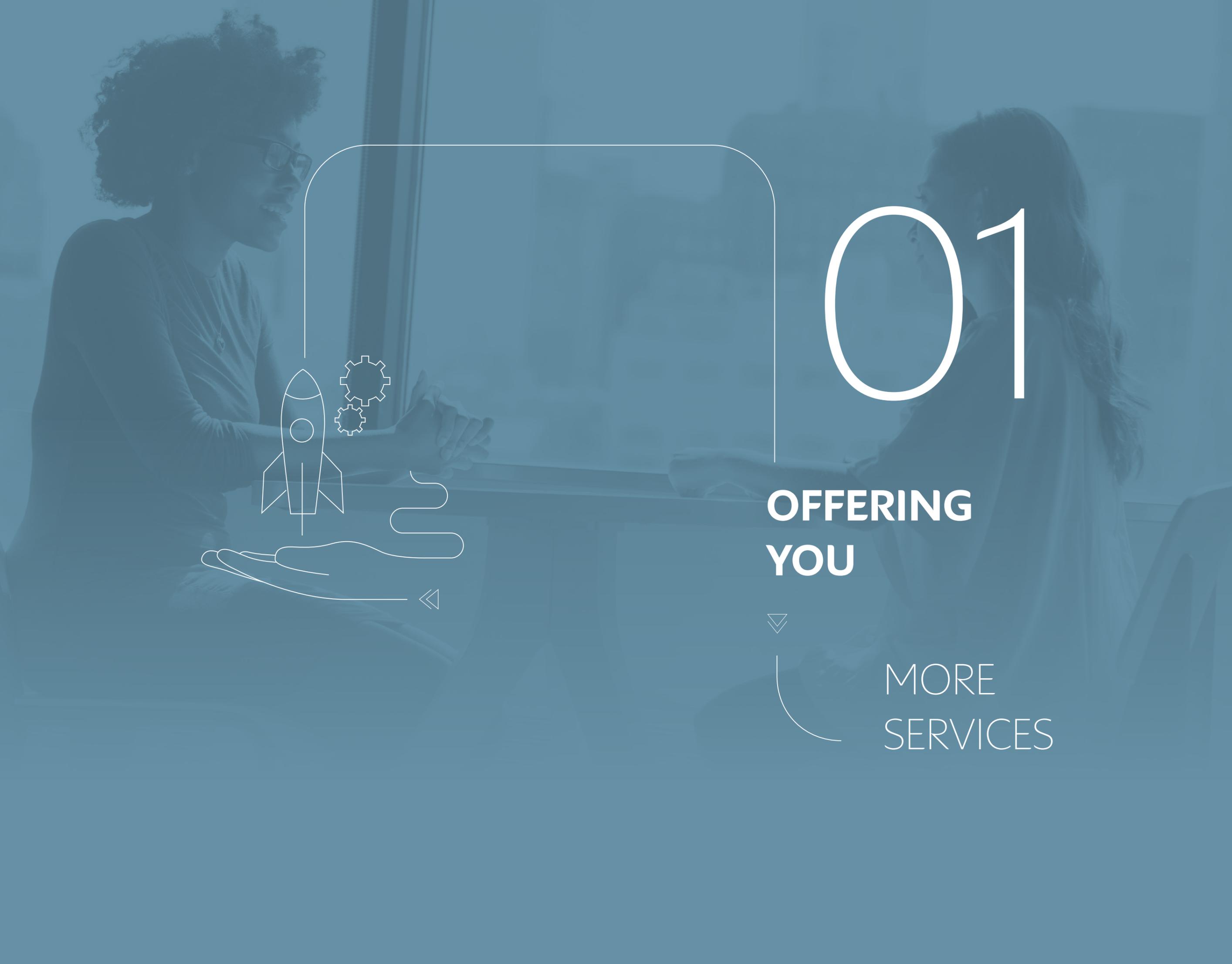


A FILM IMMERSING US IN THE STORY OF INNOVATION AND INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY IN FRANCE

“Creative genius never stops. Just when you think that everything has been invented, a new idea crops up and proves the contrary. It adds an object, a device, technology or know-how to our daily lives, which are then transformed. At the INPI, we have been the privileged onlookers and partners of this unique, effervescent and inherently French creativity.”



WATCH THE VIDEO



01

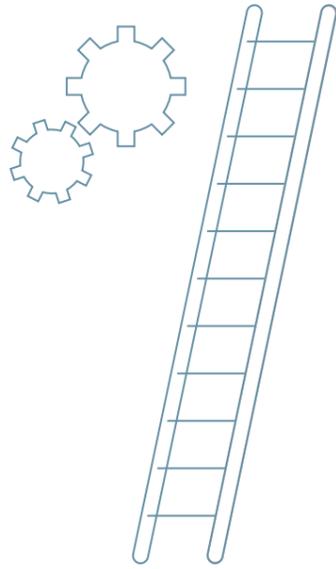
**OFFERING
YOU**



MORE
SERVICES



MAKING LIFE EASY



To provide optimal conditions to support businesses and innovators, the INPI stays abreast with new practices and developments and implements innovative tools with added value. Agreement contracts, partnerships, new services and IT applications overhaul are among the initiatives we deploy to facilitate IP procedures and foster the growth of our economy.



THE INPI SIGNS TWO NEW PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY AGREEMENTS WITH OUR AMERICAN AND CANADIAN COUNTERPARTS

The INPI signed two new patent prosecution highway agreements in 2021. The first, signed on 8 November with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), came into effect on 1 December. The second was signed with the Canadian Intellectual Property Office (CIPO) on 3 December.

These mutual recognition agreements for patent examinations mean that French businesses can now request the USPTO and/or the CIPO to fast-track their patent applications claiming priority from the first national application.

Both agreements follow close behind the one made with the Japan Patent Office (JPO) in 2020. They mark a decisive step in bilateral cooperation between our respective offices and reflect the high standards of French industrial property rights and the efficiency of the procedures rolled out by the INPI in recent years.

A GROWING PARTNERSHIP POLICY



BRITTANY

The INPI signed a three-year partnership agreement with the Brittany region on 31 March with a view to reach out to innovative companies in the region and foster the inclusion of industrial property in their business strategies.



BOURGOGNE-FRANCHE-COMTÉ

The INPI signed its first partnership agreement with the Regional Economic Agency of Bourgogne-Franche-Comté (AER BFC) in June 2021. Over the next 3 years, we aim to promote intellectual property and support innovative SMEs. The central role held by the AER BFC in the region's innovation network puts the INPI in a prime position to boost our visibility and the visibility of our customised support offering.



This partnership is based on a three-pronged approach:

- **Fostering** initiatives to raise awareness about industrial property
- **Supporting** the region's technological innovation centres, competitiveness clusters, and the region's clusters through the INPI's new Alliance PI programme
- **Ensuring** a follow-up on the industrial property dynamics in the region by implementing measures to monitor innovative companies

FRENCH DEFENCE INNOVATION AGENCY

The INPI signed a value creation agreement with the French Defence Innovation Agency (AID) on 9 February, the objectives of which are twofold: to identify innovative players and raise their awareness of industrial property; and, to support and unlock the value of defence innovation-related projects.



7 agreements in effect in 2021

with the regions of Brittany, Bourgogne-Franche-Comté, Centre-Val de Loire, Grand Est, Nouvelle Aquitaine, Pays de la Loire and Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur

THE ONLINE GUICHET UNIQUE OPENS FOR BUSINESS FORMALITIES: A MILESTONE FOR THE INPI

Since 2020, the INPI has been working on the roll out of the *Guichet unique*, an online one-stop-shop for business formalities.

A milestone in its implementation was completed in 2021: on 1 July, the *Guichet unique* opened according to schedule to all representatives whose mission is to carry out business formalities on behalf of companies. To help them work this new online system, the INPI organised 8 training sessions between September and December. These sessions were attended by a total of 107 representatives from a variety of professions – chartered accountants, lawyers, consultants, notaries and more.

At the same time, we continued to develop the *Guichet unique* so that it could open to the general public on 1 January 2022, before becoming the one and only service for business formalities as of 1 January 2023.



ENTREPRISE La transmission électronique du guichet de formalités des entreprises est optionnelle dès avril 2021 et obligatoire au 1^{er} janvier 2023.

Guichet électronique de formalités : une mise en œuvre progressive

La loi Pacte simplifie les formalités des entreprises avec la mise en place des bases d'un guichet unique électronique (www.guichet-entreprises.fr). Ce dernier se substituera aux 1400 centres de formalités des entreprises (CFE) actuellement en place. Le nouveau guichet permet au déclarant :

- d'établir un dossier unique de constitution, de modification et de cessation d'activité de son entreprise ;
- de transmettre un tel dossier aux organismes concernés ;
- d'acquitter, le cas échéant, les frais afférents à ces formalités

par carte bancaire ou via un compte d'avance de paiement. Le guichet collecte les fonds et les reverse aux organismes concernés.

Suivi de l'avancement de la procédure

Une information complète du déclarant est assurée. Il lui sera notamment notifié :

- la réception de sa déclaration par les organismes concernés ;
- si le dossier est incomplet ;
- les délais de traitement ;
- les décisions prises.

Ce guichet électronique sera, au 1^{er} janvier 2023, le seul interlocuteur des entreprises

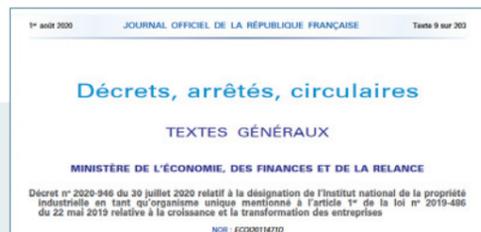


et leur relais auprès des autres organismes (greffe du tribunal, service des impôts, Urssaf, organismes d'assurance-maladie et vieillesse, MSA, inspection du travail, INEE).

MC CLAVREUL



ACCESS TO THE *GUICHET UNIQUE* ON THE INPI.FR WEBSITE HOME PAGE



The INPI was elected by the French government to operate the *Guichet unique* on 21 February 2020. Detailed in Article 1 of the PACTE Act and in accordance with Decree No. 2020-946 of 1 August 2020, this assignment completes the INPI's mission to register businesses, a mission set out as of our creation in 1951.

THE FIGHT AGAINST COUNTERFEITING TOPS THE INPI AGENDA

THE INPI AND CUSTOMS: MORE ROBUST COOPERATION

The INPI and the *Direction générale des douanes et des droits indirects* (France's head customs office) renewed their partnership agreement on 16 April. The agreement is designed to increase the coordination of joint action plans for the purpose of enforcing businesses-owned intellectual property rights, and thereby fight counterfeiting and ensure the safety of consumers.

To mark the occasion, the INPI and Customs hosted a webinar entitled "How the INPI and Customs can support you in enforcing your intellectual property rights and fighting the infringement of your rights".



"The explosion of counterfeiting in recent years has been considerably exacerbated by online sales. No sector has escaped unscathed. Counterfeiting generates unfair competition, job losses and considerable risks to consumers. The fight to stamp it out is an absolute imperative and a top priority for the INPI. Moreover, its impact goes far beyond the violation of intellectual property rights. It constrains business development, encourages illegal activities and directly threatens the health and safety of consumers."

Pascal Faure, INPI CEO



WORLD ANTI-COUNTERFEITING DAY

To mark the World Anti-Counterfeiting Day, the French Manufacturers' Union (Unifab) invited the INPI and the other major sector stakeholders in France to discuss the dangers of counterfeiting and the measures taken to fight this scourge. "Design" was the theme of this 2021 edition.

The event presented Pascal Faure with an apt opportunity to announce the INPI's plans for an Observatory on Infringements of IP Rights in the near future. The purpose of the Observatory will be to collate all useful information and data in order to identify the trends and impact of counterfeiting in France. It was one of the recommendations put forward in the assessment report on government anti-counterfeiting policy, drawn up by MPs Pierre-Yves Bournazel and Christophe Blanchet, for the purpose of enlightening public authorities and formulating effective policies to enforce intellectual property rights.

THE CNAC GENERAL MEETING

Pascal Faure, as General Secretary of the National Anti-Counterfeiting Committee (CNAC), co-chaired its General Meeting (GM) on 17 September. This was an opportunity to review the initiatives undertaken since the previous GM, above all the finalisation of a customs action plan for 2021-2022 and the European Commission's publication of an intellectual property action plan. The latter sets out a European toolkit to fight counterfeiting during the French

presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2022.

Pascal Faure spoke positively of the fall in counterfeit products imported into the EU and emphasised the importance of collective action to raise consumer awareness.

Lastly, he paid tribute to Senator Richard Yung, the chairman of the CNAC since 2013, whose term came to an end in September 2021.





DATA INPI UPS ITS SERVICES

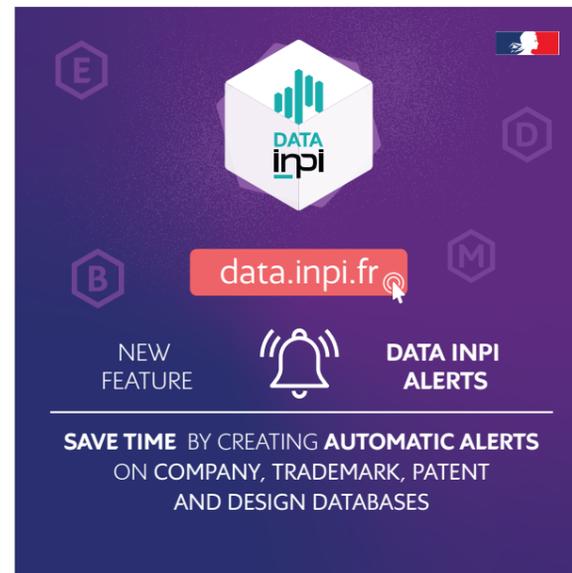
In 2021, 2 new services were added to DATA INPI, our free, one-search “companies” and “industrial property” open data portal: advanced search and eAlerts.

It is now possible to make several advanced searches in each database:

- Trademarks: by type, status etc.
- Patents as of 1902: by holder’s name, SIREN No. of applicant or holder, etc.
- Designs: by country of applicant, priority date, etc.
- Companies: companies in activity, struck off, etc.

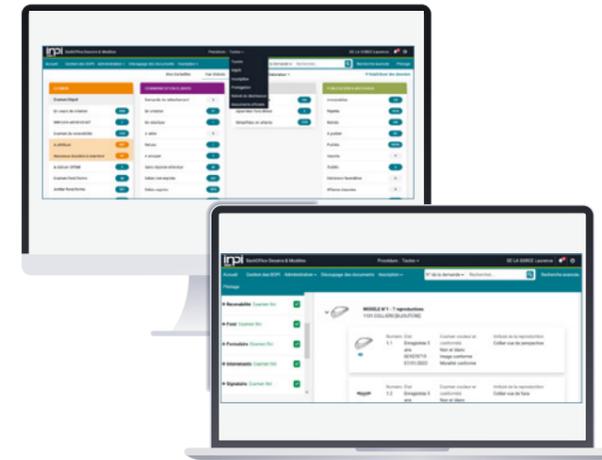
The eAlert service notifies users of new publications and/or changes made to trademarks, patents, designs or companies according to previously selected criteria.

Users can activate up to ten eAlerts, enabling them to monitor a company or intellectual property right using a key word or several criteria simultaneously. The service can be used for keeping tabs on competition, assessing whether to exploit a patent or use a trademark, or keeping up to date with new businesses in a sector or geographic area.



A NEW FIT-FOR-PURPOSE DESIGN PORTAL

Launched on 19 May, the new design portal was implemented to improve customer experience (applicants and IP professionals). This user-friendly portal has streamlined procedures, simplified the tracking of ongoing applications, facilitated contact with INPI staff, and shortened the timescale for registering designs.



D&M n° 20212946 - LOUIS VUITTON MALLETIER SAS

What’s new?

Users can now access the entire range of design procedures through one portal. The different stages of an application’s progress are updated in real time and applicants can respond more easily to notifications. They can also upload zip files containing all the reproductions of a design and use the Locarno classification to mitigate the risk of deficiencies in designations.

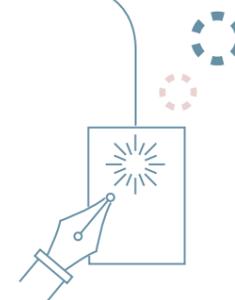
Restoration and surrender procedures as well as the procedure for the correction of errors have also been put online.

Lastly, official documents can be ordered through the new portal and several accounts of natural persons can now be linked to the account of a legal person.



EXAMINING OPTIONS TO STRENGTHEN DESIGN RIGHTS

As part of a plan to make designs more robust, the INPI is examining several development options. A stakeholder consultation involving professional associations and the applicants filing the most designs was conducted from mid-September to end-November. It focused on 2 options: the roll out of new filing procedures and the introduction of an administrative invalidation procedure before the INPI. The ten or so responses to the submitted proposals viewed them positively overall. A draft law was drawn up at the end of the consultation period, which took into account all the observations that had been put forward. Nevertheless, this work will have to take into consideration the future “Design Package” and upcoming discussions to be held at the European Union.



PREPARATORY WORK TOWARDS THE ROLL OUT OF AN APPEAL PROCEDURE BEFORE INPI

In accordance with the objectives outlined in the 2021-2024 Performance Agreement, the INPI is preparing an administrative appeal procedure. The purpose of the procedure is to facilitate the re-examination of decisions made by the INPI when they are disputed by applicants. This would spare applicants from entering into long and costly litigation.

This new procedure could take the form of a mandatory preliminary administrative appeal with a view to making the INPI’s decisions more transparent, predictable and cohesive.

Such a project requires making amendments to the French Intellectual Property Code, which could be introduced in 2023 and take effect as of 2024.

DATA INPI: KEY FIGURES

over
62 million
available data items

and almost
900,000
users

OVERHAUL OF THE TRADEMARK IT SYSTEM: READY, STEADY, GO!

Launched in 2021, the first objective of the overhaul is to group all the trademark procedures together – filing, renewal, opposition, declaration of invalidity, entry in the register, and extension abroad – within one single online service to increase efficiency.

The second objective is to implement new tools to create a transparent user-friendly interface, which will provide applicants with better support throughout the duration of their rights.

The service is scheduled to be totally up and running in 2023.

KEEPING YOU INFORMED TO SUPPORT YOUR PROGRESS



IP outreach to innovators, project leaders, students and businesses is one of the INPI's fundamental missions. We devise innovative, interactive and targeted formats – training programmes, MOOCs, studies, and more – that deliver on this objective by facilitating access to industrial property for both experienced and novice audiences.

A REVISED CUSTOMER-CENTRIC TRAINING OFFER

As part of our effort to meet the expectations of all players in the economy, innovation, research and business formalities, the INPI Academy continues to develop and digitise its training scheme in 2022.

In November 2021, the INPI Academy launched new services. It reorganised its training programmes to coincide with participants' levels of IP expertise and introduced two new programmes: the first on the *Guichet unique* for business formalities and the second on drafting patent applications in Docx format.

This new training offer provides an educational programme covering 7 different topics and organised according to different levels of IP expertise as well as the pace of learning requested by the participants. The training programmes are adapted to new working practices with some lasting only 1 or 2 days and others 2 days per month over a 6-month period. The Academy caters for in-person and remote learning using state-of-the-art educational methods, such as virtual classes, quizzes, games, MOOCs and more.

The INPI Academy was awarded *Qualiopi* certification in October 2021, which attests to the quality of the INPI's services and clarifies the purpose of our training offer for companies and users.



THE FIRST MOOC ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: A FUN INTRODUCTION TO IP

The INPI launched the first French MOOC on intellectual property in June 2021. "Understanding intellectual property" sets out the fundamentals of business strategy and the utility of patents, trademarks and other intellectual property assets.

This MOOC is open access, registration is free, and its dynamic 8-module learning programme, each lasting 60 to 90 minutes, features speakers reputed for their expertise – IP attorneys, lawyers, lecturers, experts at the INPI, etc. – from all fields of the intellectual property spectrum.



+ 5,000
participants in MOOCs in 2021

527
persons trained each year

Nearly
100
active teachers, 35 of which work with the INPI

24
training programmes in addition to the CAB¹, CAM² and CAPI³ certificates, MOOCs and Master Classes

87%
overall satisfaction rate among INPI Academy trainees

¹ Patent assistant certificate
² Trademark & design assistant certificate
³ IP coordinator certificate

TOPICAL WEBINARS PROVIDING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

On the 3rd Monday of each month, the INPI connects with businesses for interactive 1-hour webinars on specific IP issues. Their titles include "5 keys to protecting my trademark", "Protecting my products and services abroad" and "What patent strategy best drives a business?" These webinars are designed to raise awareness about IP among project leaders, start-ups, SMEs and mid-sized businesses and prompt them to consider intellectual property as an aspect of their plans for innovation.

ALLIANCE PI HOLDS ITS FIRST MASTERCLASS

The first master class of the Alliance PI support programme was held in Rennes on 7 and 8 September.

Designed for tech centres and competitiveness clusters, this master class set out to identify challenges and ways in which to make intellectual property a more robust component of technology transfers and collaborative public/private R&D.

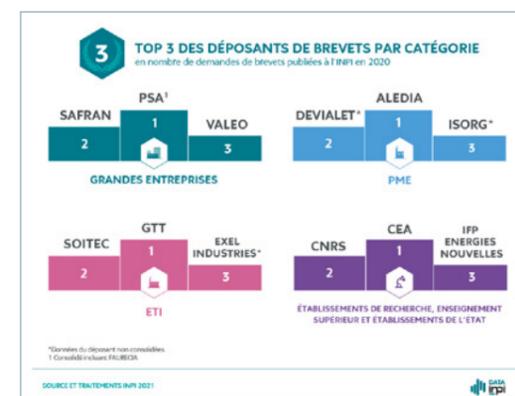
Hosted by IP specialists, the Alliance PI Master Class adapts to its participants' level of knowledge in intellectual property matters and offers alternate days of group training and individual coaching with an expert from the INPI.



ALLIANCE PI

Launched in 2020, the Alliance PI programme is designed to support stakeholders in public/private cooperation projects. Its aim is to make relations between the different players in innovation more smooth, more robust and more enduring, as well as to secure research results through appropriate, solid and stable industrial property practices.

INPI STUDIES: DEEPER INSIGHT



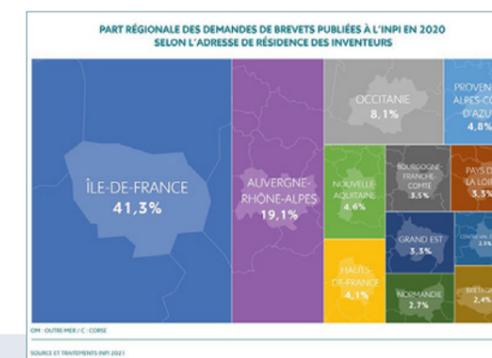
TOP PATENT APPLICANTS

Each year, the INPI publishes a list of major players driving innovation in the French economy, from corporate groups and public research organisations to SMEs, ranking them according to the number of patents they filed.

The 2020 list, published in June 2021, shed light on some interesting developments: over 1,000 patent applications were published by the top 2 companies, public research is gaining ground, and there are 8 newcomers in the top 50, 5 of which are research, higher education, and public establishments.

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF DEPARTMENTS AND REGIONS 2020

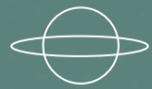
Published in July, this study presents departmental and regional statistics derived from the patent applications published by the INPI in 2020, using the resident address of the applicants and the inventors and their field of technology. The document yields greater insight into the economic fabric of each region.



N.B. The figures presented in studies published by the INPI in 2021 refer to patent applications filed 18 months prior to the date of their publication. The latest studies do not therefore include statistics from the period affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

02

PROMOTING
YOUR
INNOVATIONS



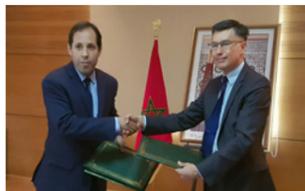
REPRESENTING YOU WORLDWIDE

Operating in ten strategic regions across 100 countries, the INPI builds and maintains firm relations with other IP offices worldwide. Harmonising IP law, sharing best practices and raising IP awareness are at the core of our discussions and agreements. In 2021, Pascal Faure took the helm of two international bodies.



MORE ROBUST COOPERATION WITH OUR FOREIGN COUNTERPARTS

Despite Covid-19-related restrictions to travel, the INPI succeeded in building stronger relations with foreign IP offices in 2021. The year was characterised by debates, meetings and the signing of bilateral agreements.



24-26 MARCH

16th mixed commission with the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)



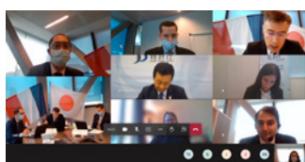
11 AND 12 MAY

7th Franco-Chinese meeting for Law and Justice



6 AND 7 JULY

Meeting with the Moroccan Office of Industrial and Commercial Property and the signing of the licence on 30 "Guidance sheets" from the 2nd edition of our "Guide to IP management for business managers"



10-14 JULY

Signing of the first Memorandum of Cooperation with the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property



20 JULY

32nd mixed commission with the China National Intellectual Property Administration



5 OCTOBER

Bilateral meeting with the *Institut National de la Normalisation et de la Propriété Industrielle* of Tunisia (National Institute of standardisation and industrial property)



7 OCTOBER

Bilateral meeting with the CEO of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property

19 OCTOBER

15th meeting of the Franco-Russian working group on the protection of intellectual property and the fight against counterfeiting

27 OCTOBER

8th mixed commission with the Japan Patent Office

25 NOVEMBER

Bilateral meeting with the Korean Intellectual Property Office and the signing of the first Memorandum of Understanding

7 DECEMBER

Meeting with the China Trademark Office



WIPO GENERAL ASSEMBLIES: THE INPI LEADS THE DEBATE

The 62nd session of the General Assembly of WIPO was held in Geneva from 4 to 8 October 2021.

These General Assemblies provide an opportunity to take stock of the work accomplished by the organisation over the previous year and determine the direction it should take.

The INPI actively participates in the work of the global intellectual property systems – PCT, Lisbon, Madrid and Hague – and in the different committees set up to determine a standardised international IP framework.

This year, Pascal Faure was elected for a two-year term as chair of the General Assembly of the Lisbon Union. This appointment reflects the INPI's ambition to strengthen its support of WIPO activities and cement its global position.

Pascal Faure was also appointed to chair the Group B+. Founded in 2005, the purpose of this group is to promote and foster the global harmonisation of substantive patent law. The work mainly focuses on five issues: grace period, mandatory publication of patent applications at 18 months, prior user rights, definition of prior art, and conflicting applications.

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is an agency of the United Nations with 193 member states. The organisation serves as a global forum for intellectual property services, policy, information and cooperation. The WIPO's General Assemblies – PCT, Lisbon, Madrid and Hague – each represent an international intellectual property system.



REVISED LOCATION STRATEGY FOR OVERSEAS COUNSELLORS

Since the 1990s, the INPI has developed an international network of regional intellectual property counsellors charged with raising awareness among public authorities and companies in countries considered as a priority on account of the nature of their markets.

In an effort to respond more effectively to the economic interests of French companies and help them tackle international IP issues, the INPI revised its strategy of global presence in terms of the locations of its regional posts of IP counsellors and the equal distribution of the regions they cover:

- The IP counsellor post in Seoul, South Korea was relocated to Tokyo, Japan
- The IP counsellor post in Sao Paulo was relocated to Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil
- Egypt was attached to the Near and Middle East region covered by our IP counsellor in the United Arab Emirates
- Mexico was attached to the North America region

The INPI currently employs **10** overseas IP counsellors covering almost **100** countries.



MEETING AND LISTENING TO ENTREPRENEURS

As they do every year, INPI staff attended a number of trade fairs, in-person and virtually, with a view to meeting company directors, innovators and project leaders and contribute the Institute's expertise towards devising, developing and optimising their intellectual property strategies.



"As a company developing disruptive technology, we are persuaded that intellectual property is not only vital for protecting our technologies and expertise, but also for planning ahead to develop new products and applications"

Clément Ray, President and co-founder of InnovaFeed, one of the start-ups invited to Viva Tech



THE INPI AT THE CES LAS VEGAS

The INPI returned to an all-digital CES Las Vegas, the highly-influential world trade fair for consumer technology. We joined Business France and 16 French start-ups in the IoT sector, which were guests at French Tech's *e-pavilion*, "France's consumer technology". Our counsellor in the United States advised the young companies on IP issues for exporters, informing them of the right moves and best practices to protect their innovations effectively abroad.

PARTICIPATING IN A REDESIGNED VIVA TECH

The INPI was present at the 5th edition of the Viva Technology trade fair, a leading event for emerging technologies and start-ups. During conferences and workshops broadcast online, our IP experts covered a number of subjects, including "patent mapping" and "IP as a strategy for faster growth". Several hundred participants watched our pitches and workshops.

Nearly 3,000 online visitors connected to our virtual stand where our experts could answer their questions and introduce them to the INPI services most suited to their needs.

The INPI also welcomed four disruptive technology start-ups to its stand for them to give their own account of how IP plays a key role in their overall business strategies.



GO ENTREPRENEURS! A SUCCESS STORY

Our longstanding partnership with the *Go Entrepreneurs!* trade fair, the former *Salon des entrepreneurs*, stretches back 28 years. We returned there to engage with innovators and company directors from Paris, Lyon, Marseilles and Nantes. Our experts answered their questions, in-person and virtually, on matters concerning the protection of intangible assets and informed them how to benefit from customised INPI support.

Nearly 2,000 people attended our conferences and workshops on a variety of topics – DATA INPI, business formalities, and more – with guest speakers and figures from the world of business, such as the founders of Myfood and JobPack.fr, who came to share their own experiences. Participants came away with a better understanding of the vital role that filing trademarks and an IP strategy contribute to a company's business model.



OUR EXPERTS JOIN DESIGNERS AT MAISON & OBJET

At Maison & Objet, an international fair trade for professionals in lifestyle, design and creation, the INPI met creators and designers to answer their questions about the best ways to protect their creations.

Our presence at the fair trade's venue provided our experts with an opportunity to engage with almost 250 visitors and exhibitors on issues relating to trademarks, designs, e-Soleau, counterfeiting and patents.



83 trademark clearance searches were carried out free of charge

HIGHLIGHTING SUCCESS



“It’s a great honour to be chair of the jury for this year’s INPI Awards. As a previous winner, I understand how important these innovation awards are for the companies involved. Just like in the natural environment, innovation is a vital process in business. It’s what enables us to continuously evolve and adapt to the world we live in. And intellectual property is one of the legal tools companies can use. Even for small companies, it’s important to explore the various options available with the help of experts. Intellectual property is part of a company’s intangible capital and contributes to its asset value.”

Hélène Szulc, chair of the jury



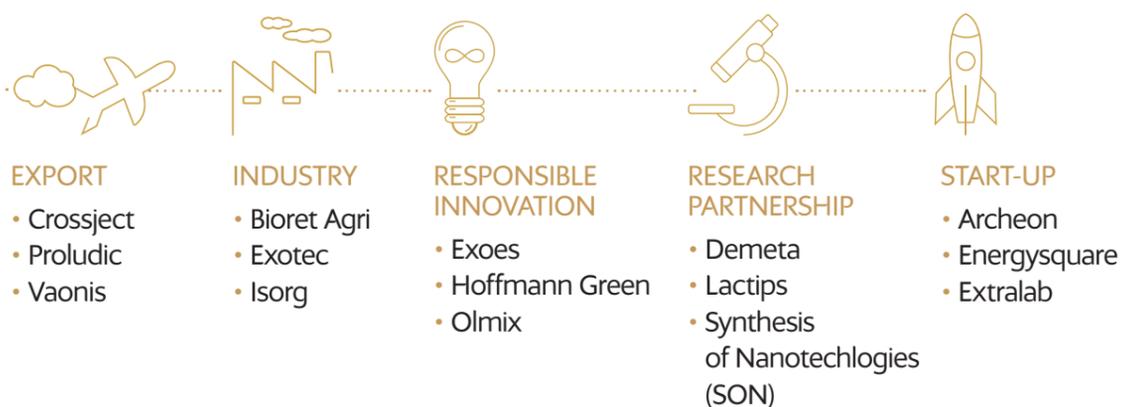
Hélène Szulc kindly agreed to chair the 2021 INPI Awards.

Passionate about the environment, she founded Tech Sub in 1995, a pioneering company in the industrial diving sector, which designs and develops new techniques for underwater work. Tech Sub was an INPI Award winner in 2008. Hélène Szulc’s keen interest in issues surrounding intellectual property prompted her to join the INPI’s board of directors from 2010 to 2016.

Introduced in 1991, the INPI Awards celebrated their 30th anniversary this year. Over the last three decades, they have promoted and rewarded innovative and emblematic French businesses for their exemplary intellectual property strategies. Fermob, Devialet, Nuxe and Moustache Bikes figure among previous winners, all of which made innovation a core driver of growth by pursuing a coherent and determined intellectual property policy.

15 FINALISTS: A REFLECTION OF FRENCH-STYLE INNOVATION

The anniversary edition of the INPI Awards was celebrated with a renewed and broader range of award categories with 15 competing SMEs and start-ups:



Reflecting the French innovation ecosystem, the jury was comprised of leading figures and experts from the public and private sectors.



THANK YOU!



THE WINNERS ARE



EXPORT PROLUDIC



Proludic has been a European leader in outdoor playgrounds and sports equipment for over 30 years. The company has designed and installed over 100,000 playgrounds worldwide. With a strong national and global footprint, Proludic offers its clients - local governments, schools, holiday parks - fun, innovative, customizable and long-lasting equipment. Proludic invests heavily in innovation, systematically filing applications to protect its inventive designs. With counterfeiting on the rise, intellectual property is crucial for underpinning business strategies in global markets.

- 1988** DATE OF CREATION
- 300** EMPLOYEES
- €70M** IN REVENUE, INCL. €52M FROM EXPORTS
- 26** FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARKS
- 187** DESIGNS



RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP LACTIPS



Lactips manufactures water-soluble, biodegradable thermoplastic pellets, made from the milk protein casein, which help combat pollution. Lactips' polymer has a variety of technical properties that meet the needs of manufacturers: in addition to being water soluble and biodegradable, it also has excellent sealing and barrier properties. This scientific innovation is the brainchild of an entrepreneur and a research lecturer. It is protected by a number of intellectual property rights, including some patents, which act as a guarantee of expertise and elevate its international profile, a strategy that has helped them win the trust of numerous investors.

- 2014** DATE OF CREATION
- 60** EMPLOYEES
- 7** PATENTS
- 2** FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARKS



INDUSTRY BIORET AGRI



Since it was founded in 1993, Bioret Agri has been developing welfare solutions for animals – mattresses, alleys, feeding steps, rubber flooring, and more – which reduce stress and promote hygiene, health and productivity. Industrial property is a central tool for this SME based near Nantes. All its technology, trademarks and designs are protected in order to secure its development, particularly abroad. For Bioret Agri, a well-structured innovation strategy reassures distributors and importers, while protecting innovative products.

- 1993** DATE OF CREATION
- 35** EMPLOYEES
- €21M** IN REVENUE
- 78** FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL PATENTS AND PATENT APPLICATIONS
- 26** FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARKS AND TRADEMARK APPLICATIONS
- 1** COMMUNITY DESIGN



START-UP ENERGYSQUARE



Energysquare is a company specialising in wireless charging technology. Founded in 2015, it develops and markets a patented conduction-based solution for wireless charging that can be used for several electronic devices (laptop, mobile phone, headset, speaker, etc.) at the same time. The solution eliminates interference, overheating and energy loss to offer the same efficiency and charging speed as a wired charger. The company's main commercial activity is the grant of licences to exploit its technology, making intellectual property central to its development and global strategy.

- 2015** DATE OF CREATION
- 14** EMPLOYEES
- 9** FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL PATENTS
- 6** FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARKS



RESPONSIBLE INNOVATION HOFFMANN GREEN



Hoffmann Green produces and markets a range of low-carbon clinker-free cements thanks to its heat-free manufacturing process. Based in Western France, the company's patented technology uses co-products from industry as part of its circular economy approach, thereby addressing the urgent need to decarbonise the cement industry. Innovation is core to Hoffman Green's industrial and commercial development. Protecting its industrial property forms a vital part of its business strategy, in France and abroad. Its logos, trademarks, technology and production process are protected by filed applications and its global development will be achieved through licensing.

- 2015** DATE OF CREATION
- 30** EMPLOYEES
- €504K** IN REVENUE
- 11** FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL PATENTS AND PATENT APPLICATIONS
- 69** FRENCH AND INTERNATIONAL TRADEMARKS AND TRADEMARK APPLICATIONS



WATCH TO FIND OUT MORE

Business figures on this page are courtesy of the companies.



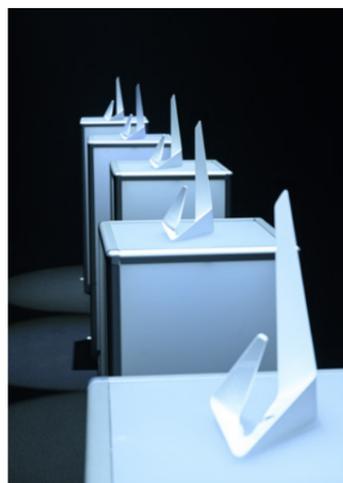
“We are proud to honour today the achievements of innovative companies, which have made industrial property a pillar of their growth. They will serve as models of inspiration for an entire generation of entrepreneurs. Providing innovative companies with regular support is central to our activity. You can therefore imagine our satisfaction when we see them grow and develop their competitive edge. They are the heartbeat of our economy and the stories behind them are full of rich human experience. For three decades, the INPI has awarded its Awards to talented start-ups, medium-sized businesses and SMEs, the representatives of French innovation. The list of 2021 prize-winners once more illustrates the wealth and inventiveness of France and its regions.”

Pascal Faure, INPI CEO

Finalists, international figures, journalists and institutional partners flocked to the INPI Awards ceremony held at the Elysée Montmartre to applaud the five winners. For this special evening celebrating the 70th anniversary of the INPI and the 30th of its Awards, the Institute was honoured to welcome Daren Dang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization, and Christian Archambeau, Executive Director of the European Union Intellectual Property Office.

“This year’s list of winners is particularly impressive. It shines a spotlight on companies taking an ambitious approach in an extremely competitive global environment and showcases success stories that will inspire French entrepreneurs in a wide variety of business sectors. It’s important that entrepreneurs make the effort to understand how intellectual property rights work: they’re basically tools of the trade, and it’s essential to know what options are available and what limits are involved, depending on your plans and the resources at your disposal. Intellectual property is part of a company’s intangible capital and contributes to its asset value. My advice to start-ups and small or very small businesses? Train up on intellectual property!”

Hélène Szulc, chair of the 2021 INPI Awards



THE INPI AWARDS IN THE PRESS: 173 ARTICLES, REACHING 24.2 MILLION PEOPLE



Telematin @telematin

Un plastique sans plastique 🌱
 100% biodégradable et recyclable (qui peut même servir d'engrais) alors que le #gouvernement a fixé la fin du plastique à usage unique d'ici 2040.

@LACTIPS_SA @INPIFrance

#CNRSInnovation | Parmi les 15 PME et start-up en course pour incarner l'innovation française aux #TrophéesINPI, 6 sont liées au @CNRS : @Vaonis_fr, @Exoes_fr, @olmixgroup, @Demeta_FR, @LACTIPS_SA et @Extralabi.

inpi.fr/sites/default/...



Jeux de plein air : comment le leader français Proludic se protège des contrefaçons asiatiques

Les matelas pour vache font un effet boeuf

Du ciment moins gourmand en énergie accessible aux particuliers

ENVIRONNEMENT Producteur de ciment bas carbone, la start-up vendéenne Hoffmann Green Cement Technologies va faire ses premiers pas dans la distribution.

UNVEILING OUR HERITAGE

Preciously preserved in the INPI's archives is a rich heritage constituted of all the patents, trademarks and designs filed in France since 1791. This mine of creativity, produced by generations of inventors, engineers, creators and artists, holds treasures of unique historical and documental interest, providing a source of inspiration for the inventions of today and tomorrow.



OUR TREASURES IN THE MEDIA

OUR TREASURES IN LE MONDE



Over the summer, *Le Monde*, a famous evening broadsheet, illustrated its weekly series on French inventions, *Un jour, un objet fait en France* with a patent, trademark or design from our archives. The newspaper's "Design" section paid homage to iconic French products, such as the Cherbourg umbrella, the Duralex glass, the Bic pen, the Solex bicycle, the Mulca chair and the Charantaise slipper, each of which is protected by one or several intellectual property rights.

THE JSS TAKES A FRESH LOOK AT THE NEWS

Les femmes dans le sport : toutes en selle !
 Quand les inventeurs et les inventrices mettent, dès le début du XIX^e siècle, leur imagination au service du sport au féminin.

La question de la place des pour elles, ne concerne pas des hommes, et celle des femmes dans le sport n'est à la fois longue des places, des championnes, des et occupent des semaines entières. Pour être en compagnie. Si elles ont apparemment le droit de participer à des compétitions sportives, elles sont autorisées au cours de l'histoire leur rôle, enfin, que ceux-ci soient privilégiés à l'exemple de certaines activités de « être plus des femmes, il faut de l'attention ou de la vitesse ». Le sport féminin est ainsi, qu'il s'agit de leur rôle de ces pratiques sportives occupent une affaire d'ordre social. Ainsi, même si que le sport, les exercices ainsi l'essence de l'imagination des Henri Desgranges, journaliste sportif, journaliste sportif, journaliste sportif. Le chef et le praticien français, déclare dans le journal *L'Auto*, leur doivent servir qu'il faut de l'équation sont historiquement le 5 juin 1920, à propos de cours de « ce rôle social ». Pour autant, dans l'usage des hommes notamment en matière de possession des entreprises, cette liste, les inventions, mais aussi, pour des fins de guerre. Pour autant, de la Fédération Française : « Top et surtout, les inventions les plus des femmes issues d'une certaine idée de Jeanne d'Arc, sont venues le début 2017, dans le monde des sports pour être également pratique au sport pour des raisons évidentes d'imagination pour adapter et faciliter l'éducation, développement des à peu de plus identifiables, toujours fut le principe féminin de certains sports. Le caillou, elles cherchaient en peu intéressantes. Le sport, pour exemples en images, cette pratique comme son origine au 20^e siècle, ni la bonne administration de son côté, ni la préparation aux formes. Les inventions imaginent alors des machines, ni la conquête des qualités. Signifiait déjà que les inventions tenues et des séries adaptées à cette manière indispensable pour leur destinées aux femmes, d'une manière pratique. Par exemple, la mesure son rôle social dans la vie. Le sport, générale l'ère domestique, mode descriptif du brevet de Benjamin



Since 2019, the *Journal Spécial des Sociétés*, a newspaper reporting on general, judiciary, legal and technical matters, has taken a fresh look at the news through the prism of INPI Treasures, using the story behind an invention, custom or activity. This year they discussed topical issues using cartoons, Napoleon, women and sport, and inventions to alleviate handicaps.

HAUTE COUTURE ARCHIVES IN RUNWAY MAGAZINE



RUNWAY MAGAZINE, an international fashion magazine and website available in nine languages, produced an article and a superb video on the House of Guerlain using heritage archives from the INPI. On the heels of Chanel N°5, Nina Ricci and the mini skirt, the House of Guerlain is the 7th opus in the Runway Magazine / INPI Treasure saga.

OUR TREASURES' BACKGROUND STORIES BEHIND



LE FLEUVE, SOURCE D'INVENTIONS: OUR TREASURES TAKE CENTRE STAGE

The inland water shipping and canal museum in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine hosted the first ever exhibition entirely devoted to 19th and early 20th century patents from the INPI's archives. The 33 patents and 59 original drawings, which illustrated the history of inland shipping, had never been publically displayed. The selection covered over 120 years of technical history and inventions (1795 to 1919).

Despite Covid-19-related restrictions, almost 1,800 visitors were able to discover ingenious inland shipping inventions for the transportation of men and merchandise alongside technical innovations to resolve problems, such as the force required to make a boat move upstream. The selection also included poetic examples boats, such as the aquarium boat and the flying skiff boat ball. Special visits were organised for schools, which included a specifically designed room to introduce the children to the exhibits.

22 October 2021 to 30 January 2022
 Musée de la Batellerie, Conflans-Sainte-Honorine

EXTRAORDINARY INVENTIONS IN NORMANDY

Inventions extraordinaires, the temporary exhibition at the clock making museum in Saint-Nicolas d'Aliermont, spotlights how clock making inventions have contributed to human progress by revolutionising daily lives, science and industrial production, or simply providing amusement and entertainment down the generations. The INPI has lent the exhibition three patents, one of which for an astonishing clock-cum-light device filed in 1871 – simply years ahead of its time!

2 October 2021 to 24 April 2022
 Musée de l'horlogerie, Saint-Nicolas d'Aliermont



116,318 views
 of our pages on Google Arts
 in 2021



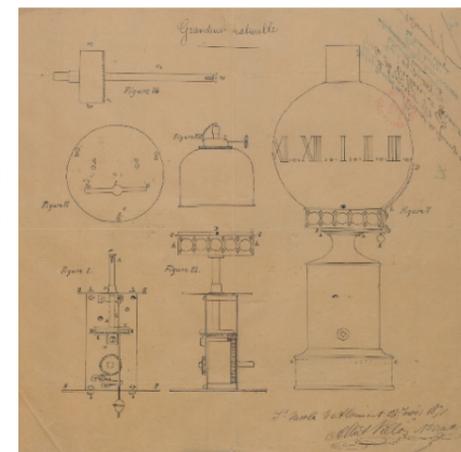
RECORD VIEWING OF OUR ARCHIVES ON GOOGLE ARTS & CULTURE

As a partner of Google Arts & Culture since February 2019, the INPI has been attributed a webpage for its historic archives featuring eight virtual exhibitions on inventions, such as the bicycle, deep-sea diving suits, vintage toys, inventions patented by women throughout the 19th century, and more. Users can also view a cross-section of more than 240 of our most beautiful old patent illustrations, including great inventions, famous inventors and outstanding illustrations.



In April, for the anniversary of the birth of Eugène Poubelle (1831-1907) our virtual exhibition on waste disposal inventions could be accessed directly from Google's homepage. In one month, it was viewed a record-breaking 95,000 times.

Great publicity for the INPI and our archival heritage!



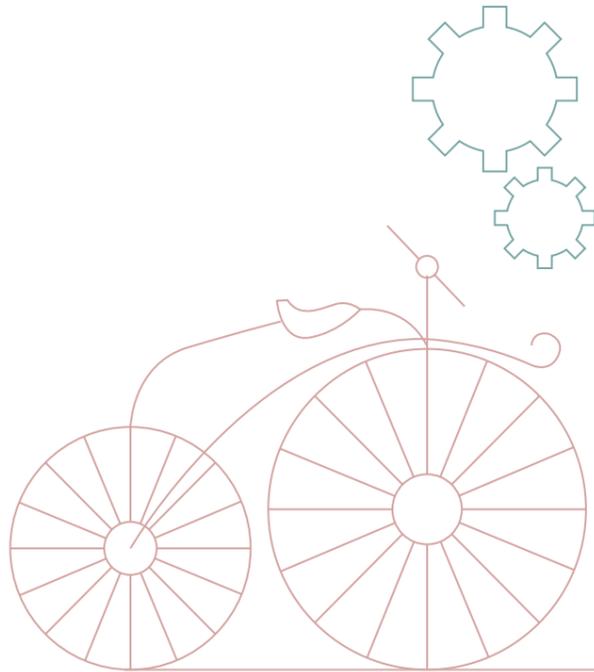
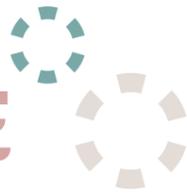
03

**UPGRADING
SYSTEMS**

FOR
MANAGEMENT



MANAGE



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

VOTING MEMBERS

- Sylvie Guinard**
President
Director of Thimonnier SAS
- Géraldine Guery Jacques**
Vice president
Director of Industrial Property/Patents, SEB Group, Representative of Corporate Industrial Property Practitioners
- Nicolas Dufourcq**
Managing Director, BPI-Groupe
- Olivier Gicquel**
Director of Intellectual Property, Airbus Operations SAS
- Anne-Laure Nabat-Flecher**
Representative of industrial groups interested in the protection of industrial property
- Clément Moreau**
Representative of industrial groups interested in the protection of industrial property – CEO and co-founder, Sculpteo
- Jean-Christophe Rolland**
President of the Compagnie nationale des conseils en propriété industrielle (French Patent and Trademark Attorneys Institute)
- A Representative of the Ministry in charge of industrial property**
Minister for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery
- The Director of Civil Affairs and Justice**
Ministry for Justice

The Director of the Budget
Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery

The Director of Legal Affairs
Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery

The Representative of the Ministry for Higher Education, Research and Innovation

Jérôme Chateau
INPI employee representative

Hocine Ihaddadene
INPI employee representative

MEMBERS ACTING IN AN ADVISORY CAPACITY

- Pascal Faure**
CEO of the INPI
- Christophe Harmant**
Chief Accountant at the INPI
- Francis Ponton**
Budget Controller at the General Economic and Financial Audit Department (CGEFI), Ministry for the Economy, Finance and the Recovery and Ministry for Government Action and Public Accounts

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Pascal Faure**
- Jean-Marc Le Parco**
- Hafid Brahmi**
- Philippe Cadre**
- François-Xavier de Beaufort**
- Florence Galtier**
- Nicolas Sennequier**

755
EMPLOYEES
AT END-2021

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

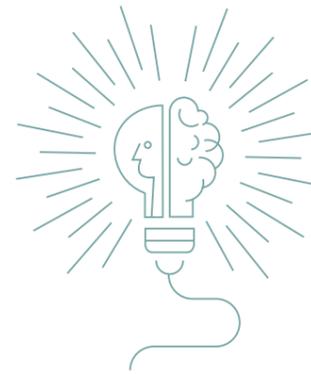
- Pascal Faure**
CEO
- Jean-Marc Le Parco**
Deputy CEO
- Christophe Harmant**
Chief Accountant
- Valérie Hohet**
Head of Communication
- Philippe Cadre**
Head of Industrial Property
 - Jérémy Fénel
Head of the Patents Department
 - Marie Roulleaux-Dugage
Head of the Trademarks and Designs Department
 - Anne Dufour
Head of the Data Department
 - Joris Reppert
Head of the Administrative Department
- François-Xavier de Beaufort**
Head of Economic Action
 - Véronique Spannagel
Head of the National Network Department
 - Aude Marty
Head of the Client Offer Department
 - François-Xavier de Beaufort (temporary)
Head of the International Network Department
- Nicolas Sennequier**
Head of Strategic Planning and Information Systems
 - Mostafa Ezzahoui
Head of the Information Systems Department
- Hafid Brahmi**
Head of Human Resources and Social Development
 - Philippe Hupel
Head of HR Development
 - Françoise Dol
Head of Administration and Remuneration
- Florence Galtier**
Head of Legal and Financial Affairs
 - Anne-Marie Brule
Head of the Finance Department
 - Laurent Mulatier
Head of the Litigation Department
 - Jean-Philippe Muller
Head of the Legal and International Department

We are delighted to welcome **Hafid Brahmi** and **François-Xavier de Beaufort**, who joined the INPI in 2021!

Board of directors and executive committee on 10 March 2022

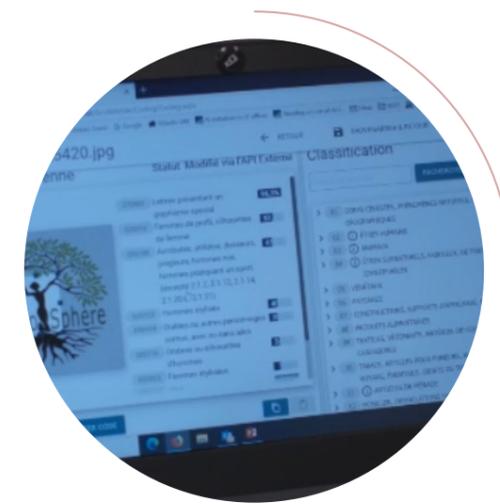
OPTIMISE

To guarantee the maximum efficiency of our operations and perfect our performance outcomes, the Institute is streamlining its tools.



TWO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TOOLS FOR GREATER EFFICIENCY

Two AI-driven tools were implemented in 2021 to increase the efficiency of our services. The first facilitates searches by automatically classifying figurative elements in trademark logos according to the Vienna Classification system. The second pseudonymises court decisions before their publication in order to protect personal data.



TRAINING STAFF FOR WATERTIGHT PUBLIC PROCUREMENT

With a view to ensuring optimal security for the Institute's public procurement, a vast training scheme on the fundamentals of procurement practices was deployed in 2021. 140 employees – procuring services and personnel from the finance and accountancy departments – attended eleven three-day in-house training sessions, including a workshop co-organised with a private company.

The training programme covered the three phases of public procurement: requirement specification, invitation to tender and assessment of and negotiations with bidders, and contract implementation. Emphasis was put on probity issues and risks in each of these phases. Those attending the sessions came away with a deeper understanding of the regulations, best practices and inherent responsibilities involved in public procurement.

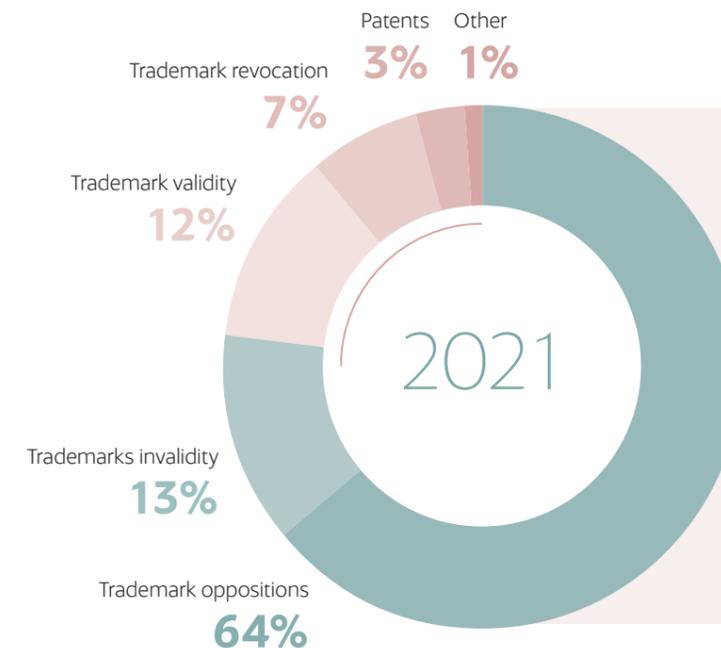
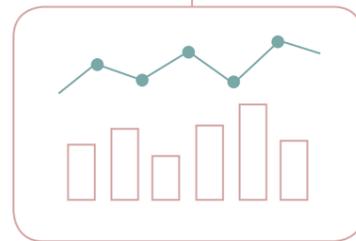
A NEW COST ACCOUNTING SYSTEM FOR MORE ACCURATE INPI ACTIVITIES AND PERFORMANCE METRICS

The INPI rolled out a new cost accounting system on 1 January. The system is designed to accurately measure INPI's activities and to build new management tools to steer its performance.

Our core professions worked closely with the Management Control and Internal Audit department to identify all the Institute's activities and incorporate them into the system.

By the end of June, all the INPI departments had been trained to use the new system.

The board of directors was presented with a first appraisal of costs relating to IP rights in June 2021.



APPEALS AGAINST DECISIONS MADE BY THE INPI CEO

In 2021, 195 appeals were lodged against decisions made by the INPI CEO. Disputes relating to oppositions to trademarks remain the most frequent, though they have dropped from 84% of total litigation to 64%. This is mainly due to a sharp increase in appeals with regard to trademark invalidity and revocation procedures, despite the limited number of decisions having been delivered so far. Only 3% of the appeals concerned patents.



EXAMINATIONS: INPI AND ACCESS TO THE LIST OF PERSONS QUALIFIED IN INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY

Responsible for organising intellectual property examinations, the INPI set up two examination sessions in 2021 for "Persons qualified in IP": the French patent qualification (EQF) and the Validation of acquired experience (VAE) for patents, trademarks and designs. 65 candidates sat the examinations, 52 of whom were added to the list of persons qualified in IP.

TRANSFORM

“Intelligence is the ability to adapt to change”, to quote the physicist Stephen Hawking. The INPI has taken this adage to heart, striving unrelentingly to train its teams and revise its working practices, location choice and tools.

GUICHET UNIQUE: A TRAINING SCHEME TO PREPARE OUR TEAMS FOR THEIR NEW MISSION

A multi-year training scheme for INPI staff has been deployed to support the roll out of the INPI's new mission to provide a service for business formalities. In 2021, over 140 employees from the Economic Action Department attended training sessions, the equivalent of 756 days of training. The scheme, which is designed for employees in direct contact with the users of the *Guichet unique*, familiarises them with the formalities and provides them with the information required to answer general questions from the new customers.



INPI BRITANNY MOVES OFFICES

The Brittany branch of the INPI moved into the Newton building in Cesson-Sévigné on the outskirts of Rennes on 13 December. They occupy a floor of the offices of the Regional Department for the Economy, Labour, and Employment and Solidarity (DREETS), with which it has close ties in matters of innovation.

The move is consistent with the INPI's multi-year real estate scheme, which aims to relocate regional branches to prime and easily accessible areas under more favourable financial terms whilst optimising the number of offices to best suit staff requirements.



A NEW PROTOCOL FOR REMOTE WORKING

Pioneering changes in working practices, the INPI signed its first remote-working protocol in May 2013. In 2019, 460 members of staff worked regularly from home and during the successive lockdowns, over 90% switched to virtual working.

Backed by its own experience, and in compliance with civil service regulations on remote working, the INPI signed a new protocol, which came into effect on 1 January 2021. This protocol simplifies access for remote working and details plans to introduce new arrangements allowing employees in suitably adapted jobs to work virtually for up to three days per week.



ATTRACTING NEW TALENT

With over 60 job vacancies filled in 2021, the INPI is hiring new staff and the word is out! To this effect, our recruitment teams took part in several forums and fairs such as the CEIPPI 2021 Job Fair, the PhDTalent Career Fair (IT and AI, General), the Courbevoie Employment Fair, and ESSEC's employment forum for employees with a disability. Viva Tech was also an opportunity to showcase our job offers and conduct interviews.

As part of the plan to broaden our appeal, our legal experts and engineers gave students a clearer picture of what their jobs entail at a conference for students taking Master's degrees at the Sorbonne University Paris 1 and Paris 11 Saclay, which has a special interest in the law on digital contents. They gave further job presentations to an audience of Master 2 students at the CEIPI and at the Engineer of the Future Trophies ceremony.

Vis ma vie de chargé de diffusion des données « marques »

Rencontre avec Nil Abrantes, chargé de diffusion des données « marques », au sein de la Direction de la propriété industrielle.

Quel a été ton parcours pour exercer le poste que tu occupes aujourd'hui ?

Nil Abrantes : Après mon baccalauréat et une prépa scientifique, j'ai intégré Central Nantes et suivi des études d'ingénieur mécanique, durant lesquelles j'ai réalisé deux stages : le premier en informatique, dans le secteur de l'aéronautique, le second dans un laboratoire de recherche, en Allemagne. Mais c'est à l'école, lors d'une présentation sur la **propriété industrielle (PI)** réalisée par un intervenant de l'INPI, que mon intérêt pour la PI s'est développé. A la fin de mon parcours universitaire, je me suis donc tourné vers l'institut pour trouver mon premier emploi.

Je suis entré à l'INPI en juin 2015 en tant qu'ingénieur de recherche, puis **ingénieur brevets**. En parallèle, je me suis impliqué dans différents projets transverses, notamment informatiques.



TALKING ABOUT OUR CORE PROFESSIONS

Future candidates can gain insight into our core professions by watching interviews with business experts, legal trademark experts and patent engineers. In these interviews, which are posted on the “*Nos Métiers*” page of INPI.FR, they discuss their work on a daily basis and life at the INPI.

This year gave rise to a fourth interview, “*Watch my life as a manager in charge of the dissemination of trademark data*”.

THE INPI WOULD
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AND INNOVATORS
CITED IN THIS REPORT
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TO PUBLISH
THEIR COMMENTS
AND REPRODUCTIONS
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P10-15 : INPI
P16-17 : INPI, Journal Spécial des Sociétés
P18-19 : Christina @wocintechchat.com
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P34-39 : Jean-Marie Cras, Bioret Agri, Energysquare,
Hoffmann Green, Lactips, Proludic, INPI
P40-41 : Le fleuve source d'inventions,
(musée de la Batellerie), Inventions extraordinaires
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