

## Seen and heard

# A round-up of IP-related quotes, observations and opinions from the recent past ...

The European Commission has today proposed new rules on the protection of undisclosed know-how and business information (trade secrets) against their unlawful acquisition, use and disclosure... The draft directive introduces a common definition of trade secrets, as well as means through which victims of trade secret misappropriation can obtain redress. It will make it easier for national courts to deal with the misappropriation of confidential business information, to remove the trade secret infringing products from the market and make it easier for victims to receive damages for illegal actions.

Extract from a [European Commission press release](#), 28th November 2013

The size of the fund controlled by Korean patent aggregator Intellectual Discovery is set to stand at a total of US\$350 million by 2015, a senior member of the firm revealed at an event in Seoul on 22nd November. Speaking at the Global IP Business Forum, Intellectual Discovery vice-president Mi-Chung Ahn told delegates that it had raised around US\$250 million since 2011, roughly one-third from government and two-thirds from the private sector... Currently, Ahn stated, the firm has a portfolio of 3,800 patents – half of which are Korean. Of the other half, 30% are US grants.

The [IAM blog](#), 1st December 2013

A review of the US patent assignment database reveals that six patents were transferred by ALU to a Vringo subsidiary, Vringo Infrastructure, on 30th October 2013. Vringo has yet to disclose the transaction in a press release or SEC filing. I am also speculating that ALU could have transferred patents to Vringo in other countries as part of a global agreement. The agreement is likely to have an upfront cash portion along with a backend payment from any recoveries. This would be similar to the NPE's Nokia patent acquisition in 2012.

[David Hoff](#) (The IP Hawk) writing for the [IAM blog](#), 2nd December 2013

By a vote of 325-91, the House of Representatives approved the Innovation Act, spearheaded by House Judiciary Chairman Bob Goodlatte (R., Va.)... The bill, which was co-authored by Republicans and Democrats, included several key elements that are intended to lessen the power of non-practicing entities.

Reported by [Rich Stevens](#) for [Inside Counsel](#), 5th December 2013

While our general philosophy is to act transparently and be diligent in explaining in detail to all our potential licensees how our patents are infringed by their products and how they can benefit from our reasonable licensing approach, we are also determined to take steps when such discussions are not conclusive.

[Jean Charles Hourcade](#), managing director of France Brevets, commenting on the news that the French sovereign patent fund had initiated patent infringement actions against LG Electronics and HTC in the United States and Germany, 9th December 2013

None of the policy positions of my former employers has guided my work... I certainly would be very welcoming of everybody's input.

[Michelle Lee](#), the former head of patents and patent strategy at Google, quoted by Reuters on the day it was announced she had been named as the new deputy director of the US Patent and Trademark Office, 11th December 2013

Intellectual Ventures has today launched a database that will provide details of around 33,000 patent assets that the firm currently owns and manages. Since 9:00 am PST, interested parties have been able

to visit the new Patent Finder page on IV's website to access a fully searchable directory that gives in-depth information on 82% of the firm's entire portfolio. This is a big step from IV, which has often been accused of a lack of transparency.

The [IAM blog](#), 16th December 2013

Wi-LAN Inc... has entered into a patent assignment agreement with Panasonic Corporation... under which Panasonic will assign to Collabo Innovations Inc., a new WiLAN subsidiary, certain patents from Panasonic Automotive & Industrial Systems Co., one of Panasonic's internal companies.

Extract from a press release issued by Canadian non-practising entity (NPE) WiLAN, 16th December 2013

On December 31, 2013, Spherix Incorporated... through its wholly owned subsidiary, Spherix Portfolio Acquisition II, Inc.... entered into its second agreement to acquire certain patents from Rockstar Consortium US LP... The Company acquired a suite of 101 patents pursuant to a Patent Purchase Agreement... in several technology families, including data, optical and voice technology... The Company issued \$60 million of its securities at an issuance price of \$8.35 per share of common stock (or 100% of the closing bid price on the date prior to issuance) for the Rockstar Patents.

[StreetInsider.com](#), 2nd January 2014

According to an official notice on the website of the State Intellectual Property Office of the PR China (SIPO), Shen Changyu has been appointed successor of Tian Lipu as Commissioner of SIPO. Commissioner Shen's prior position was President of the Dalian University of Technology (DUT). Born in 1963, Shen Changyu graduated from DUT with a doctor's degree in engineering. During his previous career, Commissioner Shen was actively involved in national research projects, held academic positions and has been a member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He has published numerous scientific books and articles.

Notice posted on the [European Patent Office website](#), 2nd January 2014

Inventergy Inc... has announced today that it has acquired approximately 500 patent assets from Panasonic Corporation... The portfolio covers key technologies in 3G and 4G communications, a field where Panasonic has been an early technology innovator.

Opening of a press release issued by US NPE Inventergy, 6th January 2014

Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics have agreed to attend a mediation session to be held on or before February 19, as they prepare to clash in court in March over smartphone patents... Apple CEO Tim Cook and Samsung CEO Oh-Hyun Kwon will attend the session with in-house lawyers only, according to a Wednesday court filing. Their legal teams had met on January 6 to "discuss settlement opportunities," the filing read.

[Reuters's report](#), 9th January 2014

Sisvel International S.A.... announced today the launch of a new licensing program for patents acquired from Panasonic System Networks Co., Ltd., a division of Panasonic Corporation, and which are essential to DSL technology standards; specifically the G.994.1 standard, which relates to handshake procedures for digital subscriber line (DSL) transceivers.

Extract from a press release issued by European NPE Sisvel, 9th January 2014