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## JNUMBERS

### 1.800

China's Ministry of Industry and Information Technology recently released a paper encouraging promoting IPR development among industrial firms, medium and small business. SIPO actively coordinate and jointly promote implementation of related policies with other ministries. Up to now, more than 1,800 enterprises have been involved standards effectuat-

## 1800家

日前,中国工业和信息化部分 别针对工业企业和中小企业发文, 指导和支持企业开展知识产权工 作,促进企业增强创新能力和核心 竞争力。中国国家知识产权局积极 会同有关部门推动相关政策实施, 同时指导各省市积极推动贯标工 作。据不完全统计,截至目前,全国 已有约 1800 家企业开展知识产权 贯标工作。

Days ago, Changsha County in Hunan province was selected with other 21 counties as the IPR model county. From March 2009 until now, 6,666 patents with an annual growth rate of 46.47% have been filed in Changsha. Patent applications and invention applications both remain the top in the province.

## 6666 件

日前,中国国家知识产权局印发 了《关于确定国家知识产权强县工 程示范县(区)的通知》,确定了包括 长沙县在内的全国 22 个知识产权 强县工程示范县(区)。长沙县自 2009年3月以来,全县共提交专利 申请 6666 件,年均增长 46.47%,专 利申请量和发明专利申请量均列全 省县级第一。

## 49.66%

Latest statistics from SIPO reveals that, 5,398 inventions have been filed in Guangxi province in the past eight months this year, up 88.02%. 877 inventions have been granted, up 49.66%, the fastest growth in China.

## 49.66%

日前,中国国家知识产权局最新 统计数据显示,2013年1月至 8月,广西提交发明专利申请 5398件,同比增长88.02%,增长率 居全国第一位;2013年1至8月获 得发明专利授权 877 件,同比增长 49.66%,增长率居全国第一位。

According to a conference for distance IPR education held in Hubei province, 100,000 people have registered as the students, and 77.36% of them have passed the examination.

## 10 万

日前,湖北省知识产权远程教育 工作推进会在孝感召开。截至目前, 湖北省注册学员人数已突破 10 万 人,考试合格率为 77.36%。

As of the end of 2012, each 10,000 citizens in Suzhou High-Tech Zone hold 16.44 patents. 10,829 patents have been filed and 5,767 were granted. Invention application and granting witnessed an increased of 48.79% and 39.41% respectively.

## 1.0829 万

截至2012年底, 苏州高新区每 万人口发明专利拥有量达到 16.44 件。全年共提交专利申请 1.0829 万件, 专利授权 5767件;其 中发明专利申请量、授权量分别同 比增长 48.79%和 39.41%。

## Patent examination cooperation Sichuan center founded

中国国家知识产权局与四川省政府、成都市政府签署共建协议

# 专利审查协作四川中心落户成都



Sichuan Governor Wei Hong (L) exchanges agreement with SIPO Comissioner Tian Lipu. 图为四川省省长魏宏(左)与国家知识产权局局长田力普出席签约仪式

Photo by Jiang Wenjie

tion cooperation center, following by Beijing center, Guangdong center, Jiangsu center etc., the Sichuan center was recently set up in Chengdu, capital of Sichuan province. On October 9, SIPO, Sichuan government and Chengdu government jointly signed an agreement in building this patent examination cooperation center. According to the Framework Agreement on building the Patent Examination Cooperation Sichuan Center of the Patent Office, SIPO and Sichuan province will join hands in promoting the project construction.

At the same day, representatives from SIPO, Sichuan province and Chengdu, jointly signed another agreement on job assignment in the

The Sichuan center is the first one of its kind in Western China. By the end of 2018, the Sichuan center will have 2,000 employees

and 110,000 invention applications will be examined each year.

(by Zhou Yuli) 本报讯 10月9日,由中国国 家知识产权局、四川省人民政府、成 都市人民政府共建的国家知识产权 局专利局专利审查协作四川中心(下 称四川中心)签约仪式在成都举行。 四川省省长魏宏、中国国家知识产权 局局长田力普等出席签约仪式。在签 约仪式上,中国国家知识产权局和四 川省人民政府签署了《国家知识产权 局、四川省人民政府关于共建国家知 识产权局专利局专利审查协作四川 中心的合作框架协议》, 中国国家知 识产权局、四川省政府、成都市政府 还共同签署了《关于共建国家知识产 权局专利局专利审查协作四川中心

任务分工协议书》。 据悉,位于成都市天府新区核心 区的四川中心目前是中国国家知识 产权局在西部地区设立的唯一一个 专利审查协作中心。到 2018 年底,四 川中心工作人员规模将达 2000 人左 右, 年审查发明专利申请能力将达 11 万件。

(周渝利)



## **EXPRESS** Susino triumphs in a trademark case 梅花伞业海外维权最终告捷



o Susino Umbrella Inc., they might never forget the day when Spanish judges ruled in favor of them in a trademark dispute started 3 years ago. Susino was once registered as a trademark by a Spanish named Ricardo Arroyo Martinez for his own three years ago. The court finally supported Susino Umbrella's appeals and Martinez's registration was voided.

Without doubt, Susino's Victory gives a hand to this China's leading manufacturer and exporter of umbrella to further explore EU

### Trademark was registered by others

Huang Xiaoyuan, a legal manager for Susino Umbrella's lawsuit, has participated in this lawsuit since they decided to sue. According to Huang, the Susino Umbrella was founded in September 1995. Since then, Susino Umbrella has engaged in the design, manufacturing and distribution of various types of umbrellas. Up to now, Susino Umbrella has produced more than 10 million umbrellas each year, which were exported to more than 100 countries and regions.

In 2003, Susino Umbrella broke into the EU market. In the following three years, the Susino Umbrella and their products have gained recognition and popularity among customers in EU market. Unexpectedly their business has conquered a trademark squatting.

Martinez filed Susino as a trademark on class 18 for products of leather goods and umbrella, class 22 for fibre textile materials, class 25 for clothes, shoes and hats.

According to Huang, Martinez owns an umbrella factory in Spain and sells his umbrellas mainly to customers in EU. To Martinez, Susino Umbrella's arising is a real blow, and he decided to set a barrier to Susino Umbrella from entering EU market.

Since then, Susino Umbrella initiated the suit against Martinez.

## A costly victory

In January 2010, Susino Umbrella hired a France law firm to challenge the trademark Susino filed by Martinez on products of umbrella and sunshade. In November 2011, Susino Umbrella hired a British based law firm to challenge the dispute trademark on the Classes mentioned above.

Huang says that Martinez is familiar with the EU law system and has tried his best to keep this trademark for him own. On one hand, he challenged the evidences presented by Susino Umbrella, and on the other hand, he tried to solve this case in a peaceful way on the condition of being Susino's sole agency in EU market. "We won't easily give up and comprise, we dispute." says Huang.

In December 2011, The Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) revoked Martinez's registration. Martinez then sought camination and tried to challenge OHIM's decision, but denied by the Reexamination Board. In consideration of Martinez's no attempt to appeal, the trademark was finally given back to Susino Umbrella.

In Huang's eyes, it is a costly victory. Susino Umbrella has spent more than 1 million yuan to the lawyers, let alone the other expenditures and the potential economic loss due to the lawsuit.

The Martinez's case is not the first one Susino Umbrella has conquered. In December 2007, Susino Umbrella's American business partner registered Susino as a trademark for their own in the U.S. That case lasted for four years and ended up with a settlement that the trademark was returned to Susino Umbrella and will never interfere or defames Susino Umbrella's business in the U.S.

"These two cases have taught us profound lessons. Chinese companies must file trademarks before they decide to develop oversea markets. In the last two years, Susino Umbrella has spent more than 1 million yuan on trademark registration in more than 120 countries, including Spain, the U.S, Russia and Albania." says Huang.

Huang Hui, a researcher from Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and an IPR expert, pays close attention to the development of the case. He told CIP news that most countries in the world adopt the first-to-file system in protecting trademarks. "In that case, it will cost a lot for the original right holders to win back the trademarks. As a result, the companies aiming to explore the international markets should file the trademarks first and the parties involved should define trademark ownership when concluding the contracts." Huang Hui says.

(by Mao Liguo) 位于素有"中国伞都"之称的福 建省晋江市东石镇的梅花伞业股份 有限公司(下称梅花伞业),日前终于 长舒了一口气。历时3年,其在西班 牙终于赢得了"SUSINO"商标跨国

"赢的不仅是商标之争,更是至 部经理黄小源坦言。

## 半路杀出"程咬金"

据黄小源介绍,梅花伞业成立 于 1995 年 9 月,2007 年成为中国国 内首家上市的晴雨伞企业。目前,梅 花伞业年产自有品牌阳伞 1000 多 万把,"梅花 SUSINO"系列产品不 仅畅销国内各地,而且远销俄罗斯、 美国、西班牙等 100 多个国家和地

"2003年梅花伞业开始进军欧 盟市场,2006年梅花伞业在国际市 场推广的自主品牌已取得一定成绩, 'SUSINO'品牌系列产品在欧盟多 个国家获得市场的认可,品牌已颇具 影响力。"黄小源说。然而,就在梅花 伞业在欧盟打算大显身手之际,却未 料到"半路杀出程咬金"—— "SUSINO"商标被他人在欧盟抢先 注册。

2006 年 5 月 , 西班牙人 Ricardo Arroyo Martinez(下称抢注人)在欧 盟提出第 18 类皮具产品和伞类产 品、第22类纤维纺织原料产品、第 25 类服装、鞋、帽商品上"SUSINO"

商标的注册申请。 黄小源表示,抢注人系西班牙一 雨伞生产企业的董事长,其主要经营 范围为欧盟地区。梅花伞业的 "SUSINO"品牌在欧盟市场日益走 俏,已经影响到抢注人的产品在欧盟 市场的销量,所以其抢注"SUSINO" 商标并非为了高价转让给梅花伞业, 而是为了阻碍梅花伞业在欧盟市场

此后,梅花伞业便在异国他乡展 开了一场"商标保卫战"。

## 斥资百万打"李鬼"

2010年1月,梅花伞业委托法 国一家律师事务所,对已被抢注的 商标在伞和阳伞类别上提出撤销申 请。2011年11月,梅花伞业又聘请 英国律师团队对抢注商标 "SUSINO"在3个类别上提出撤销 申请。

黄小源向记者表示:"抢注人深 谙欧盟法律,在撤销审理期间,一边 以各种理由对梅花伞业的证据提出 质疑, 想通过质证手段拖垮我们;一 边多次联系梅花伞业,提出以成为梅 花伞业在欧盟的独家代理为条件的 协商解决办法。"然而梅花伞业却顶 着重重压力,最终赢得了这场跨国商 标保卫战的胜利。

2011年12月,欧洲内部市场协 调局撤销了抢注人的 "SUSINO" 商 标在伞和阳伞商品上的注册,随后抢 注人对该撤销裁定提出复审请求,最 终复审委员会维持了撤销裁定。日 前,抢注人的上诉期限已过且未提起 上诉,至此梅花伞业欧盟维权之争终

于尘埃落定。 黄小源向记者表示:"此次为了 保卫'SUSINO'商标,梅花伞业至少 付出了几百万元的代价,仅聘请律师 的费用就多达 100 多万元,同时 3 年 多的时间使得梅花伞业开拓欧盟市 场的计划受阻带来的损失更加难以 计算。"

据了解,此次并非梅花伞业首次 海外维权,2007年12月梅花伞业 "SUSINO"品牌在美国就曾被助其 开拓美国市场的中间人(下称美国抢 注人)以自己的名义抢注"SUSINO" 商标。经过4年时间的努力,美国抢 注人最终与梅花伞业达成和解,将 "SUSINO"商标转让给梅花伞业,并 且承诺不再对梅花伞业在美国市场 的经销行为进行干扰。

"防患于未然,进军国际市场,一 定要商标先行",黄小源表示,梅花伞 业从这两起案件中吸取教训,近两年 先后投入 100 余万元,在西班牙、美 国、俄罗斯、阿尔巴尼亚等 120 多个 国家和地区进行商标国际注册。

对此,中国社会科学院知识产 权中心兼职研究员黄晖表示,大多 数国家在商标保护上都是实行申请 在先原则, 如果企业未申请注册商 标,而是被他人抢先注册,即使能证 明他人是在知晓其商标的情况下申 请注册的,企业也需要投入大量的 人力物力去诉争。在企业无法证明 其在先使用及对方恶意抢注的情况 下,往往只能承担败诉的结果。因 此,企业应在目标市场尽早申请商 标注册,至少在签订销售代理时要 对商标归属进行明确约定, 提前进 行商标的战略布局。

(毛立国)

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