

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT IP LAW IN ISRAEL

A. Israel's Technological Development

With the rapid advances in technology, the reputation of Israel's hi-tech industries has come to be recognized as a valuable national resource, supplying a major impetus to the country's economy. The Israeli tradition of creativity and entrepreneurial drive combined with the individual sense of responsibility for achievement has propelled the relatively small country to a world presence in scientific and technological development. Israel is noted for its hi-tech telecommunications, Internet security and military defense industries, as well as for its more traditional agricultural irrigation and agronomics industries. In a recent survey, Israel ranked 6th worldwide as a country that was awarded the most patents by the US Patent Office on a per capita basis.

B. International Treaties

Israel is a member state under the Paris Convention, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), the Berne Convention, the Universal Copyright Convention, international trademark conventions including Madrid, Nice, Lisbon and Strasbourg Agreements, and has effected TRIPS-related legislation to advance harmonization of international protection of intellectual property rights

C. Legal System

Israel is noted worldwide for its strong legal system, including local, regional and national level courts. The Israeli Police have a special unit for IP protection, enabling the enforcement of IP rights through accepted legal doctrines such as preliminary injunctions, search and seizure orders, and customs inspection to limit importation of grey-market goods.

D. Technology Incubator Program

The Israeli Government has sponsored a network of technology incubators with locations throughout the country, drawing together the talents of scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs. The idea of technology incubators was born in the wake of a large wave of immigration to Israel in the 1980's of a talented, technically trained population, notably from the former Soviet Union. The technology incubators soon became an institutional vehicle enabling absorption of this human resource potential in the national economy, resulting in development of jobs and the opening of new industrial fields, via many new hi-tech companies which had their early beginnings in this mode.

E. University Research

Israel has a number of leading universities noted for their technology training and research, including the Technion Institute of Technology in Haifa, Haifa University, Bar-Ilan University, Tel Aviv University, Ben-Gurion University and The Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Each of these major universities have developed specialized departments promoting commercial development of research achievements, namely by way of technology licensing and R&D contracting. Those achievements have led to the founding of many spin-off companies which are at the forefront of the technological development mentioned previously. Israeli university academics have many technical publications to their credit in worldwide professional organizations, contributing to the open exchange of ideas and advancing the levels of technology in a wide variety of fields, providing society as a whole with many benefits, and distinguishing Israel as a leader in many technological fields.