Neste Oil implemented CPA Global’s Ipendo Platform for the centralised management of its IP portfolio. The technology securely connects all aspects of Neste Oil’s IP activity, from inventor disclosure through to the payment of renewals.

Historically, Neste Oil managed their portfolio via an internally developed database. As their portfolio grew to over 2000 IP rights, it became increasingly apparent that the system could not scale to their needs. The database was unable to support key functions such as automated workflows across various stakeholders and processes. For example, data could not be automatically exported in a format that could then be used by Neste Oil’s patent renewals service provider. The system was also unable to store the actual IP-related documents meaning the documents had to be filed separately on – and accessed from – a different server. As a result, a significant amount of time was being spent by highly skilled staff on routine administrative tasks such as locating documents, uploading them to the server and recording the status of activities.

A particularly significant issue was inventor disclosure, which was handled entirely by email and proved to be both time-consuming and potentially insecure. An inventor was first required to document the idea on paper, then scan and email it to the IP department which would then forward it on to the relevant person for technical review. The reviewer would then send their analysis back to the IP department, which would be responsible for keeping track of the process and ensuring the relevant documents were appropriately stored. As there was no automated record of who had accessed which document and when, no audit trail could be established. It was also common to find multiple versions of the same document being circulated at the same time.

As a multinational company with a growing patent portfolio, Neste Oil recognised the need for a sophisticated IP management system.
THE SOLUTION

Enhanced IP Portfolio Visibility

Neste Oil understood the benefits of a centralised IP management system that could connect key stakeholders, promote awareness of IP rights across the business and enhance efficiency. Therefore, having evaluated several different solutions against their requirements, the company chose CPA Global’s Ipendo Platform. The company also selected CPA Global’s Inventor Disclosure Interface and patent renewals service, allowing the system to track information all the way through from the submission of new ideas to the renewal of IP rights.

As an intuitive, web-based tool, the Ipendo Platform enables Neste Oil’s IP department to securely collaborate and share information with its inventors and third parties while retaining ownership and control of the centralised system. This saves the IP department significant administration time as it no longer needs to act as the gateway responsible for collating and uploading documents into the centralised system. For example, inventors can easily upload their ideas into the system and track a submission’s status via a link on Neste Oil’s intranet, with no specialist training required.

The company can moderate access to sensitive IP information according to pre-defined rules. External counsel, for instance, can be given access only to the patent families or aspects of the portfolio that they are managing.

The Ipendo Platform system enables Neste Oil to easily and quickly produce tailored, up-to-date IP management reports for senior management. In addition, the speed and ease-of-use of the system also means that such information can be accessed and demonstrated in real time.

THE BENEFITS

Streamlined IP Management

Real-time availability and total control

As a web-based system, the Ipendo Platform enables Neste Oil to obtain a complete overview of the IP portfolio at any time and from any location. The IP department retains ownership of the centralised system, but can easily connect, communicate and collaborate with the wider organisation and approved third parties.

Significant time efficiencies

Through a centralised system that offers automated workflow capabilities, the IP department reduced the time it spent on administration tasks and generating reports. For example, patent information stored within the Ipendo Platform is now automatically sent to CPA Global as part of the patent annuities payment process.

Data Security

Storing and sharing all IP documents within the Ipendo Platform ensures data security and provides an automated audit trail of who has accessed what and when. As a dedicated IP management tool the Ipendo Platform also incorporates additional functions to help mitigate common portfolio management related risks. For example, a built-in alert will notify Neste Oil’s IP department if any patent payment data is missing that could lead to a patent renewal deadline being missed.

For further information please contact us at ipinfo@cpaglobal.com

With CPA Global’s Ipendo Platform, we have a comprehensive IP management system and not just another database. Our ability to securely connect, communicate and collaborate on IP matters has significantly improved.

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