

Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP)



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AGIP Highlights Commitment to Intellectual Property Protection at Regional Workshop

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AGIP Highlights Commitment to Intellectual Property Protection at Regional Workshop



RIYADH – As part of its commitment to raising awareness and increasing knowledge of intellectual property among various sectors in the Arab world, Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) recently held a specialized workshop in Saudi Arabia.

The workshop took place in Riyadh on August 14, 2025, and was presented by Mr. Amro Hattab, AGIP's Internal Development Executive Director.

During the workshop, Mr. Hattab delivered an insightful presentation covering an introduction to intellectual property, the importance of respecting IP on government, public, and institutional levels, methods for protecting IP at both government and institutional levels, and the benefits of cooperation between government and institutions for effective IP protection. He also shared success stories from different entities that have successfully implemented IP protection measures, illustrating the practical benefits of robust IP management.

Mr. Hattab stated, "AGIP is keen on exchanging expertise, activating the potential of institutions in the Arab countries, and providing assistance to develop its works. We are ready to provide and assist any governmental or private entity in the Arab world with our valuable IP experience and support." This commitment highlights AGIP's key role in fostering a stronger IP culture in the region, helping to safeguard innovations and creative works that drive economic growth.

AGIP Holds IP Training for Customs Officials

AMMAN – In its ongoing efforts to raise awareness about Intellectual Property and provide training on related matters, Abu-Ghazaleh Intellectual Property (AGIP) conducted a second training session for Jordanian Customs officials this year.

The training was held at the Jordanian Customs headquarters in Madona on August 7, 2025, and was attended by a group of customs officials. The training shed light on topics related to protecting Intellectual Property Rights, illegal trade in Jordan, and the protection of trademark rights against infringements by others through the importation of goods bearing marks that violate the IPRs determined for them under applicable laws.

This training comes under a subsequent agreement between AGIP and Jordan Customs to organize specialized training courses and workshops for the employees of the Customs Department. The goal is to improve their knowledge and raise awareness of the various aspects of IP.





IP

UPDATES

Jordan's Ministry of Agriculture Announces Amendments to Plant Varieties Registration Regulations

AMMAN – The Ministry of Agriculture in Jordan has introduced important changes to the Plant Varieties Registration Regulations through Regulation No. 41 of 2025, set to take effect on August 16, 2025. These amendments aim to streamline the registration process and enhance protection for plant variety rights in Jordan.

Under the new regulations, annuity payments for plant variety rights will now be required exclusively in January per each year till the end of this month, replacing the previous payment window extending from January to April. Along with this, official fees related to filing, registration, publication, formal examination, and annuities have been revised to align with updated administrative needs.

Significantly, the updated regulations now permit the registration of all plant varieties classes except those species and varieties whose production and distribution are prohibited under Jordanian laws.

Sworn translations according to the new regulations are not requested and instead of this a simple signed translations are required to complete the filing formalities.

Applicants and rights holders are advised to take note of the revised payment schedule and updated fees when filing new applications or renewing existing plant variety rights in Jordan.

For further information, please contact AGIP Jordan office at jordan@agip.com



Libya's Trademark Office Moves under Commercial Registration Authority

TRIPOLI – The Libyan government has announced a major administrative change with the issuance of Decision No. 366 of 2025, transferring the Trademark Office from the administration of the Ministry of Economy and Trade to the Commercial Registration Authority. This move is designed to enhance the efficiency and management of trademark registration processes in Libya.

As part of this transition, the Trademark Office has temporarily suspended all operations pending the appointment of a new director. This pause will allow for a smooth adjustment period as the office aligns with its new administrative framework. Additionally, the office has relocated to a new building, which has impacted the acceptance of trademark applications. The office will resume accepting applications starting August 10, 2025, following a temporary closure that began three weeks ago.

For further details or inquiries, please contact us at libya@agip.com





Zanzibar: Industrial Property Office Implements New Fee Structure for IP Services

ZANZIBAR CITY - The Zanzibar Industrial Property Office has announced a significant revision to its official fee schedule for trademarks, patents, industrial designs, and geographical indications, effective August 11, 2025. The updated fee structure, published in the Zanzibar Government Gazette on July 18, 2025, introduces increases ranging from 50% to over 300%, alongside new charges for previously unlisted procedures such as association fees and opposition hearing fees.

In light of these changes, the Zanzibar Industrial Property Office recommends rights holders to carefully review their current applications and renewals, verify pending fees against the new schedule, and take timely action to complete their filings. Failure to do so may result in higher fees and delays.

For more information, please contact AGIP Africa office at Africa@agip.com

Ethiopia Joins the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property

ADDIS ABABA - Ethiopia has officially become a signatory to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property, with the agreement entered into force on August 15, 2025. This accession marks a significant step in the country's efforts to modernize its intellectual property framework and align with international standards.

The Paris Convention extends protection to a broad range of intellectual property rights, including patents, trademarks, industrial designs, utility models, service marks, trade names, and geographical indications, as well as provisions concerning the repression of unfair competition.

This move forms part of Ethiopia's broader strategy to foster innovation and attract foreign investment through a stronger and internationally harmonized IP environment.



AGIP

AROUND the WORLD

Yemen Office



Yemen Office:

AGIP's office in Yemen offers extensive support and protection for clients' intellectual assets, demonstrating the company's dedication to promoting innovation and safeguarding creative works in the region.

Our Yemen team specializes in a wide range of IP services, including patent and trademark registration, copyright protection, and IP portfolio management. By providing expert guidance and tailored solutions, our office strives to assist businesses, inventors, and creators in securing their rights and gaining a competitive edge in both local and international markets.

Our services in Yemen are designed to meet the evolving needs of a diverse clientele, from startups and entrepreneurs to established companies. Combining deep local knowledge with global best practices, our team ensures that clients receive effective and efficient IP solutions.

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ARTICLES



150,000 New Solar Panels
Arranged financing for \$243M in Solar Projects by end of the year

Stamp Prices To Increase
Announced plans to further increase stamp prices by 6% in July

Hackers deface government site

'Viral' vaccines early promise

Retailers show drone delivery plans

Port X-Ray finds dog in bag

Also in the News

Prices Continue To Fall

Year lows. Analysts forecast future prices decrease. See complete



US appeals court rules mass record collection



Less people go on vacation this year

Markets

	Price	Change	% Change
EUR/USD	1.0934	-0.0043	-0.12%
USD/JPY	115.3547	0.0	0.0%
GBP/USD	1.5254	+0.0052	+0.14%
AUD/USD	0.7654	+0.0042	+0.06%

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The Prisoner's Dilemma of Licensing: Collaborate or Litigate?


By: Amer Al-Nasser/ AGIP Nordic

When two companies each hold valuable patents the other needs, they face a choice: should they collaborate by licensing technology to each other, or take their chances in court? This situation often mirrors the classic prisoner's dilemma from game theory, a scenario in which two parties acting in their own self-interest can end up worse off than if they had cooperated. In the world of intellectual property, the "prisoner's dilemma of licensing" can lead firms to stockpile patents and sue, even when cooperation would benefit everyone.

A High-Stakes Game of Trust

Imagine two rival tech companies, A and B, each developing a new smartphone. Each owns patents on important features. Company A has a patent on a novel camera technology, while Company B holds patents on advanced battery tech. Both could benefit from using each other's innovations: the best phone would have both a great camera and a long-lasting battery. Now they have two basic options: collaborate (license patents to each other) or litigate (refuse to license and potentially sue if the other uses their tech).





It's a high-stakes trust game. If both companies collaborate and cross-license their patents, each can produce a superior product and avoid costly lawsuits. Consumers get better devices and the companies save on legal bills. However, if one side offers to license (cooperate) while the other side defects and litigates, the defector gains a big advantage. For instance, if Company A shares its camera tech but Company B refuses to license its battery and instead sues A for infringement, Company B could cripple A's product or extract large damages. The cooperative company ends up the loser. Because of this risk, both might be tempted to play it safe and not cooperate.

What if both choose to litigate and hold out? Each firm will try to block the other. A threatens B over camera features, B countersues over battery patents. The result: a legal deadlock or a delayed product, and millions spent in court. Often, after years of fighting, they end up settling or cross-licensing anyway, but only after incurring heavy costs. This is the lose-lose outcome, akin to both prisoners staying silent and getting harsh sentences in the classic dilemma.

Patent Arms Races and “Mutually Assured Destruction”

This dynamic has played out in real life. According to a Yale University interview with economist Stefan Wagner, the smartphone industry in the 2010s became a patent arms race. A prisoner's dilemma where “everyone has an incentive to have the biggest patent portfolio.” Each company feared that if it didn't accumulate patents, a rival would gain an upper hand. A vivid example was Google's situation with Android: Google entered the mobile phone arena with relatively few patents of its own, while competitors like Apple and Microsoft had huge patent libraries. Faced with the threat of litigation that could hobble Android, Google made a dramatic move, it bought Motorola's mobile division in 2011 primarily to acquire its 17,000+ patents. This defensive acquisition was essentially Google arming itself with patents so it could deter lawsuits or strike back if sued. In game theory terms, Google defected from pure cooperation to ensure it wouldn't be the lone loser without weapons in a world where everyone else was ready to litigate.

Big companies also engage in a form of détente: mutually assured destruction. If each tech giant holds thousands of patents, any lawsuit can be met with a counter-lawsuit. Knowing this, many firms choose to sign cross-licensing deals, effectively agreeing to share technologies and not sue each other. It's the cooperative solution that avoids mutual ruin. For instance, throughout the tech industry, there are extensive cross-license agreements (IBM alone has cross-licensed with countless companies for decades). These agreements allow innovation to proceed without constant fear of a lawsuit from a competitor holding an essential patent.

Conclusion

The “collaborate or litigate” decision is a delicate balancing act. Each company must weigh short-term self-interest against the long-term consequences of a patent war. The prisoner's dilemma teaches us that when trust is low, everyone might choose to fight, but both can end up worse off. Forward-looking companies try to break this cycle by building trust, through cross-licensing, alliances, and clear ground rules, so that collaboration becomes the winning strategy for both sides. In the end, a cooperative approach to licensing can spark more innovation and market growth, whereas constant litigation often means everyone loses time, money, and goodwill.