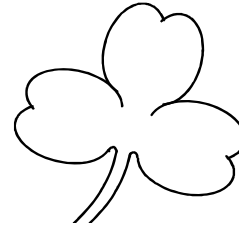




Happy St. Patrick's Day

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“Tip of the Month”

European Union Unitary Patent Package

For years, the European Patent system has been very expensive and complex. After granting a patent, the applicant is required to validate the granted patent in each of the European countries. Obtaining patent protection in the 27 Member States including the procedural costs could reach about \$54,000 compared to about \$2,800 for a US patent. These are just the filing fees and do not include any legal service fees.

On December 11, 2012, the European Parliament approved two regulations creating an enhanced European patent (the “Unitary Patent”). These European Union regulations established a language regime for the Unitary Patent and an international agreement setting up the Unified Patent Court (together the “EU Unitary Patent Package”).

The key features of the EU Unitary Patent Package are as follows:

- A. Reduces translation and related costs by up to 80%
 - One single administrative step: one patent application for an EU Unitary Patent to be valid in all of the 25 Member States taking part in the EU Unitary Patent Package. (No separate validation in each country required)
 - Simplification of language requirements: applications to be filed in English, French or German.
- B. Unifies patent litigation
 - Creation of a new Unified Patent Court to avoid duplication of litigation cases.

The EU regulations are valid for all Member States (except Spain and Italy) participating in this enhanced cooperation. The target implementation date for the Unitary Patent and the Unified Patent Court is April 1, 2014. The international agreement on the Unified Patent Court becomes effective upon ratification by 13 Member States, including the 3 Member States with the highest number of European patents.

The aim of the Unitary Patent System is to make Europe more attractive for investors and to bring Europe more into line with the patent systems in Asia and the US.

If you need help with your company’s patents or would like to learn more about the patent application process and its benefits, the attorneys at Mesmer & Deleault are ready to help. Please give us a call at (603) 668-1971 or contact us by e-mail at *mailbox @ biz-patlaw.com* to schedule an appointment.

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