German Patent
and Trade Mark Office

Annual Report 2024

Contents

OVERVIEW

IP rights in figures

Patents

153,654
patents in force on 31/12/2024

45,242 (+6.0 %)
examination procedures concluded

23,944 (+7.1 %)
grants published

59,260
+1.0 %
Applications in total and change in %

19,196
-4.8 %
including applications from abroad

92.2 %
Online applications
(National patent applications)

Utility modelsr

64,009
utility models in force on 31/12/2024

9,921 (+6.5 %)
registration procedures concluded

9,064 (+8.9 %)
with registration

9,577
-1.3 %
Applications in total and change in %

4,343
+3.7 %
including applications from abroad

76.2 %
Online applications
(National utility model applications)

Trade marks

897,701
Trade marks in force on 31/12/2024

74,889 (+5.8 %)
registration procedures concluded

49,991 (+2.7 %)
with registration

77,221
+2.6 %
National applications in total and change in %

6,916
+21.7 %
including applications from abroad

87.1 %
Online applications
(National trade mark applications)

Designs

238,193
Designs in force on 31/12/2024

4,013 (+6.1 %)
procedures concluded for a total of 30,675 designs

3,549 (+4.7 %)
with registration for a total of 28,024 designs

28,024
+3.7 %
Registered designs in total and change in %

2,057
+28.0 %
including applications from abroad

92.0 %
Online applications
(Design applications)

PREFACE

Dear readers,

The prospects are better than the current situation, Germany has many opportunities in terms of AI and our country could become world leader in important future technologies: some of you may hardly believe it, but these sentences are not merely wishful thinking. They are headlines from the year 2025, based on the statements of renowned experts. The pessimistic mood of the last years, influenced by wars and crises, is cautiously giving way to an optimistic — or let us say: an opportunity-oriented — outlook. And the political decision to make investments of historic proportions gives further impetus to this development. The media are talking about a "€1 trillion windfall".

Germany's and Europe's role in the world will also depend on whether we succeed in shaping the industries of the future. The confidence to keep pace with the most innovative countries in regard to key technologies is therefore of particular importance. The DPMA's annual report of 2024 justifies this confidence: an analysis of the number of patent applications that have been published for important technologies in the last years indicates that lately Germany has been catching up in the field of digital technologies. However, the analysis also shows that, in the long run, our country has lost ground overall.

So where does this path lead us? Unfortunately, it is the nature of opportunities that they can be missed. This is why combining our strengths and acting together and with determination matters more than ever. In its coalition agreement, the new federal government emphasised the great strategic importance the protection of intellectual property has for supporting new technologies — we will present a national IP strategy, it says. And as DPMA President, let me state clearly: we are ready whenever and wherever our expertise is needed for this!

On the following pages, you can find out more about the development of applications for the registered IP rights patent, utility model, trade mark and design in Germany. You will also gain insights into what the DPMA does in order to protect intellectual property and to raise public awareness of this protection's value. The article by SPRIND, the Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation, also explains the immense importance IP rights have for the commercial success of ground-breaking innovations, for increasing economic prosperity and for contributing to solving social problems.

I hope you enjoy this report — and stay innovative!

Yours, Eva Schewior

President of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) Eva Schewior

TASKS AND ORGANISATION

The German Patent and Trade Mark Office: first-hand service and quality

Every day, our staff experience first-hand what it means to be part of the “Land of Ideas”. It is the ideas of our customers who consciously choose the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) to protect their know-how. This is because effective action against plagiarism and counterfeiting is possible, above all, on the basis of IP rights: Patents, utility models, trade marks and designs effectively protect intellectual property — be it a technical invention, a creative trade mark or the colours and shapes of a new product.

The DPMA is the German centre of expertise for the protection of intellectual property. A higher federal authority, it is subordinate to the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. With the examination of IP rights and the provision of services, our office promotes the innovative power and creativity of industry and plays an essential role in the international IP system. We examine inventions, grant patents, register trade marks, utility models and designs and manage, and inform the public of, IP rights. As the largest national patent office in Europe and the sixth largest national patent office in the world, our office stands for the future of Germany as a country of inventors in a globalised economy.

Its staff of approximately 2,800 at four locations provide services to inventors and companies.

- **Munich**
  DPMA headquarters including senior management, administration and legal divisions as well as patent, trade mark and utility model divisions, arbitration boards
- **Jena**
  Sub-office with administrative and IT units as well as design division, an additional trade mark division and three patent divisions that are being established
- **Berlin**
  DPMA Information and Service Centre (DPMA-IDZ)
- **Hauzenberg**
  Branch office with several teams for provision of information and for Customer Care and Services

In organisational terms, the DPMA is divided into four Directorates General:

Directorate General 1 — Patents and Utility Models

» More than 1,000 patent examiners organised in five clusters (Mechanical Engineering, Mechanical Technology, Electrical Engineering, Chemistry and Medical Engineering as well as Physics) with 40 patent divisions in total
» Utility model and topography division
» Patent and utility model administration

Directorate General 2 — Information

» Information services for the public and internal information services: database search, library, classification systems, Customer Care and Services, Internet editorial office
» Support for the 16 German patent information centres
» Operation and further development of all information technologies of the DPMA

Directorate General 3 — Trade Marks and Designs

» 13 teams in three divisions for trade mark examination
» Trade mark cancellation division
» Design division with design unit

Directorate General 4 — Administration and Law

» 16 specialist areas in four divisions, occupational health management
» All administrative tasks, including personnel and facility management, organisation as well as budget and legal affairs
» Patent attorneys and other agents as well as supervision of collective management organisations under the Act on Collective Management Organisations (*Verwertungsgesellschaftengesetz*)

Organisation chart

Senior management

President
Eva Schewior

Vice-President
Bernd Maile

Vice-President
Dr Maria Skottke-Klein

Heads of the Directorates General

Directorate General 1
Patents and Utility Models

Dr Bernd Läßiger

Directorate General 2
Information

Robert Lemperle

Directorate General 3
Trade Marks and Designs

Katharina Mirbt

Directorate General 4
Administration and Law

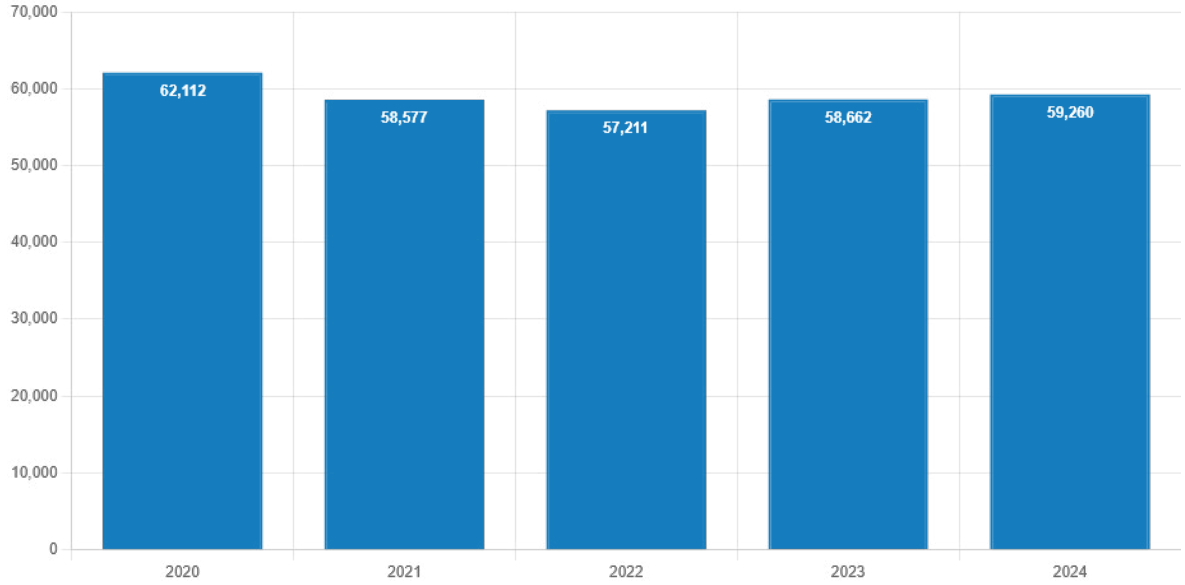
Marion Kreß

PATENTS

OVERVIEW

Development and origin of patent applications

Performance figures in patent examination



Patent applications at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office

In 2024, the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) saw another slight increase of 1.0% in new patent applications. In total, it received 59,260 patent applications (national applications and PCT applications upon entry into the national phase) (2023: 58,662). We received 4.0% more domestic applications than in the previous year. After the years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the innovative activity in German companies seems to increase again; and, despite the difficult situation, German companies heavily invest in research and development. In general, the protection of innovations continues to be of great importance in industry.

After a patent application has been received, the applicants have seven years to initiate the examination procedure by filing an examination request with the DPMA. In 2024, the number of examination requests decreased slightly by 1.9%. This decrease might be an indicator that, after filing an application, companies wait and see how the invention competes in the market or how concurrent subsequent application procedures proceed at other patent offices. In 2024, the DPMA received 43,983 examination requests.

On a more positive note, in 2024, there was a considerable increase of 6.0% in concluded examination procedures (45,242). The reason for this increase is that, compared to the previous year, the number of withdrawals by declaration or by failure to pay annual fees rose by 14.8% to 13,122; this represents 29.0% of the concluded procedures (previous year: 26.8%). Many applicants probably consider which applications in their portfolio are dispensable for financial reasons.

However, a total of 23,944 of the concluded patent procedures were published grants; this is an increase of 7.1% compared to the previous year's figure. Accordingly, the grant rate of 52.9% (2023: 52.4%) was once again high. Patents are deemed a key factor for the competitiveness and commercial success of technology companies.

There were 8,176 refusals (previous year: 8,881) in 2024 — a share of 18.1% of the concluded procedures (2023: 20.8%).

Development of patent applications

In total, 52,258 of the patent applications received (+2.0% compared to the previous year) were filed directly with the DPMA.

In addition, we received 7,002 PCT applications entering the national phase through the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva in accordance with the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

To obtain a patent abroad, applicants must as a rule file a separate application with the respective national patent office. As this often requires a lot of effort and money, the Patent Cooperation Treaty provides the option to achieve the effect of a national application in all PCTcontracting states by filing a single application. The PCT procedure starts with what is referred to as the international phase; subsequently, it transitions to what is referred to as the national phase.

Most applications at the DPMA are now filed electronically: 92.2% of all national patent applications we received were online applications. At the end of 2024, 153,654 national patents were in force, a 3.6% increase compared to the previous year.

Origin of patent applications

In 2024, as in the previous year, there was once again a considerable increase in applications received from applicants having their residence or principal place of business in Germany. In total, these applicants filed patent applications for 40,064 inventions (+4.0%).

This means that the percentage of applications from Germany increased slightly to 67.6% (2023: 65.6%).

With 19,196 applications, the number of applications from abroad fell to just below the previous year's figure (2023: 20,154).

We received 3,486 applications from European countries (2023: 3,593) and 15,710 applications from non-European countries (2023: 16,561).

The number of applications from France increased by 15.7% compared to the previous year. The number of applications from the United Kingdom (+11.1%) and from Ireland (+14.1%) also rose again.

Japan once again achieved a slight increase of 2.9% in its applications at our office. For the first time, the DPMA saw a decrease of 12% in applications from China; applications from the United States once again fell by 12.1%.

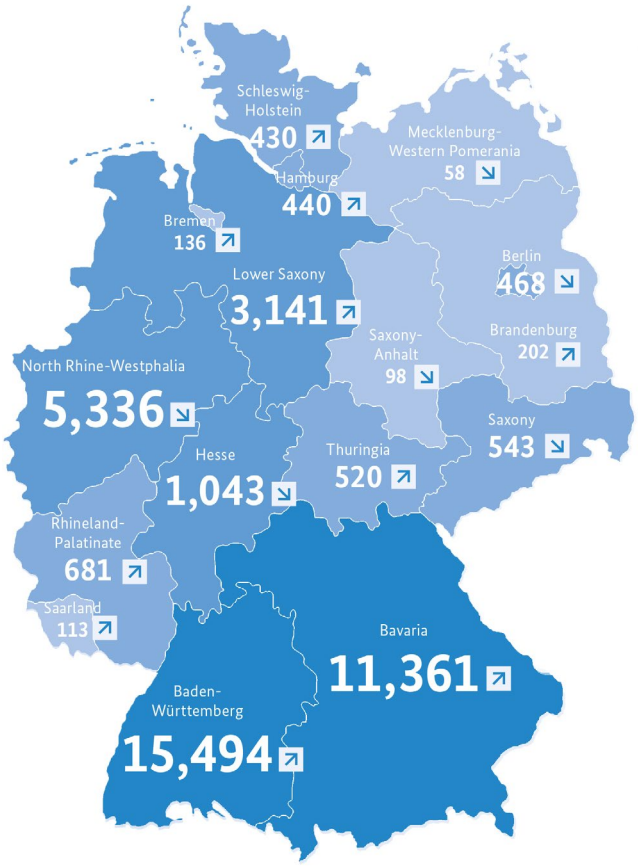
Patent aplications in 2024 by countries of origin (applicant's seat or place of residence) (national applications at the DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

Countries of origin	Applications	Percentage
Germany	40,064	67.6
Japan	6,592	11.1
United States	5,885	9.9
Republic of Korea	1,324	2.2
Switzerland	901	1.5
China	817	1.4
Austria	812	1.4
Taiwan	588	1.0
France	368	0.6
Sweden	323	0.5
Other	1,586	2.7
Total	**59,260**	**100**

Patent applications by German Land and the most active companies and institutions

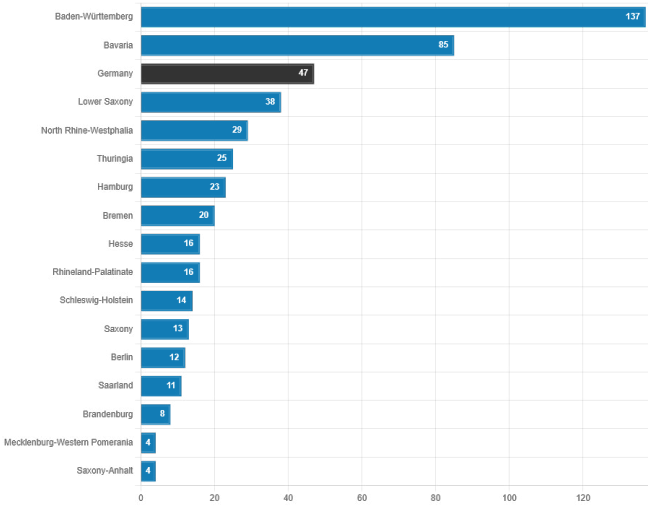
The automotive industry still plays a key role for patent applications for Germany. The ten top companies in terms of patent applications at the DPMA are carmakers and suppliers. 2024 was the 17th year in a row Robert Bosch GmbH came in first, with 4,496 patent applications and a large lead. Bayerische Motoren Werke AG, with 2,297 applications, took second place from Mercedes-Benz Group AG with 2,138 applications. With 1,409 applications, Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG was fourth, dropping GM Global Technology Operations LLC with 1,299 applications to fifth place. In 2024, with GM Global Technology Operations LLC and Ford Global Technologies LLC (962 applications), two companies from the United States were once again among the strongest applicants at

the DPMA. The individual companies and institutions are shown as they appear as patent applicants – without considering whether the companies are affiliated with each other.



Patent applications in 2024

Patent applications from Germany can be attributed to the individual German Länder based on the residence or principal place of business. In the German Länder ranking, Baden-Württemberg continued to be first, with 15,494 patent applications (+5.7%) and a big lead. Bavaria once again ranked second with 11,361 applications (+5.0%), ahead of North Rhine-Westphalia with 5,336 applications (-3.6%). The reason for their large application numbers is that these three German Länder are home to carmakers or other big technology companies. As in the previous year, the ranking changes slightly if the number of applications is compared to the respective population. With 137 patent applications per 100,000 population, Baden-Württemberg was ahead of Bavaria (85) in this ranking too. But, with 38 patent applications per 100,000 population, Lower Saxony pushed North Rhine-Westphalia (29) to fourth place.



Applications per 100,000 inhabitants and patent applications in 2024, broken down by German Länder (applicant's seat or place of residence)

Inventors and applicants

In the case of applications filed by companies and research institutions, a distinction is usually made between the organisation filing the application and the inventor as a natural person. By contrast, in the case of independent inventors or employees with inventions released by their employers, the applicant and the inventor are usually the same person. In 2024, this was the case for 3.7% of the applications (2023: 4.1%).

The DPMA also tracks how many patent applications can be attributed to individual applicants. In 2024, 5.5% of our applicants filed more than ten applications each (2023: 5.1%). These applicants are referred to as major patent applicants; they accounted for 75.1% of all applications.

The decline in applications by independent inventors could be caused by the fact that, as digitisation increases and technology advances faster than ever before, it becomes more and more difficult for them to translate creative ideas into innovations and protect them through a patent application, as these two steps involve considerable costs.

Main technical areas of patent activity

The International Patent Classification (IPC) is used worldwide as a standard for the classification of technological contents. A code of letters and numbers organises the entire field of technology in more than 70,000 units. Every patent application received by the DPMA is attributed to one or several IPC classes according to its technological content and forwarded to the examining section in charge at our office.

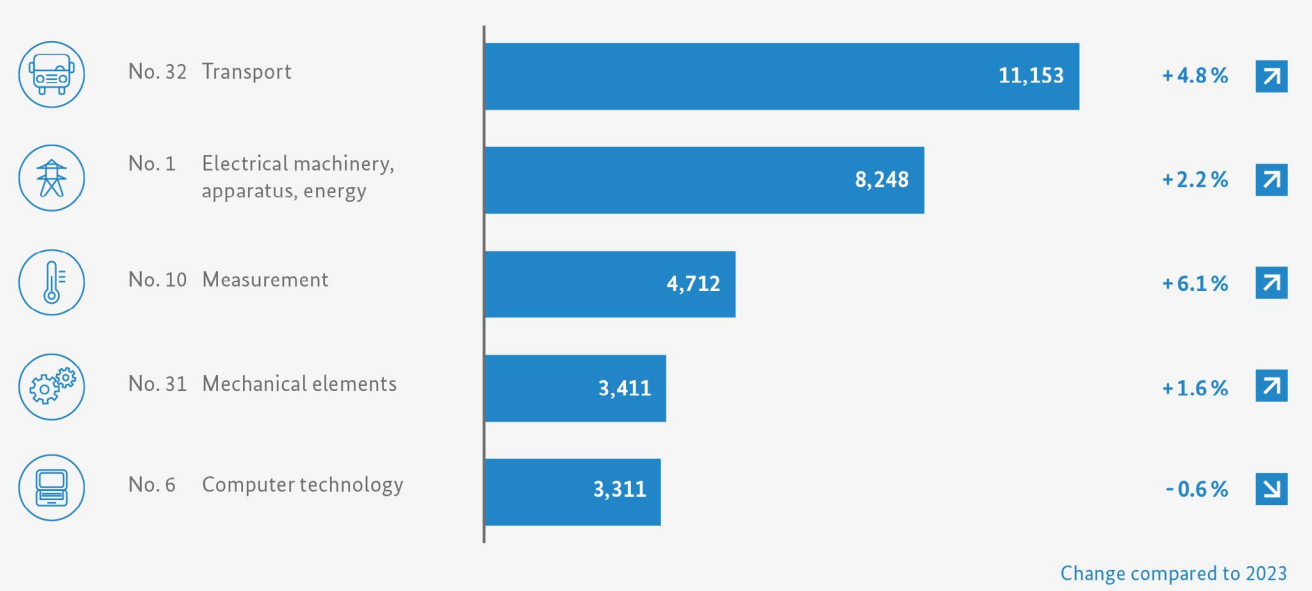
With 40.1% of all patent applications filed with the DPMA in 2024, the "Mechanical engineering" sector continued to account for most applications. As in the previous year, the number of pat-

ent applications in “Electricity” as the second strongest sector also remained high. With 17,772 applications (+0.5%), the sector accounted for 30% of all patent applications. The “Instruments” sector (9,162 applications) and the “Chemistry” sector (4,382 applications) came in third and fourth, respectively.

The sectors are divided into technology fields. With 11,153 patent applications, “Transporting” (“Mechanical engineering” sector) was by far the strongest technology field, increasing by another 4.8% compared to the previous year. It goes without saying that, in this area, most applicants belong to the automotive industry. The majority of applications in the technology field “Transporting” were related to electric mobility and infotainment in vehicles. Subclass B60K, which includes, among other things, instrumentation and dashboards for vehicles, increased by 33.4%. In this subclass, innovations focus on new displays and options to operate instruments in the driver’s cab by voice and gestures. The number of applications concerning electric mobility also rose significantly: the subclass for the propulsion of electrically-propelled vehicles (B60L) increased by 14.4%.

Innovations in battery technology are crucial for electric mobility. They focus on improving charge capacities and times as well as on ensuring sustainable production and reducing production costs. As in the previous year, subclass H01M, which includes batteries and fuel cells, was once again the strongest class at the DPMA, with 2,627 applications (+3.4%). It is part of the technology field “Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy” (“Electricity” sector), where application numbers increased by 2.2% in total. As in the technology field “Transporting”, manufacturers and suppliers from the automotive industry are the most active applicants. Companies from this industry continued their trend towards withdrawing from their innovative activity concerning internal combustion engines: in the technology field “Engines, pumps, turbines” (“Mechanical engineering” sector), patents were filed for only 1,706 inventions, i.e. 5.4% fewer than in 2023 and only slightly more than a third of the applications received in this technology field in 2016.

Top 5 Fields of Technology
(According to WIPO IPC concordance table, available at: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources)



Selected data on patent examination and search procedures

A total of 43,983 requests for the examination of patentability pursuant to section 44 of the Patent Act (Patentgesetz) meant a slight decrease of 1.9%. If an applicant files such a request, the examining sections identify the relevant state of the art by conducting a thorough and comprehensive search. Subsequently, an examination is conducted as to whether the subject matter of the application is new, involves an inventive step and is industrially applicable and whether possible exclusions from patentability exist.

Another criterion for the examination is that the application documents disclose the technical invention described in the patent application completely and in such a way as to enable the carrying out of the invention. Applicants are notified of the examination result in a detailed office action, which usually requests them to comment on or correct the patent application. At the end of the

Selected data on patent procedures

patent procedures	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Examination requests received	43,353	43,353	43,474	44,816	43,983
- including requests filed together with applications	23,393	22,694	22,685	23,991	23,629
Search requests pursuant to section 43 Patent Act	14,244	14,970	14,672	15,621	16,337
Concluded searches pursuant to section 43 Patent Act	16,451	15,169	14,818	14,797	15,906
Examination procedures concluded	41,768	48,521	45,520	42,671	45,242
Examination procedures pending at the end of the year	228,442	222,960	220,583	222,449	220,874

examination procedure, the examining section decides whether and to what extent a patent can be granted or whether the application must be refused.

Another way to have the patentability of an application assessed is filing a search request pursuant to section 43 of the Patent Act. The result of this search is often the basis for the decision of whether to file subsequent applications with other offices. There was once again an increase in search requests by 4.6% to 16,337 (2023: 15,621). Our patent examiners were able to increase the number of concluded searches pursuant to section 43 of the Patent Act to 15,906 (+7.5%).

Appeal proceedings at the Federal Patent Court

Parties can challenge decisions of the DPMA by way of an appeal to the Federal Patent Court. Such appeals can concern a patent not granted as requested, a refusal of the patent application or a decision in opposition proceedings. One of the Technical Boards of Appeal of the Federal Patent Court will then decide on the appeal. The Technical Boards of Appeal and Nullity Boards consist of legally and technically qualified judges. These technical experts — from science and engineering — are a particularity of the Federal Patent Court, as the judges at civil courts are mostly exclusively lawyers.

The technically qualified judges contribute their expertise to all proceedings that concern, among other things, the properties of a technical invention, e.g. in proceedings regarding the grant of a patent or an action for revocation of a patent.

In 2024, as in the previous years, there was once again a decrease in appeal proceedings brought before the Technical Boards of Appeal: a total of 222 appeal proceedings were received, which represents a decrease of 9.4%.

IN FOCUS

Digitisation and renewable energy sources

Digitisation

For the present analysis, we considered published applications with effect in Germany at the DPMA and at the European Patent Office (EPO), without double counting. Patent applications are usually published after 18 months. Accordingly, inventions newly filed in 2024 are not included in the analysis. We examined the five subsectors of digital technologies: computer technology, digital communication, semiconductors, audio-visual technology and IT methods for management.

After some considerable increases, the total number of published applications concerning digital technologies in 2024 was 49,073 and thus a bit smaller than in the previous year (-2.5%). However, in two subsectors, semiconductors (+3.5%) and audio-visual technology (+1.3%), we saw a slight increase. Innovations in artificial intelligence, which is now used in all subsectors of digital technologies, continue to play a major role.

Computer technology

Although there was a small decrease (-1.6%), most applications (17,387) were received in the subsector of computer technology, which includes inventions relating to image data processing, speech recognition and information and communication technology. Many of these innovations use artificial intelligence or machine learning.

The international ranking was led by the United States of America with 6,450 publications (+0.5%), far ahead of China (2,247, -14.5%). Germany followed in third place with 2,076 applications and a moderate increase of 6.6%. This means that, in a long-term analysis, Germany's share in total applications in this area had slightly increased. In 2020, the share was 11.1%, last year's share was 11.9%.

The top computer technology applicants were the South Korean company Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (952 patent applications), ahead of the Chinese company Huawei Technolo-

gies Co., Ltd. (797 patent applications), and the US company Microsoft Technology Licensing LLC (636 patent applications).

Computer technology[2,3]
Patent applications effective in Germany[1] *by country (residence or principal place of business of the first applicant)*

Country	2023	2024	Change compared
United States	6,418	6,450	+0.5 %
China	2,629	2,247	-14.5 %
Germany	1,947	2,076	+6.6 %
Japan	1,727	1,584	-8.3 %
Republic of Korea	1,268	1,410	+11.2 %
Others	3,671	3,619	-1.4 %
Total[4]	17,661	17,387	-1.6 %

[1] Applications published by the DPMA and the EPO avoiding double counts.
[2] According to WIPO IPC concordance table, available here: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources. IPC classes valid at the time of retrieval counted proportionately; without claim to completeness; results may be included that do not relate to computer technologies.
[3] G06C, G06D, G06E, G06F, G06G, G06J, G06K, G06M, G06N, G06T, G06V, G10L, G11C, G16B, G16C, G16Y, G16Z.
[4] Due to rounding differences, the values added together deviate from the total.

Digital communication

With 17,192 national and international patent applications (-6.6%), digital communication accounted for the second most publications. Many applications in this category are related to the current 5G mobile phone standard as well as future standards and are therefore important for the digital connectivity in a number of key technologies. Virtual communication also continues to play an important role in this area. Networked systems are used both in companies — e.g. for intelligent process and manufacturing control (smart factory) — and in the personal sector (smart home).

Again, the United States of America was the frontrunner with 5,174 applications (-11.4%), ahead of China with 4,608 applications (-11.7%). The Republic of Korea took third place with 1,704 applications (+2.3%), while Germany only reached seventh place with 665 applications (-5.1%). Accordingly, Germany's low contribution to the total number of applications saw yet another decrease from 5.4% in 2020 to 3.9% in 2024.

In regard to companies, the US corporation Qualcomm Inc. took first place with 1,886 applications, followed by the Chinese company Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., with 1,789 applications. One of the few European companies represented in the ranking of applicants, the Swedish Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson (publ), came in third with 1,027 applications.

Digital communication[2,3]
Patent applications effective in Germany[1] *by country (residence or principal place of business of the first applicant)*

Country	2023	2024	Change compared
United States	5,841	5,174	-11.4%
China	5,217	4,608	-11.7%
Republic of Korea	1,666	1,704	+2.3%
Japan	1,173	1,321	+12.6%
Sweden	1,316	1,098	-16.6%
Others	3,197	3,288	+2.8%
Total[4]	**18,410**	**17,192**	**-6.6%**

[1] Applications published by the DPMA and the EPO avoiding double counts.
[2] According to WIPO IPC concordance table, available here: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources. IPC classes valid at the time of retrieval counted proportionately; without claim to completeness; results may be included that do not relate to digitisation.
[3] H04L, H04N 21, H04W.
[4] Due to rounding differences, the values added together deviate from the total.

Semiconductors

With a slight increase of 3.5%, the third-highest number of applications was achieved in the sector of semiconductors (6,228). Patent applications in this area are mainly for innovations concerning solid state electrical components or assemblies of components as well as semiconductor components. Semiconductor components are crucial for the strong and broad innovative dynamism of the digitisation of all application areas.

Japan topped this ranking with 1,244 applications (+4.3%), followed by the United States of America (1,202, -6.2%), the Republic of Korea (1,142, +29.0%) and China (787, -7.8%). Germany took fifth place with 703 applications (+17.4%). Compared to the last five years, the share of German companies in the total number of applications saw a significant decrease, from 14.8% to 11.3%.

Looking at the applicants themselves, the first three places were dominated by the South Korean companies Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (406 applications), Samsung Display Co., Ltd. (285),

and LG Display Co., Ltd. (218), followed by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (199) from Taiwan.

Semiconductors[2,3]
Patent applications effective in Germany[1] by country (residence or principal place of business of the first applicant)

Country	2023	2024	Change compared
Japan	1,193	1,244	+4.3%
United States	1,282	1,202	-6.2%
Republic of Korea	885	1,142	+29.0%
China	854	787	-7.8%
Germany	599	703	+17.4%
Others	1,202	1,149	-4.4%
Total[4]	**6,016**	**6,228**	**+3.5%**

[1] Applications published by the DPMA and the EPO avoiding double counts.
[2] According to WIPO IPC concordance table, available here: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources. IPC classes valid at the time of retrieval counted proportionately; without claim to completeness; results may be included that do not relate to digitisation.
[3] H01L, H10B, H10K, H10N.
[4] Due to rounding differences, the values added together deviate from the total.

Audio-visual technology

With 5,752 applications and a slight increase of 1.3%, the sector for audio-visual technology came in fourth place. Its main focus was on inventions regarding virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR). All kinds of business sectors apparently see an enormous potential for the future: by creating models of their "digital twins", everything from products and machines to industrial facilities can be virtually visualised. For example, users can immerse themselves into a completely computer-generated world with what is known as virtual reality glasses.

In this sector, the United States of America with 1,246 applications (-6.5%) was followed by China (1,109, -6.1%), Japan (853, +3.0%) and the Republic of Korea (846, +24.8%). Germany came in fifth with 642 published applications (-0.3%).

In this subsector, too, the share of German applications slightly decreased, from 12.1% in 2020 to 11.2% in 2024.

In terms of applicants, Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., from the Republic of Korea once again had the lead with 325 applications, followed by Huawei Technologies Co., Ltd., from China and LG Electronics Inc., also from the Republic of Korea.

Audio-visual technology[2,3]
Patent applications effective in Germany[1] by country (residence or principal place of business of the first applicant)

Country	2023	2024	Change compared
United States	1,333	1,246	-6.5%
China	1,181	1,109	-6.1%
Japan	828	853	+3.0%
Republic of Korea	678	846	+24.8%
Germany	644	642	-0.3%
Others	1,015	1,056	+4.0%
Total[4]	**5,679**	**5,752**	**+1.3%**

[1] Applications published by the DPMA and the EPO avoiding double counts.
[2] According to WIPO IPC concordance table, available here: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources. IPC classes valid at the time of retrieval counted proportionately; without claim to completeness; results may be included that do not relate to digitisation.
[3] G09F, G09G, G11B, H04N 3, H04N 5, H04N 7, H04N 9, H04N 11, H04N 13, H04N 15, H04N 17, H04N 19, H04N 23; H04N 25, H04N 101, H04R, H04S, H05K.
[4] Due to rounding differences, the values added together deviate from the total.

IT methods for business management

With 2,514 applications (-1.6%), the fewest applications were published for the technology sector "IT methods for business management". This sector includes procedures for services like reservations and event bookings, workflow control, corporate or organisational planning as well as materials and inventory management. It also includes applications that deal with networked mobility such as autonomous driving. End devices, control systems and machines create ever larger networks, in which very large amounts of data (big data) are generated. These data require decentralised processing and storage. To this end, servers, storage, databases and analytics are made available on the internet (cloud computing).

In the international ranking, the United States of America (901, -4.5%) was ahead of Germany (407, +26.4%), closely followed by Japan (403, -10.6%).

Looking at the long-term development, German applicants in this technology sector made up ground. Their share in the total number of applications rose from 14.2% in 2020 to 16.2% in 2024.

The application numbers of individual companies in this sector were rather low and very close together. The German companies Bayerische Motoren Werke AG and Siemens AG shared first place with 45 applications each, ahead of Microsoft Technology Licensing LLC from the United States of America with 42 applications.

IT methods for business management[2,3]
Patent applications effective in Germany[1] *by country (residence or principal place of business of the first applicant)*

Country	2023	2024	Change compared
United States	943	901	-4.5%
Germany	322	407	+26.4%
Japan	451	403	-10.6%
China	161	148	-8.1%
Republic of Korea	101	86	-14.9%
Others	577	568	-1.6%
Total[4]	**2,554**	**2,514**	**-1.6%**

[1] Applications published by the DPMA and the EPO avoiding double counts.
[2] According to WIPO IPC concordance table, available here: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources. IPC classes valid at the time of retrieval counted proportionately; without claim to completeness; results may be included that do not relate to digitisation.
[3] G06Q.
[4] Due to rounding differences, the values added together deviate from the total.

Renewable energy sources and batteries

As in the previous years, German companies still had a strong interest in developing climate-friendly technologies. For this analysis, we considered the patent applications concerning renewable energy sources and battery technology with effect in Germany published by the DPMA and the EPO. In the international ranking, there were some sectors where we saw significant overall increases in applications by German companies, research institutions and independent inventors. In some fields, Germany ranked among the top countries.

Renewable energy sources

Wind and solar energy, biomass, geothermal energy and hydropower are all renewable energy sources. These natural sources are intended to be used for our energy consumption in the best possible way, with the primary aim to slow down man-made climate change. Power, heat and fuel can be generated from renewable raw materials too; and processes taking place in nature are used for energy production.

As in the previous years, Germany was among the leaders in important sectors of this field. In particular, Germany considerably increased its application numbers regarding solar energy (+57.3%). With 26.8% of all solar technology applications, it pushed China to second place (19.4%). As last year, Denmark took first place with 32% of all applications of wind generators, followed by Germany with a share of 23.7%.

With respect to wind generators, the ranking of applicants last year was led by Vestas Wind Systems A/S from Denmark with 69 applications; the previous year's winner, Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy A/S, came in second with 65 applications. Third place went to Wobben Properties GmbH, a German company, with 27 applications.

In regard to solar technology, the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission and the Chinese company Trina Solar Co., Ltd, shared first place with 21 applications each, followed by the Chinese company Zeijang Jinko Solar Co, Ltd, with 20 applications.

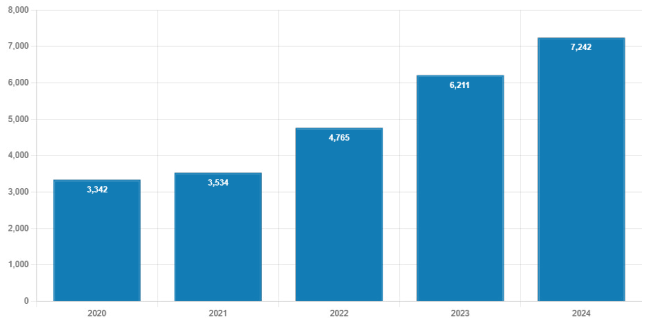
Batteries

Renewable energy sources such as wind and sun are not equally available at all times. Therefore, energy storage systems like batteries are needed. In 2024, the upward trend in battery technology continued, probably also because of the strong innovative activity in the field of electric mobility. The numbers of applications concerning batteries once again rose by 16.6% compared to the previous year. Carmakers and their suppliers continued to be among the strongest companies in this field.

In particular, there was a strong increase in the number of applications from the United States of America and China compared to the previous year (by 33.1% and 22.6%, respectively). Nonetheless, the Republic of Korea still accounted for most applications (1,817) in this field. As in the previous year, China came in second (1,591). Japan was third (1,136), followed by Germany in fourth place (1,112).

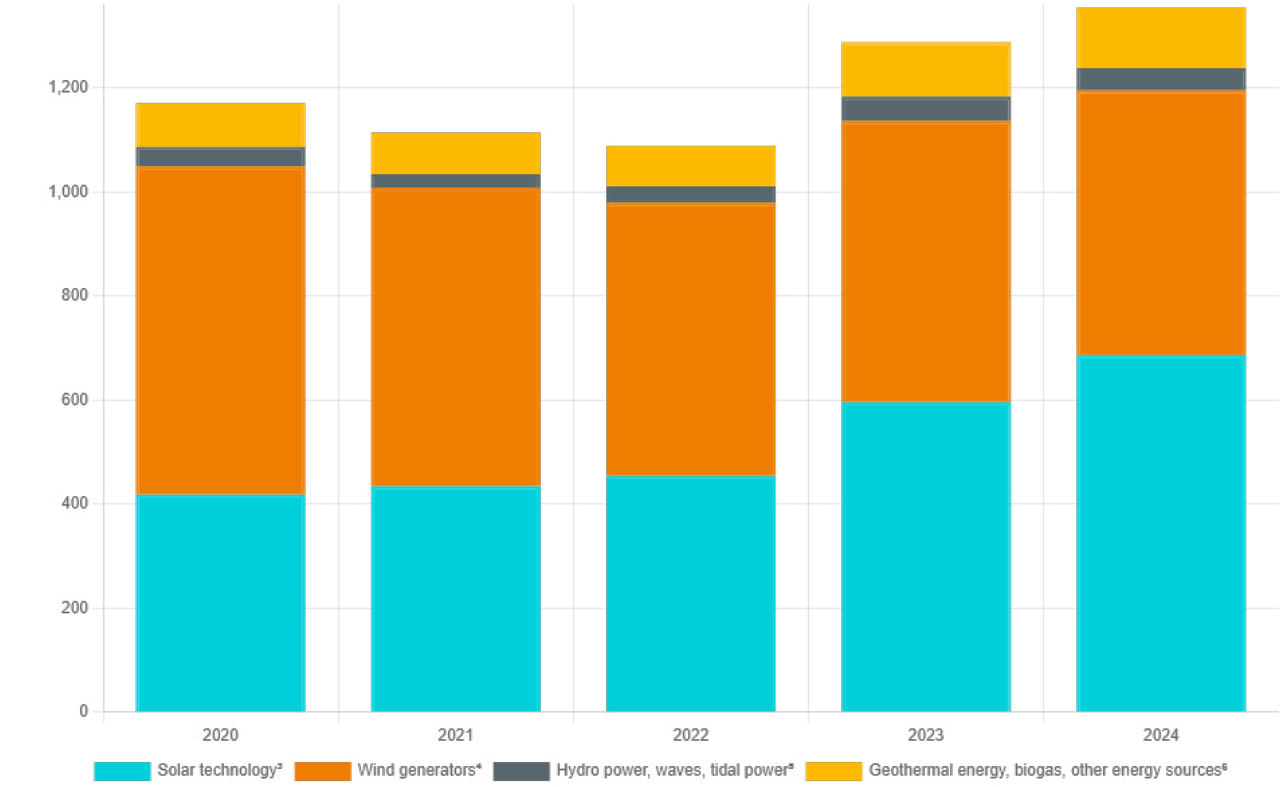
Most applications relate to the development of sustainable and environmentally friendly batteries that can be produced at low cost and offer great energy efficiency and large capacity.

Development of patent applications effective in Germany[1] in the field of batteries



[1] Applications published by the DPMA and the EPO avoiding double counts.
[2] IPC classes valid at the time of retrieval counted proportionately. Without claim to completeness. Results may include automotive and other applications.
[3] B60L 50/64, B60L 53/53, H01M 2, H01M 4/02, H01M 4/04, H01M 4/13 - H01M 4/84, H01M 10, H01M 50, H02J 3/28, H02J 3/32, H02J 15.

Development of patent applications effective in Germany[1] in selected fields of renewable energy



[1] Applications published by the DPMA and the EPO avoiding double counts.
[2] IPC classes valid at the time of retrieval counted proportionately. Without claim to completeness. Results may also include other uses.
[3] B60L 53/51, C02F 1/14, E04D 13/18, F03G 6, F24J 2, F24S, G05F 1/67, H01L 31/04 to H01L 31/078, H10F 10/00 to H10F 10/19, H10F 19/00 to H10F 19/90, H10F 77/42 to H10F 77/48, H10F 77/63 to H10F 77/67, H10F 77/80 to H10F 77/90, H02J 7/35, H02N 6, H02S, H10K 30/50 to H10K 30/57, H10K 39/10 to H10K 39/18.
[4] B60L 53/52, F03D.
[5] F03B 7, F03B 13/10 to F03B 13/26.
[6] C02F 11/00, C12M 1/107, C12M 1/113, C12P 5/02, F03G 3, F03G 4, F03G 7/00 to F03G 7/08, F24J 3, F24T 10/00 to F24T 50/00, F24V 40/00 to F24V 40/10, F24V 50/00, F24V 99/00.

PERSPECTIVE

Tech start-ups need IP rights to succeed

The basis for sustainable growth, an important requirement for gaining the trust of investors: Barbara Diehl and Dr Antonia Schmalz from the Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation (*Bundesagentur für Sprunginnovationen* SPRIND) explain why industrial property rights are crucial for deep tech start-ups with ground-breaking new technologies to succeed as a business. To help spin-offs from research facilities and universities benefit from IP rights as well, SPRIND has developed a concept for the transfer of intellectual property.

Barbara Diehl

Dr. Antonia Schmalz

In the dynamic landscape of technology-driven innovation, deep tech start-ups are right at the forefront of progress. These companies are often founded based on ground-breaking scientific developments and address complex global challenges — from climate change and biotechnology to artificial intelligence. But technical excellence alone is not enough. There is one central, often underestimated asset that can be the key to success: a strong and well-protected IP portfolio.

Software start-ups, e.g. in fields like SaaS ("Software as a Service") or consumer tech, can start operating with a comparatively low capital and a rather simple minimal viable product (MVP) and then iterate and scale when they have their first customers. Deep tech start-ups however require long development cycles and significant capital in the very early stages without being able to rely on income from customer orders. These investments therefore come with a high risk, since the technology has not yet proven itself in practice, nor can the general conditions and the development of the market and competitors be forecast in detail.

Together with know-how and process expertise, IP rights are a central asset and often crucial in determining the value and the unique selling point of a deep tech start-up in its early stages. If one manages to patent a technology, this creates a protected "object" which can be clearly distinguished from other existing tech-

nologies and which can then be traded, licensed, assessed and defended against competitors.

Most of the time, these aspects are already highly relevant in the formation phase of a start-up. Deep tech start-ups are often spin-offs from research facilities or universities and are usually based on IP rights that have emerged within the research context of an institution. The process of getting IP rights ready for commercial utilisation is called IP transfer and requires the spin-off to negotiate the terms of use with their respective institution. The duration of these negotiations can vary a lot and take six to 36 months, depending on the complexity of the situation. A recent survey conducted among German spin-offs revealed that, on average, the negotiations regarding the transfer of IP rights take 18.4 months. This delay can have serious consequences for spin-offs, as the innovative technologies often reach the market too late or are hindered in their development.

Since 2022, a working group convened by SPRIND, Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft and Fraunhofer ISI has been working on practical solutions for the simplification and acceleration of IP transfers. Within this project, specific tools for the characterisation and evaluation of IP have been developed and tested in practice; this “Transfer pocket knife” is complemented by model contracts for various transfer scenarios and suggestions for conducting negotiations. But apart from the right tools, creating incentives to simplify and accelerate the processes on an institutional level also needs political support. Especially in the spin-off phase, speedy results are essential for start-ups. Concluding a contract should be doable within twelve weeks, as long as both parties approach patent negotiations with goodwill, stay focused and act according to the shared belief that both parties want to increase the proceeds for both sides and will openly disclose all aspects that affect the value.

In the current coalition agreement, the governing parties comment on IP transfers as well. They intend to present a national IP strategy that will enable spin-offs within 24 hours. In addition, they want to introduce obligatory standardised spin-off contracts at universities and research facilities that enable the utilisation of intellectual property in exchange for a share customary in the market.

Accelerated transfer processes and well-protected IP are a central topic for investors, who face enormously high investment risks in the deep tech sector: the technologies are new, the markets often unexplored and it can take years until a product can be brought to market. IP therefore plays an important role in the risk assessment. A granted or well-drafted patent application shows that the innovation does not only exist as a concept, but is of substance — and worth protecting. Investors want to make sure that a company can defend its position against imitators, especially against big corporations with more resources. A strong IP portfolio also significantly raises the company value when it comes to an exit by sale or to going public. Buyers or investors do not only pay for the product, but also for its legally protected exclusivity.

This is why intellectual property is no minor matter for deep tech start-ups — it is a central strategic asset. In a landscape that is characterised by long development cycles and technologies at risk of being imitated, patents and IP protection are the foundation for sustainable growth, gaining the trust of investors and achieving entrepreneurial success. If you focus on professional IP management at an early stage, you will not only increase the company value, but also your chances of succeeding in the market for the long term. However, right now the process of transferring and/or utilising IP rights from a research context to spin-offs is definitely too slow in Germany. There is a clear need for action regarding the number of staff and the degree of professionalisation in the transfer offices of research institutions (technology transfer offices, TTOs).

IN FOCUS

Digital service for subsequent applicants

Global network for the benefit of applicants: since 2024, the DPMA has participated in the international WIPO DAS service, which ensures the electronic exchange of priority documents. You need such a document if you wish to obtain protection for an invention from foreign offices while retaining the date of filing.

Provided by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), WIPO DAS is a service for the exchange of electronic priority documents. A priority document is the copy of a patent or utility model application that certifies the date of filing of an invention. It is issued and deposited in WIPO DAS by the office receiving the application. Applicants then have twelve months to file the invention in other countries, retaining the date of filing of the application.

Since 25 November 2024, the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) has participated as “depositing Office” in the Digital Access Service of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO DAS). This means that priority documents for patent and utility model applications filed at the DPMA are deposited in the WIPO system if applicants have so requested.

When requesting priority documents concerning patent or utility model applications, applicants can now choose between a paper copy of the priority document, which incurs fees (as before), and an electronic priority document in WIPO DAS, which is free of charge.

If a priority document is requested in WIPO DAS, the DPMA will notify the party filing the request of the deposit of the priority document in the system and provide a confidential access code. With the access code, the priority date and the priority file number, you can request all offices of second filing worldwide that participate as “accessing Offices” in WIPO DAS to retrieve the priority document.

The participation of the DPMA initially relates to patents and utility models as well as priority documents concerning both national applications and PCT applications with the DPMA as receiving Office. It is planned to extend this service to trade marks and designs, too. The participation as “accessing Office” is currently being planned, but there are still legal challenges to overcome.

Additional information on WIPO DAS is available on the DPMA website. More information can be found on the WIPO website.

BRIEFLY EXPLAINED: DOUBLE PROTECTION

Make it a double!

New option for your IP strategy: since 1 June 2023, with respect to all unitary patents and all European bundle patents that have not expressly been excluded from the new Unified Patent Court system, applicants have had the option to additionally apply for a national German patent with the same or an overlapping scope of protection. This can bring great benefits.

Until 31 May 2023, it was basically prohibited to seek double protection through national German patents on the one hand and nationally validated European patents (bundle patents) on the other. This means that it was not possible to obtain protection under a national patent for an invention for which a European patent with the same priority effective in the Federal Republic of Germany had already been granted. A previously granted national patent would cease to have effect if the applicant was subsequently granted a valid European patent for the same invention.

Upon entry into force of the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court (UPCA) on 1 June 2023, the European Unified Patent Court (UPC) was established and a new European IP right was introduced: the European patent with unitary effect, unitary patent for short. Within the scope of application of the UPCA, the UPC has since had jurisdiction over matters relating to all European patents, with or without unitary effect, especially over infringement and revocation actions. At the same time, double protection is possible. This means that a German patent can exist side by side with a European bundle patent or a unitary patent with the same priority and the same scope. The previous prohibition of double protection has since applied only to bundle patents that applicants exclude from the jurisdiction of the UPC (opt-out provision). As a result of such an opt-out, disputes relating to European patents become subject to the jurisdiction of national courts.

Competence of the Unified Patent Court

The key objective of the UPC is to increase legal security by harmonising decisions on patent infringements and validity. UPC decisions have unitary effect in all participating countries; parallel legal disputes in different countries are avoided. The establishment of the UPC included developing new rules of procedure. However, the new Unified Patent Court system has yet to fully find its feet, especially with regard to the rules of procedure, which provide for strict time limits and frontloading, i.e. the earliest possible submission of all relevant means of challenge and defence.

Basically, the benefit of central enforcement will always have to be weighed against the risk of central revocation and thus the complete destruction of the IP right, which would be without limitation to an individual country.

Ultimately, it has to be kept in mind that the current opt-out option will expire for bundle patents on 31 May 2030. Only national IP applications will then be subject to the jurisdiction of national courts.

Value of the national German patent system

Germany is the biggest market in Europe and among the participating countries of the unitary patent system. A German IP right alone reduces the market opportunities of competitors if they have to avoid Germany for their European activities. A European patent, which requires more effort and involves higher costs, is not always necessary.

The DPMA is a long-established office for the patent grant procedure. For many decades now, the national system consisting of the Federal Patent Court and regional courts has developed a stable and predictable case law. This ensures reliability and security.

New strategic options

Double protection strengthens the complementarity of the European patent and the national German patent. As a new strategic option, a national German patent can provide – in addition to its own value — a valuable fallback position should the unitary patent cease to be valid. The assessment of the patentability of the German IP right by a German court could differ from the assessment by the UPC. But even in the case of targeted infringement actions, proprietors of both a national German patent and a European patent can decide either to bring an action under the European patent before the UPC or to use the established German remedies under the German patent.

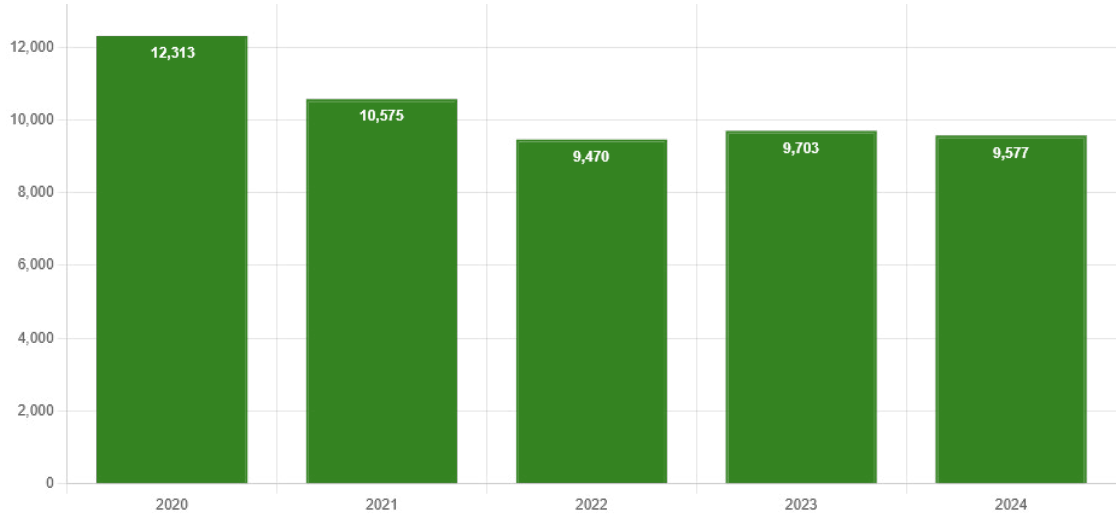
By the way, splitting off a German utility model from a German or European patent application can even result in “triple protection”. In the case of an opt-out of a European patent, a national IP right can still be obtained in the form of a utility model.

UTILITY MODELS

OVERVIEW

Development and origin of utility model applications

Development of utility model applications



Utility model applications at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office

In 2024, the DPMA received 9,577 utility model applications in total (2023: 9,703) — a slight decrease of 1.3% compared to the previous year.

With 1,113 applications, the technology field “Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy” continued to be the largest sector and saw an increase of 3.9% compared to previous year. In 2024, we saw a particularly strong rise of 10.9% in the technology field “Furniture, games”, in which 912 utility models were filed. As with patents, we also saw a considerable increase of 11.1% for audio-visual technology in the “Electricity” sector.

In the technology field of medical technology (“Instruments”), there was once again an increase of 3.3%.

76.2% of the utility model applications were filed electronically, which represents an increase of 1.1 percentage points compared to the previous year.

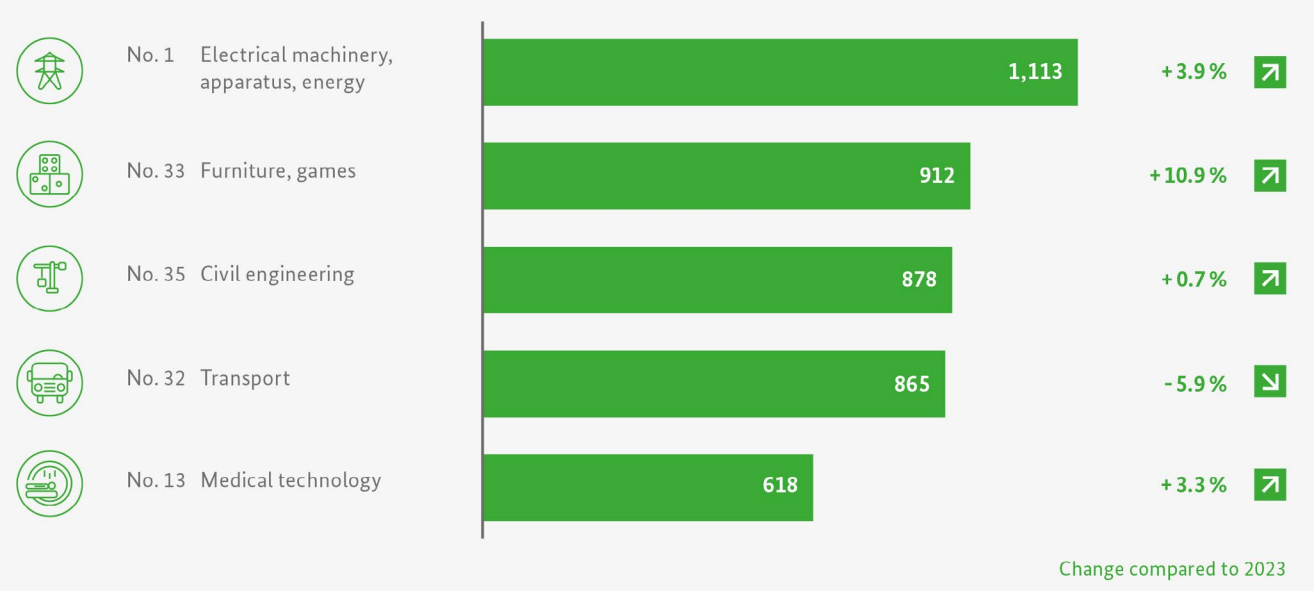
In 2024, 9,064 utility models were registered in the register (+8.9%). This means that 91.4% of the registration procedures handled in 2024 were successfully concluded for the applicants (previous year: 89.3%).

In total, 857 applications were not registered because of refusals, withdrawals of applications or for other reasons (2023: 994). The term of protection was renewed for a total of 16,144 utility models (previous year: 16,833) after payment of the maintenance fee.

The number of lapsed utility models rose by 4.4% to 12,099. For example, a utility model lapses upon expiry of the longest possible term of protection or for lack of extension of the term of protection.

At the end of 2024, 64,009 valid utility models were registered at the DPMA (previous year: 67,019).

Top 5 Fields of technology
According to WIPO IPC concordance table, available at: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources)



Origin of utility model applications

In 2024, there was once again no sign of foreign applicants' interest in German utility models waning. Instead, the percentage of applications from abroad rose again: 4,343 applications came from abroad (+3.7%), which corresponds to 45.3% of all utility model applications.

PCT applications in the national phase were back on the rise, with their number increasing by 20.3% to 427.

5,234 utility model applications, or 54.7% of all applications (previous year: 56.8%), came from Germany.

As in the previous year, foreign applications largely came from non-European countries: in 2024, the DPMA received 3,355 foreign applications (2023: 3,227), of which 988 applications came from European countries. This represents an increase of 2.8%.

The People's Republic of China maintained its top position with 1,620 applications (previous year: 1,558) and a share of 16.9% of all applications. Chinese companies use utility models to have many possible embodiments of a product protected and to ensure they have much room for the future development of products.

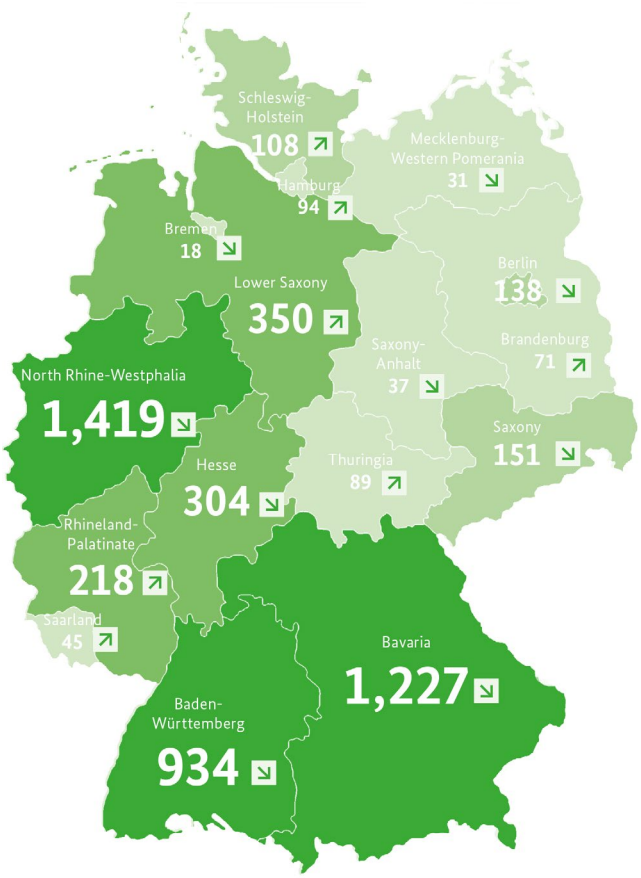
With a sligt increase of 2.3%, India once again took second place with 523 applications. Taiwan, with 360 applications, displaced the United States, with 337 applications, from fourth place. Among the European countries, the ranking did not change: Switzerland was first with 186 applications followed by Austria with 178 applications.

countries of origin	Applications	Percentage
Germany	5,234	54.7
China	1,620	16.9
India	523	5.5
Taiwan	360	3.8
United States	337	3.5
Republic of Korea	198	2.1
Switzerland	186	1.9
Austria	178	1.9
Italy	139	1.5
Japan	70	0.7
Others	732	7.6
Total	9,577	100

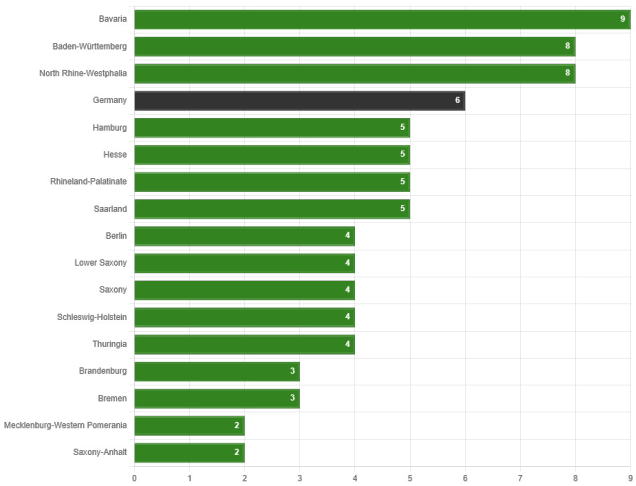
Utility model applications in 2024 by countries of origin (national applications at the DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

Utility model applications by German *Land*

In the 2024 ranking of the German Länder, North Rhine-Westphalia once again took first place with 1,419 applications (27.1% of all domestic applications), again followed by Bavaria and Baden-Württemberg with 1,227 applications (23.4%) and 934 applications (17.8%), respectively. If we compare these data with the respective population in the German Länder, Bavaria topped the list with nine applications per 100,000 population, followed by North Rhine-Westphalia and Baden-Württemberg with eight applications each.



The map shows the utility model applications in 2024 and the applications per 100,000 population as well as the percentage change, broken down by German Land (residence or principal place of business of the applicant).



Utility model applications per 100,000 inhabitants in 2024, broken down by German Länder (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)

Split-off option

Many patent applicants use the split-off utility model as a low-cost and quickly effective measure to take effective action against the copying of their innovation. A split-off utility model provides supplementary protection during the period between the filing of the patent application and the grant of the patent. Upon registration of the split-off utility model, an invention enjoys full protection, irrespective of the course of the patent procedure. Applicants can claim the date of filing of the earlier patent application with respect to the (later) split-off utility model applications. Compared to the previous year, the percentage of split-off utility models remained constant (2024: 953 split-off utility models, 10.0%).

Search pursuant to section 7 of the Utility Model Act

A utility model is simply registered, without an examination of the protection requirements as conducted for patents. For this reason, a utility model is considerably faster and cheaper to obtain than a patent. One disadvantage, however, is that it offers less legal security. Any third party can at any time file a request for the cancellation of a registered utility model. Such a request must be accompanied by a statement of reasons. Applicants can mitigate the risk of such a cancellation by filing an early search request with the DPMA. The examining sections of the DPMA will then determine the state of the art that is relevant to evaluate the protectability of the subject matter of the utility model application.

In 2024, the DPMA received 1,196 effective search requests (previous year: 1,191). The number of concluded searches rose to 1,237 (previous year: 1,154).

Cancellation of utility models

Cancellation proceedings are an efficient instrument to subsequently clarify the protectability of an initially unexamined utility model. Compared to the previous year, the number of requests for cancellation dropped considerably; in 2024, the DPMA received 56 new requests for cancellation (previous year: 84). As fewer requests were received, we were able to further reduce the number of pending proceedings.

A utility model can be cancelled upon request only. Anyone can file a cancellation request; even without there being the looming risk of an infringement dispute nor an economic interest. A fee of 300 euro is due upon filing the request. The request for cancellation must contain a sufficient statement of reasons. As in civil cases, the losing party must usually bear the costs of the proceedings.

In addition to the party filing the request, the proprietor of the disputed utility model is also involved in the cancellation proceedings as the opposing party. The Utility Model Division decides on the request for cancellation. The panel consists of three persons: a lawyer as the chairperson and two technically competent patent examiners as reporting and associate judges.

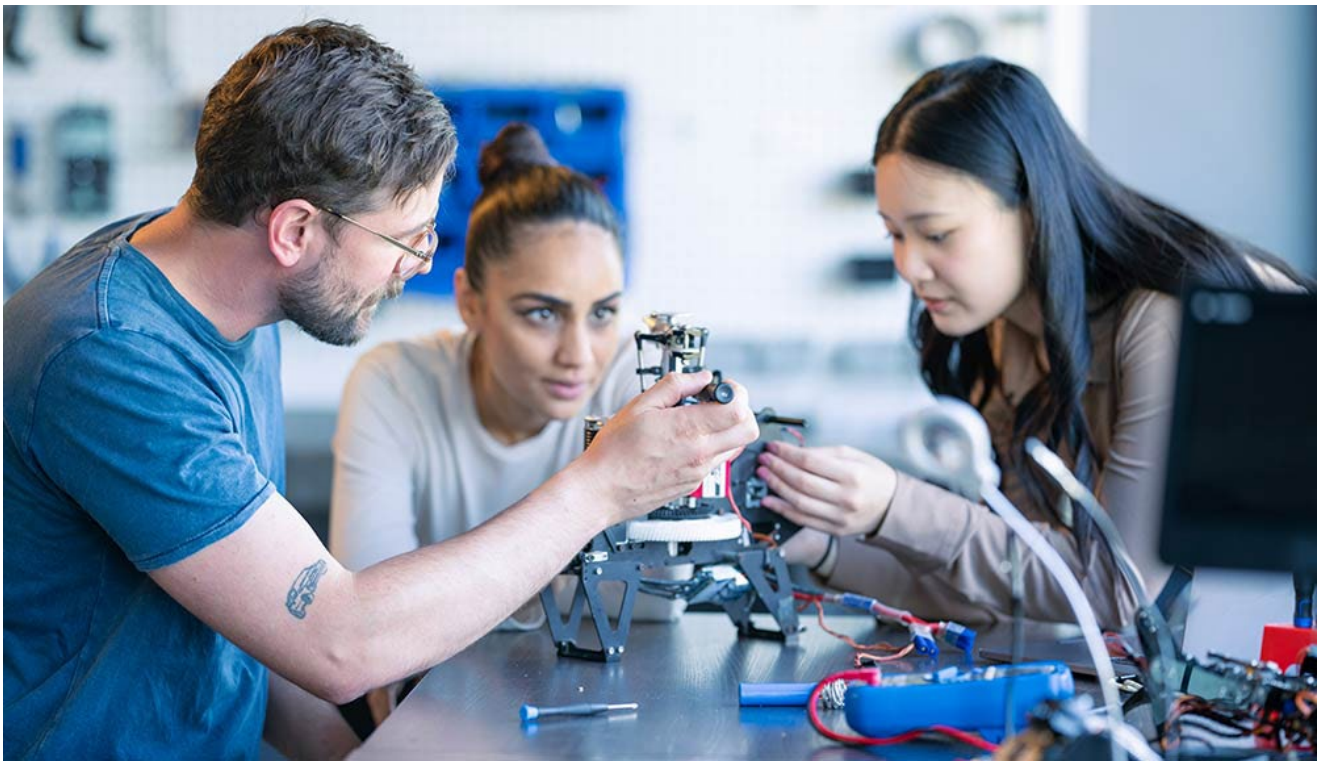
The most frequent reason for cancellation is that the subject matter of the utility model cannot be protected. An invention can be

protected if it is new compared to the state of the art and involves an inventive step. If a lack of protectability is submitted as the reason for cancellation, any conflicting prior art should be cited in the request for cancellation. Other reasons for cancellation that can be submitted are an inadmissible extension of the subject matter, usurpation or that the subject matter of the utility model has been protected on the basis of an earlier patent or utility model application.

In most cases, a decision on the request for cancellation is based on oral proceedings. Oral proceedings take place in the offices of the DPMA. In the year under review, parties hardly made any use of the option to obtain a decision in written proceedings or, where possible, to take advantage of the option to file a request for participation (from Germany) using image and sound transmission. In 2024, 79 proceedings were concluded.

IN FOCUS

IP right including grace period



Trade show participation, promotional video, customer meeting — have you already presented your invention to the public? If so, the requirement of novelty of the invention might no longer be fulfilled — and the road to protection might be blocked. But utility model law offers a loophole.

Less experienced inventors might, intentionally or unintentionally, present their technical inventions before they have thought about their legal protection. They demonstrate their product without having entered into non-disclosure agreements, or present it in public, such as at the exhibitions of the *Jugend forscht* contest.

The successful protection of an invention, whether through a patent or a utility model, requires that the invention be new at the date of filing of the application. The invention is deemed new if it is not part of the state of the art, i.e. it has not been made available to the public by describing or using it.

Grace period

By definition, both a presentation at an event and an advertising brochure published on the internet are considered state of the art. That means the invention is no longer deemed new and therefore no longer protectable.

Unlike patent law, however, the Utility Model Act (*Gebrauchsmustergesetz*) provides a grace period (*Neuheitsschonfrist*) in certain cases. This period allows inventors to file a utility model application for their invention up to six months after they themselves have published it.

The grace period can even be asserted with respect to a utility model split off from a patent application. The decisive date in that case is the date of the original patent application, not the date on which the utility model was split off.

Obligation to produce supporting documents in the case of dispute

Of course, applicants can invoke the grace period only if they can prove that they themselves published or used the invention or that the rights to the invention were effectively transferred to them. This way, third parties are prevented from unlawfully claiming the invention. Such a proof can be important in cancellation proceedings, for example.

Further information on utility model protection is available on our website.

BRIEFLY EXPLAINED

Utility models split off from European patent applications

You have filed a patent application and need quick protection for your innovation? Then a split-off utility model is a useful option. This instrument is available at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (DPMA) even for European patent applications.

Since the entry into force of the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court (UPCA) on 1 June 2023, the following protection options have been available to applicants of a European patent application with effect in Germany:

- **Classic European patent (bundle patent):** Applicants can decide on the territorial scope of application within the contracting states to the European Patent Convention (EPC). The classic European patent is subject to the jurisdiction of the Unified Patent Court, unless the patent proprietor declares that they want the patent to remain under the jurisdiction of the national courts of the relevant contracting states (opt-out option).
- **European patent with unitary effect (unitary patent):** Unitary patent protection in currently 18 participating EU member states with the centralised jurisdiction of the Unified Patent Court.
- **National patent (double protection):** In addition to a unitary patent or a classic European patent (without an opt-out), applicants may now also obtain a national patent for the same invention. The coexistence of a national patent and a European patent is referred to as “double protection”.

At the DPMA, you can additionally split off an independent national utility model with the date of filing of the patent application. Splitting off a utility model from a European patent application is an effective instrument for the flexible and prompt protection of technological innovations. The split-off option ends upon expiry of two months of the end of the month in which the patent application is concluded by withdrawal or refusal, for example, or in which opposition proceedings are concluded, but not later than upon expiry of the tenth year following the date of filing of the patent application. A complete and independent, albeit

unexamined, IP right, the split-off utility model accompanies the patent application.

Legal and strategic benefits

» **Independent protection in Germany:** Even in the case of a central revocation of the European patent by the Unified Patent Court, the national utility model in Germany remains valid
» **Supplementary protection certificate:** The parallel existence of a utility model and a national or European patent provides an additional enforcement option.
» **Option to enforce the national utility model and the European patent at the same time:** If an applicant has obtained both a **German patent** and a **European patent effective in Germany** for the same invention, the defendant in infringement proceedings against the German patent may **put forward** the **defence of double jeopardy** pursuant to Article II section 18 of the Act on International Patent Conventions (*Gesetz über Internationale Patentübereinkommen*). The purpose of this provision is to avoid competitors having to face two patents for the same subject matter. As a consequence, the German patent is not enforceable as long as the European patent is in force. The situation is different if the applicant has obtained utility model protection for the same invention at the DPMA. In this case, the proprietor of the utility model can assert the utility model irrespective of the parallel European patent. The **defence of double jeopardy** does **not apply** to **the utility model** since the utility model is an independent IP right and not a patent within the meaning of Article II section 18 of the Act on International Patent Conventions.

Other benefits of the split-off utility model:

» **Accelerated protection:** The utility model applicant will receive a quick and cost-effective IP right for a term of protection of ten years within a few weeks. They may claim the date of filing of the patent application from which the utility model is split off. There is no limitation to the 12-month priority period.
» **Immediate validity:** The utility model becomes legally valid upon registration in the register, entitling the proprietor to exclusively use, produce and put into circulation the protected product and prohibit third parties from carrying out such acts.
» **Flexible use:** The split-off utility model is tailored to defend your innovation against infringements. There can be more than one split-off from a patent application.
» **Cost-effective alternative to a divisional application:** Where a patent application lacks unity, a split-off utility model is a cost-effective alternative to a divisional application.

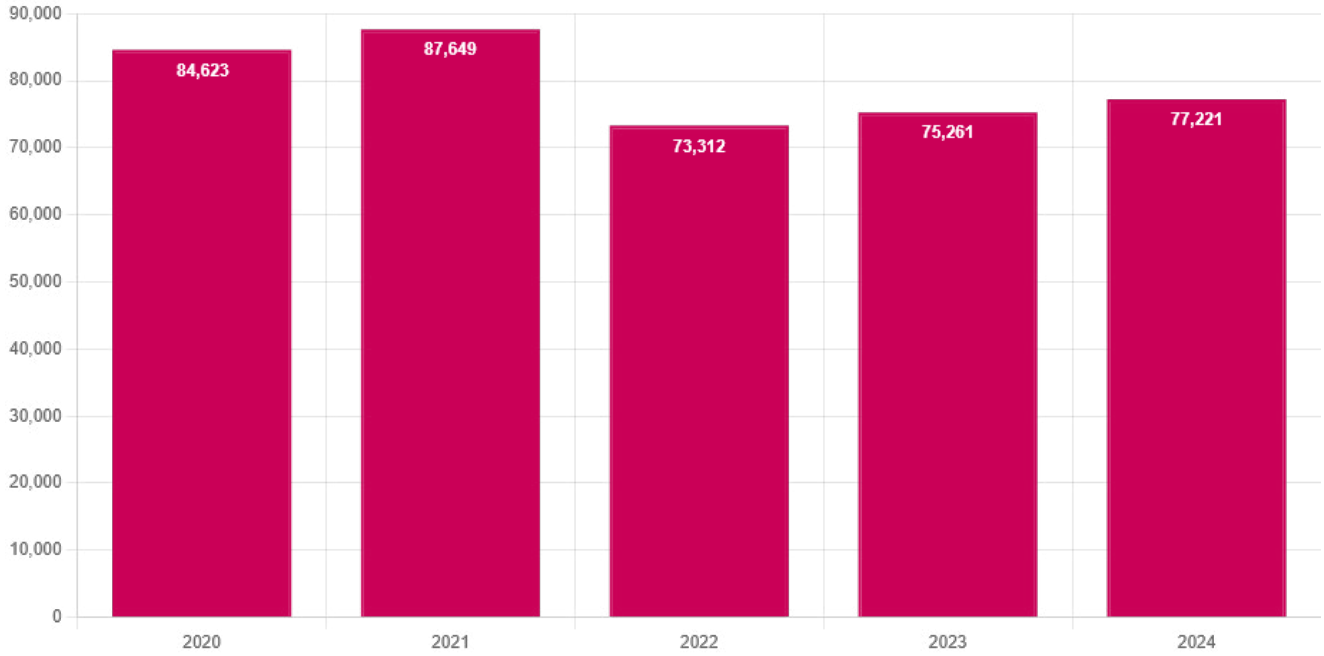
TRADE MARKS

OVERVIEW

Development and origin of trade mark applications

Development of trade mark applications

National trade mark applications at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office



In 2024, the DPMA received 80,365 trade mark applications; this represents an increase of 2.1% compared to the previous year. The national applications (77,221) even rose by 2.6%, whereas the requests for protection in Germany transmitted to us by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) decreased by 8.4% to 3,144.

This means that, despite the economic downturn, the moderate but constant increase in trade mark applications in the past years continued. As we already saw during the years of the COVID-19 pandemic with their unexpectedly strong increases in trade mark applications, the general trend is difficult to predict. According to examiners, there are many creative trade mark applications that reflect individual trends in an astonishingly short time. Rapid economic and social changes result in changing life circumstances, which require new solutions and new trade marks. In 2024, besides the popular topics of the past years, such as energy transition and vegetarian or vegan nutrition, applications relating to artificial intelligence stood out.

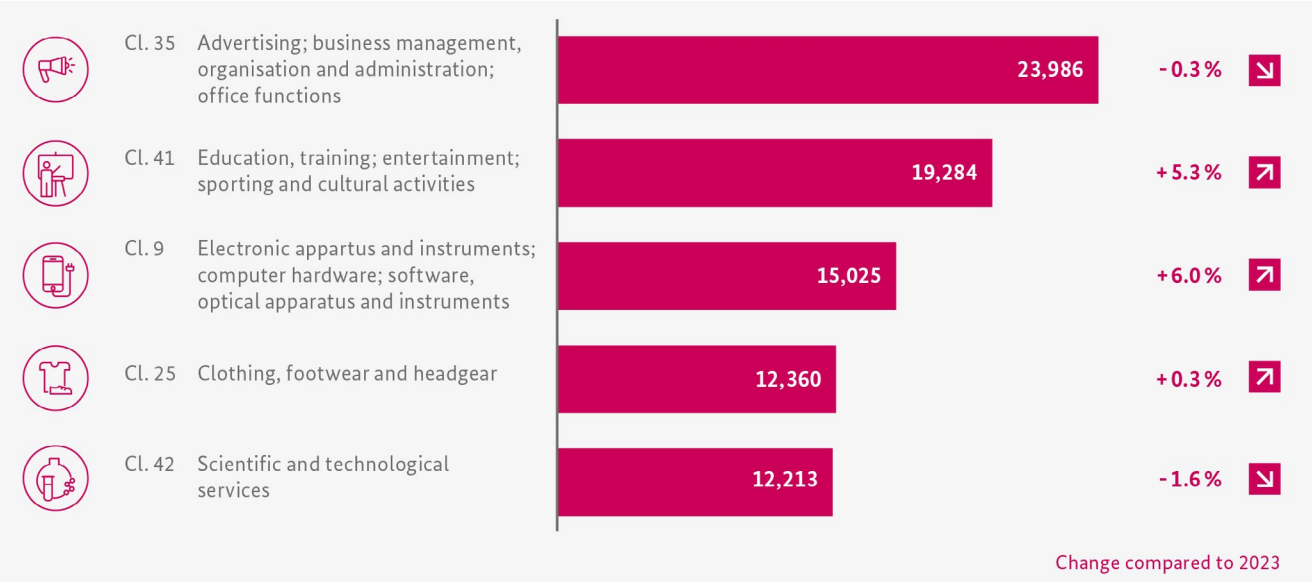
At the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO), there were 22,080 applications from Germany, nearly unchanged from the previous year (22,173). In total, however, the EUIPO saw an increase to 180,447 applications, up 2.7% from 175,711 applications in 2023. At theEUIPO, applications from China rose significantly from 23,755 to 27,516. This means that China was once again the most frequent country of origin for an EU trade mark application (Source: EUIPO Statistics for European Union Trade Marks, Februar 2025). With 3,376 applications, China was also the country from which the DPMA received by far the majority of foreign applications.

Trade mark applications by class

As in the previous year, trade mark applications mainly concerned the following: class 35 (advertising; business management, organisation and administration; office functions), ahead of class 41 (providing of training, entertainment; sporting and cultural activities) and class 9 (electrical apparatus and instruments; computer hardware; software; optical apparatus and instruments). Class 35 was (one of the classes) indicated in 23,986 applications, i.e. for one out of three trade marks.

At the EUIPO, class 9 (47,074 applications) was ahead of class 35 and class 42.

Top 5[1] Classes[2] of goods and services



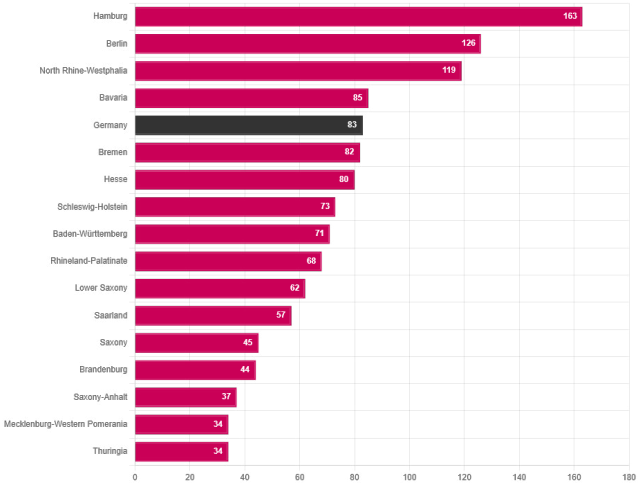
[1] *Class heading according to current version of Nice Classiffication, available here:* www.dpma.de/english/trade_marks/classification/goods_and_services/nice_classification/index.html

[2] *A trade mark application can be attributed to several classes.*

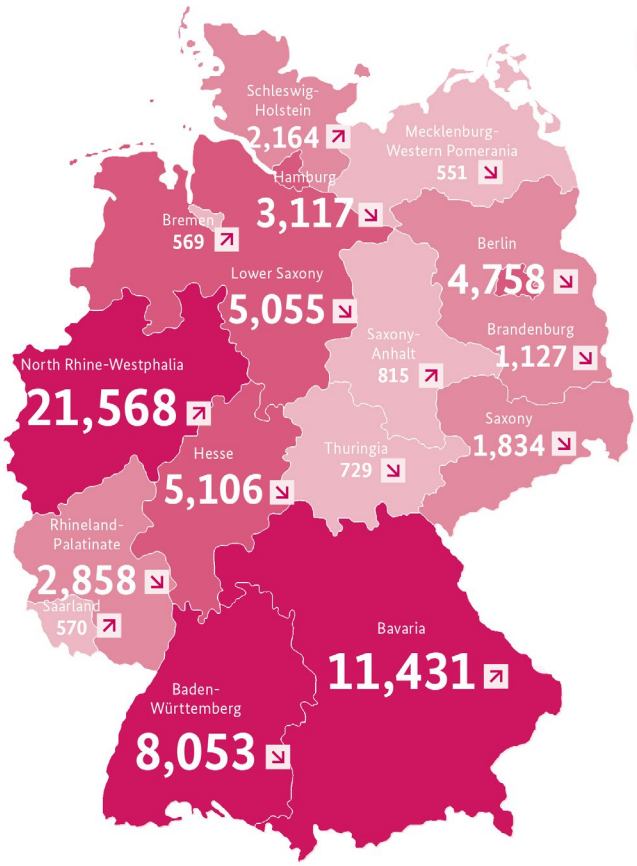
Applications by German *Land*

In terms of 100,000 inhabitants, the highest number of registrations again came from the city states of Hamburg and Berlin, both of which are home to many companies. The industrially strong territorial states of North Rhine-Westphalia and Bavaria took 3rd and 4th place, followed by Bremen in 5th place, moving up 4 places.

The map shows the trade mark applications in 2024 and the applications per 100,000 population as well as the percentage change, broken down by German *Land* (residence or principal place of business of the applicant).



Trade mark applications per 100,000 inhabitants in 2024, broken down by German Länder (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)



Selected data on trade mark procedures

In 2024, 49,991 trade marks were registered in the register, a slight increase compared to the 48,689 registrations in the previous year. Due to formal deficiencies or a lack of protectability, 7,343 applications were refused, far less than a tenth of the new applications. 17,318 applications were withdrawn or were deemed withdrawn. A deemed withdrawal, i.e. if the application fee is not paid within the payment period of three months from the date of filing of the application, allows applicants to file trade mark applications claiming the date of filing as the date of seniority while they have three months to decide whether or not to pursue the application.

We received 87.1% of the national applications online via the two filing options DPMAdirektPro and DPMAdirektWeb, another increase by 2.2 percentage points compared to the previous year. In particular, filing an application without signature via DPMAdirektWeb offers important benefits especially to inexperienced applicants. A dialogue in the online filing process helps avoid formal errors that delay processing. The shopping cart function offers great advantages to indicating the goods and services. Thanks to a search function, applicants can search the appropriate goods and services from a database with more than 73,000 entries. The terms originate from an international harmonised database and are accepted by us and many other countries without further review.

Selected data on trade mark procedures

Selected data	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
New applications	84,623	87,649	73,312	75,261	77,221
Registrations	60,445	68,638	53,636	48,689	49,991
Refusals	6,606	9,634	7,793	6,629	7,343

Top companies in terms of registrations

In the 2024 ranking, Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH took first place with 135 registrations, followed by Point Commerce B.V. with 95 registrations and Henkel AG & Co. KGaA with 56 registrations.

Trade mark administration

At the Jena location, 40 staff of the trade mark administration deal with secondary procedures after the definitive registration of a trade mark. Secondary procedures in particular include renewals, the recording of changes, restrictions on disposal, divisions, licensing procedures and cancellations. Other horizontal tasks the trade mark administration staff perform are issuing priority documents, certifications of origin and other register extracts and providing internal services, e.g. quality assurance tasks, including corrections of the trade mark register.

At the end of 2024, the register contained 897,701 trade marks. With respect to 103,620 trade marks, changes concerning proprietors, representatives or addresses of service were made. The number of trademark cancellations due to non-renewal of the term of protection or surrender, due to opposition or following the conclusion of revocation/cancellation proceedings increased slightly to 41,032 (previous year: 40,536). Renewals also slightly increased from 34,296 to 35,891. Declarations of willingness to license or sell/transfer continued to gain importance: the DPMA received non-binding declarations of willingness to grant licences from the respective registered proprietors with respect to 31,890 trade marks (previous year: 28,128); yet a licence was entered in the register for only 7 trade marks. It also received declarations of willingness to sell/transfer with respect to 16,072 trade marks (previous year: 14,396).

For further statistical data on trade mark administration, please see the “Statistics”.

Revocation and invalidity proceedings

Since 1 May 2020, there has been the option to file an application for a declaration of invalidity due to the existence of earlier rights or an application for revocation not only with an ordinary court but also with the DPMA, and to have the proceedings fully con-

ducted at the latter. At the DPMA, a panel consisting of three legal examiners decides on such applications.

In 2024, the DPMA received 115 applications for a declaration of invalidity due to the existence of earlier rights (previous year: 105) and 182 requests for initiation of revocation proceedings intended to have a substantive decision (previous year: 169).

In addition, 152 applications for a declaration of invalidity due to the existence of absolute grounds for refusal were filed (previous year: 151), of which 68 concerned the ground for refusal that a trade mark application had been filed in bad faith (previous year: 73).

Several of the cases decided by the DPMA since 2020 have been challenged by way of an appeal to the Federal Patent Court, which has so far rendered a decision on two cases. In both cases (trade marks "VIVA" and "ADLON"), the Federal Patent Court fully affirmed the decision of the trade mark division.

IN FOCUS: QUALIFICATION FOR TRADE MARK EXAMINATION

A highly skilled team for your protection

What do you need for a strong trade mark protection? Thoroughly prepared applications — and competent examinations. This is why the DPMA has developed a comprehensive qualification concept that equips our examiners with all the skills they need to do an excellent job.

For some years now, the new examiners of the trade mark division have been receiving internal training in line with a unified qualification concept. This comprehensive, top-quality and up-to-date training helps create a team of independent examiners capable of making decisions, and the centralised learning process ensures a unified decision standard.

The qualification concept consists of various modules that cover practical skills as well as theoretical foundations. The first onboarding period in the team for the initial classification and the introduction to the formal administrative processes of the application and opposition procedures are followed by the (reduced) work on cases, which is accompanied by a three-year qualification in legal theory. Due to the concept's modular structure and the fact that currently there are different training phases taking place simultaneously, it is possible for staff to pause their participation for personal or work-related reasons and then continue with the modules of the next course at a later point.

The training in detail

The training in legal theory starts with the one-year substantive course "Absolutes Verfahren" (absolute procedure), which is ac-

companied by the team's experienced examiners on an individual basis (mentoring). In this course, the new examiners get to know the formal and substantive requirements for the registration of a trade mark in small groups. At this stage, the participants will apply their newly acquired knowledge by drafting their own decisions, which they will complete under supervision until they are ready to be sent out. This way, new staff are involved in every step of the process from the very beginning.

Once this phase has been successfully completed, the nine-month advanced stage starts. Now, junior examiners support their teams by independently working on their own cases from application until registration. This enables them to put their substantive skills into practice and learn to manage their workload.

The last stage consists of the one-year substantive course "Widerspruchsverfahren" (opposition procedures), which, just like the other course, is also held by trade mark lawyers. Here, the examiners learn the adjective and substantive legal requirements for a successful opposition against a newly registered trade mark, with the focus on the likelihood of confusion between two trade marks. As before, the participants draft their own decisions, which they then revise and finalise together with their mentors so they can be sent out.

After the successful completion of their training, the examiners are granted signing authority and receive their own cases. Since the new examiners have already been closely involved in the day-to-day business during their training, they can now start supporting the trade mark team as a full-fledged member without any further delays.

30 YEARS AGO

When trade mark law became European

30 years ago, an important development for the European single market came into force in Germany: the German Trade Mark Act took effect, implementing the European Trade Mark Directive. It was a crucial step for the harmonisation of legislation on behalf of the applicants. Since then, European and national law have been complementing each other marvellously.

30 years ago, on 1 January 1995, the Trade Mark Act (*Markengesetz*) took effect. It implemented the European Directive 89/104 (EEC) of 1989 to approximate the laws of the Member States relating to trade marks into German legislation, meaning that the European trade mark law now also applied to Germany. From this point on, the German Patent and Trade Mark Office has been examining the eligibility of trade marks for protection, the likelihood of confusion and the requirements for the cancellation of a trade mark in accordance with European rules. Especially the conditions for registering a trade mark have been the same in all of the EU since then: the harmonised European trade mark law was an important step towards making the European single market a reality..

Since 1 January 1993, members of the single market of the EU have benefitted from four fundamental rights: the free movement of goods, people, services and capital. To accomplish this, harmonising the legislation in member states and at European level was and still is crucial.

The first European Trade Mark Directive of 21 December 1988 already brought about a harmonisation of substantive trade mark law in the member states. Since its adoption, the requirements for registering a trade mark have been the same in all EU countries. The Regulation of 20 December 1993 on the Community trade mark completed the European legal framework and created the Community trade mark as well as the competent European trade mark office under its earlier name, "Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market" (OHIM). From then on it has been possible to obtain the protection of a trade mark in all EU member states via just one registration procedure.

To gain more insights into the results of these first harmonisation measures, the European Commission put a trade mark study out

for tender in 2009 and awarded it to the Max Planck Institute for Intellectual Property and Competition Law in November 2009. The results of the study that the Institute presented to the Commission in December 2010 showed that the coexistence of the national offices and the harmonisation office should be maintained and even strengthened. A further harmonisation measure should cast a wider net regarding substantive law and, for the first time, also take into account procedural aspects as well as office standards regarding classification and fee structures.

In 2015, the study results as well as suggestions from the European Parliament led to the new trade mark law Regulation and the amending Council Regulation on the Community trade mark regulation, which replaced the Community trade mark with the EU trade mark and the OHIM with the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO).

In Germany, the new Regulation was implemented as the Trade Mark Law Modernisation Act (*Markenrechtsmodernisierungsgesetz, MaMoG*). Apart from some provisions being adapted to the European terminology and a harmonisation of procedures, especially for opposition proceedings, the MaMoG also introduced various changes to substantive trade mark law, e.g. the establishment of new trade mark types.

The most important aspects for all parties, offices and users alike, are consistent provisions, low red tape and transparent procedures. To achieve these goals, the DPMA has continuously and intensely been working together with the EUIPO in various projects and working groups regarding the harmonisation of the trade mark procedures. And even after 30 years it can still be said that the European and the national trade mark system exist side by side in harmony and complement each other to the advantage of applicants. At the same time, the national German trade mark still has an important place in the IP strategies of companies and strengthens the economic basis of their business models.

BRIEFLY EXPLAINED

Shaping the future with new types of trade marks

Sound mark, multimedia mark, hologram or "signature move": as long as there are no grounds for refusal, all these types of trade marks can be registered. The many different marks were created to meet the needs of the market — and may also offer attractive new possibilities for your brand.

The Trade Mark Law Modernisation Act of 2019 created a more liberal framework for the types of trade marks that are eligible for registration in Germany. Since its implementation, a trade mark does not necessarily have to be graphically representable (as an image) anymore. Rather, it simply needs to be representable in a way that allows all users of the register to clearly and precisely determine its elements. This opens up many new opportunities for applicants, also in regard to their strategy.

Types of representation

Beside the conventional graphic representation of word marks and word/figurative marks, trade marks can now also be represented in the electronic register by using the file formats MP3 and MP4. This method is ideal for non-music sound marks, multimedia marks or light marks as well as, under certain circumstances, tactile marks.

If a mark cannot be represented in any other way, the very liberal German trade mark law also permits the representation solely in text form, as long as it allows for the clear and precise identification of the mark. This type of representation could enable the registration of conceptual trade marks, e.g. a store that has a very specific room temperature.

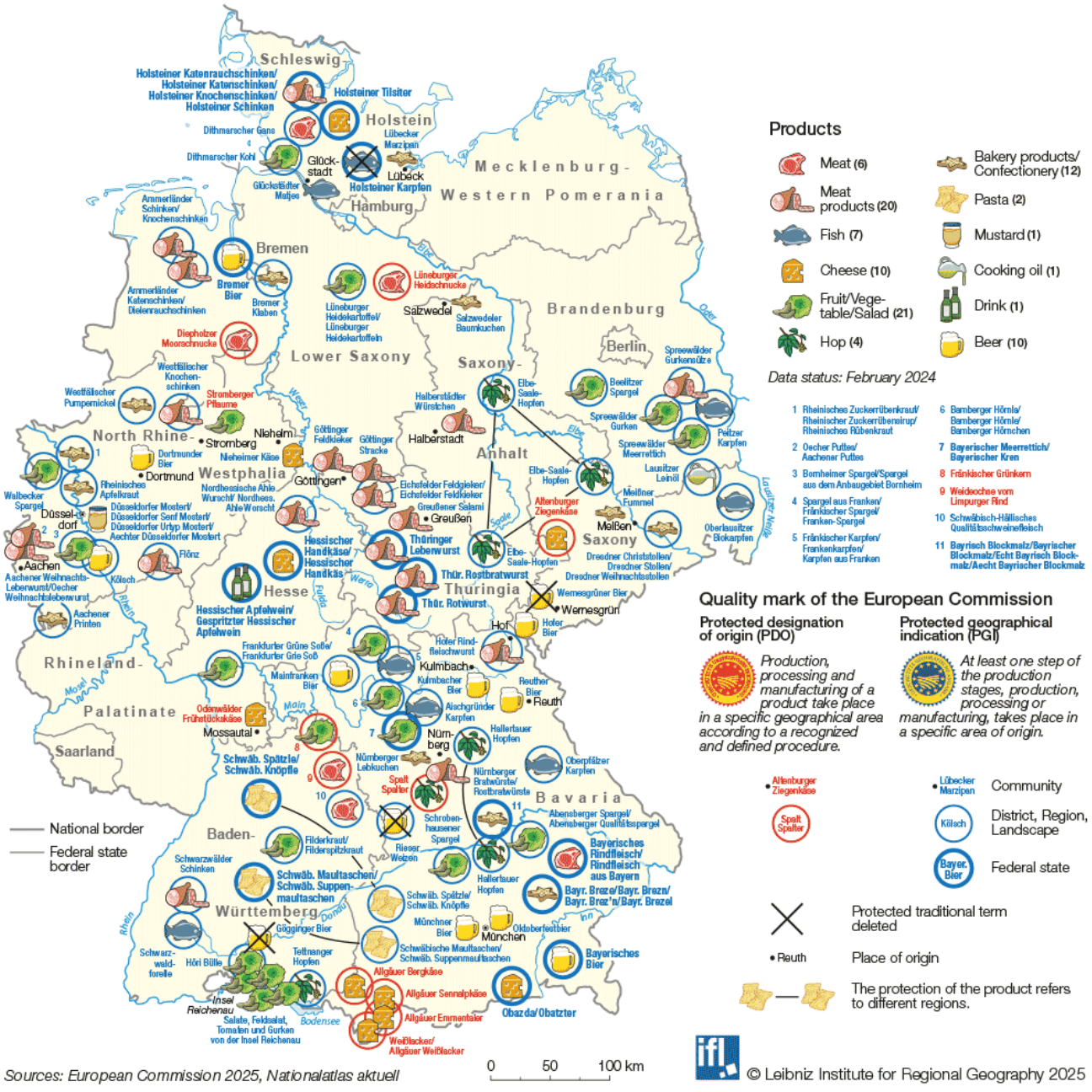
The new types of trade marks are especially appealing to applicants from the e-commerce sector, as they offer a range of interesting strategic possibilities. For example, sound marks and multimedia marks are ideal for websites or apps: a moving logo or a short video sequence that appears upon opening an app or a specific sound that confirms the payment process on a smartphone are excellent ways to distinguish a brand from competitors. The branding can even be continued in the metaverse: whether the avatars of employees or virtual products — all of this can be protected as a trade mark.

Technology keeps evolving, and the habits of consumers keep changing. The German trade mark law has adapted to these new developments — take advantage of its possibilities!

You can find explainer videos showcasing the new types of trade marks on our YouTube channel (German with English subtitles). If you click on this link, you will leave our website and open an external link to YouTube.
For more information about trade mark protection, please visit our website.

Geographical indications of origin

Parma ham, Munich beer, Spreewald gherkins: Europe stands for cultural and economic diversity. And one important component of this diversity is the many unique products from the many different regions. Geographical indications protect producers from imitation and misuse. And starting at the end of this year, there will be a completely new category of products eligible for protection.



Food with protected geographical status

The European protection of geographical indications for wine, spirit drinks and agricultural products (agricultural geographical indications, agri-GIs) has been in place for a long time and has become an effective tool for preventing the misuse and imitations of registered names. But so far, the sector for craft and industrial products did not have a comparable unified protection system. The Regulation (EU) 2023/2411 on the protection of geographical indications for craft and industrial products (CIGIs) closes this gap: from 1 December 2025 on, products produced by hand or in a standardised way and by using machines, such as natural stones, woodwork, jewellery, textiles, lace, cutlery, glass, porcelain and hides and skins, benefit from an EU-wide protection system.

Two-tier examination system

The new registration procedure for CIGIs is based on the successful procedure for agricultural geographical indications pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2024/1143. It consists of two phases: the national phase and the union phase. In the national phase, the DPMA examines the application, conducts national opposition proceedings if needed, and, after the successful examination, forwards the application to the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO). In the second phase, the EUIPO continues the procedure at union level and makes a decision regarding the registration. Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2023/2411, these applications can be submitted electronically.

An essential requirement for obtaining the protection provided by a geographic indication is the link to the respective area of origin. A product's quality, reputation or other characteristics must be essentially attributable to its geographical origin. Just as for agricultural geographical indications, every product has to have a product specification including a detailed description. Only products that fulfil these requirements may be offered using the protected indication.

Craft and industrial products are protected as geographical indications, but in contrast to agricultural products, the regulation does not provide for their protection as designations of origin.

If there is already a specific protection of geographical indications at a national level for craft and industrial products, it ends on 2 December 2026, if no application for EU-wide protection is filed under the new Regulation (EU) 2023/2411.

Information about the new CIGI procedures has already been published on the DPMA's and the EUIPO's websites and will be updated regularly.

All geographical indications that have already been applied for and registered can be found in the official register of the EU, eAmbrosia. The GIview portal contains geographical indications from the EU as well as from third countries that are protected by agreements.

Changes for agri-GIs

The legal basis for the protection of agricultural products has changed: the previous Regulation (EU) 1151/2012 has been substituted by Regulation (EU) 2024/1143, and the previous Regulations (EU) 664/2014 and 668/2014 have been replaced by Delegated Regulation (EU) 2025/27 and Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/26.

The previous classification of products according to product categories has been changed to the Combined Nomenclature (see Annex I of Regulation (EU) 2024/1143). The indications in eAmbrosia, the union register of geographical indications, have been adapted accordingly.

Applications and decisions regarding agri-GIs

In 2024, five requests for the amendment of geographical indications were filed with the DPMA. Requests for amendment can be submitted to adapt the specification of a product, for example. In these cases, they concerned the protected geographical indications (PGIs) "Lausitzer Leinöl" (linseed oil from the Lausitz region), "Spargel aus Franken" (asparagus from Franconia), "Schrobenhausener Spargel" (asparagus from Schrobenhausen), "Abensberger Spargel" (asparagus from Abensberg) as well as "Nürnberger Lebkuchen" (gingerbread from Nuremberg). For the PGI "Salzwedeler Baumkuchen" (cake from Salzwedel), a request for cancellation was filed.

In the procedures for the PGIs "Tettnanger Hopfen" (hops) and "Spreewälder Gurken" (gherkins), the DPMA granted the requests for standard amendments. The request for the registration of the designation for the meat paste "Harzer Pottsuse" was declined.

The designation "Dithmarscher Gans" (geese) was protected as a geographical indication by the European Commission in 2024, making it a total of 97 German products that have been registered so far.

In the procedure regarding "Hessischer Apfelwein" (apple wine from Hesse) (30 W (pat) 054/22), the Federal Patent Court has referred the decision regarding certain amendments back to the DPMA; it also rejected the complaint. The complaint in the amendment procedure regarding the PGI "Schwäbisch-Hällisches Qualitätsschweinefleisch" (quality pork from Schwäbisch Hall) was withdrawn.

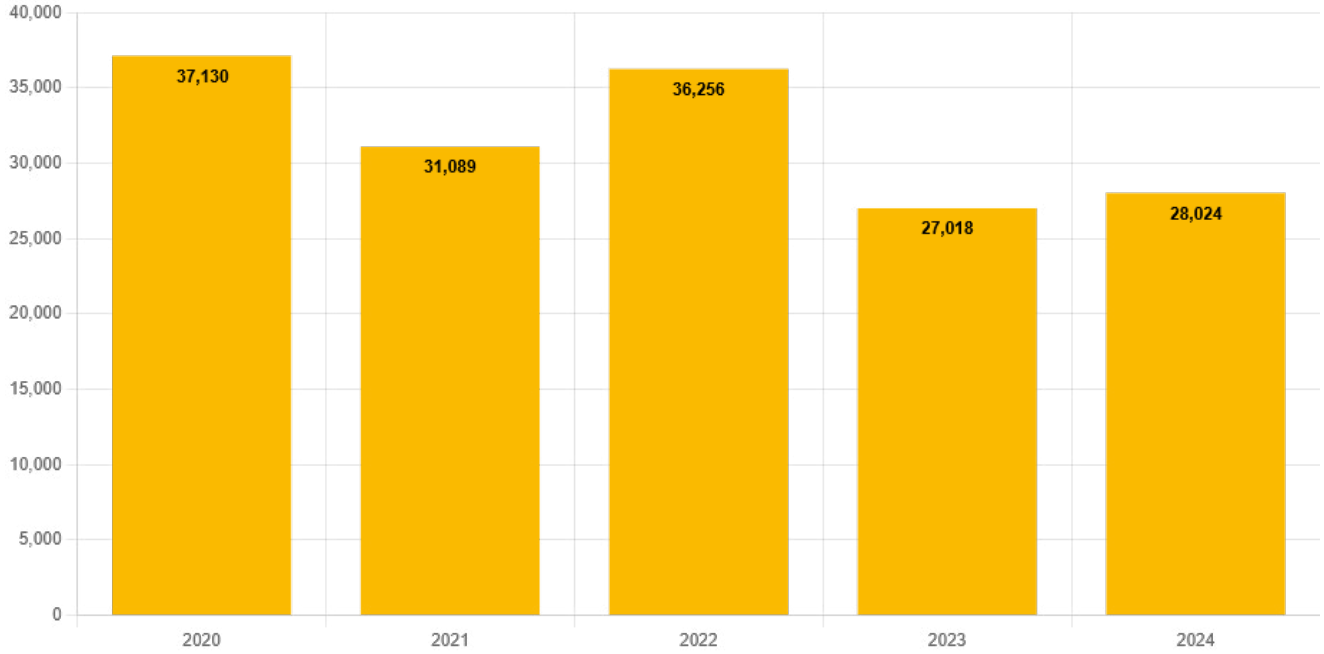
DESIGNS

OVERVIEW

Development and origin of design applications

Development of design applications

Registered designs at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office



Despite the difficult economic situation, 2024 was a good year for the IP right "designs". Compared to the previous year, the number of design applications filed with the DPMA in 2024 considerably increased by 4.7% (2023: 3,775; 2024: 3,951). This is a positive development after the constant decline in the past years. It remains to be seen whether this development will continue in the next years.

Applicants once again made extensive use of the option to combine designs in a multiple application. It is possible to combine up to a total of 100 designs in multiple applications filed via the DPMAdirektPro software or on paper. The web-based filing platform DPMAdirektWeb allows multiple applications comprising up to 20 designs to be filed. In 2024, far more than half of the applicants (68.6%) took advantage of this service.

In 2024, on average, 10.6 designs were filed in a multiple application (2023: 10.7 designs); in total, 28,723 designs (2023: 28,110) were filed in multiple applications.

Last year, we conclusively processed requests for entry in the register for a total of 30,675 designs. Compared to the previous years, the Design Unit was once again able to significantly reduce the duration of design registration procedures. The number of designs entered in the design register was 28,024; this means that the percentage of positive completions was 91.4% (2023: 90.8%).

At the end of 2024, 238,193 designs were registered at the DPMA, i.e. 4.3% fewer than in the previous year.

Origin of registered designs

With a share of 92.7%, the majority of designs registered with us again came from Germany last year, i.e. from owners based in Germany. A total of 1,376 registered designs came from other European countries (2023: 1,230), 681 from non-European countries (2023: 377). The majority of designs registered from abroad in 2024 again came from Switzerland with 653 registered designs. With 303 registered designs and an enormous increase of 283.5% compared to the previous year, China improved its position from seventh to third place.

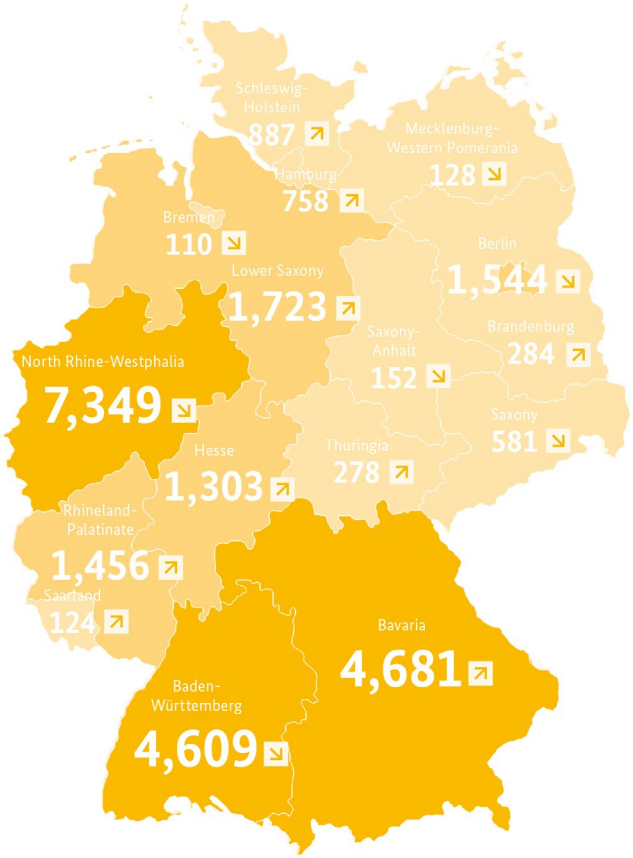
Registered designs in 2024 by countries of origin

countries of origin	Registered designs	Percentage
Germany	25,967	92.7
Switzerland	653	2.3
China	303	1.1
Austria	277	1.0
Czech Republic	234	0.8
USA	206	0.7
Hungary	104	0.4
Hongkong	77	0.3
Taiwan	43	0.2
Poland	41	0.1
Others	119	0.4
Total	**28,024**	**100**

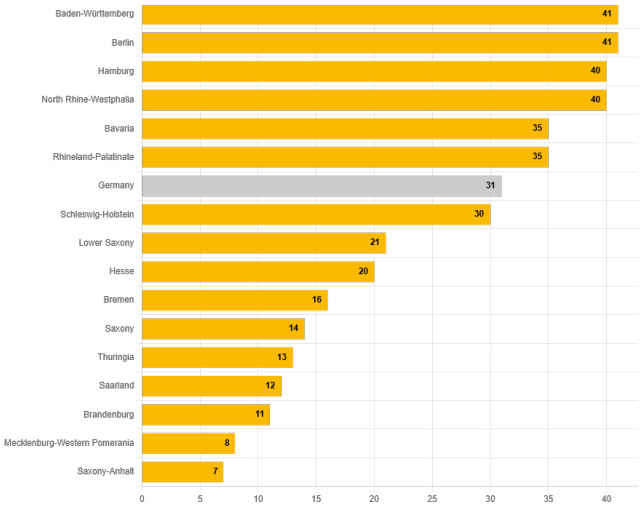
Registered designs by German *Land*

With 28.3%, most of the 25,967 domestic designs registered in 2024 came from North Rhine-Westphalia (7,349 registered designs). This means that North Rhine-Westphalia has now been at the top of the list of German Länder for more than 15 years. In 2024, it was followed by Bavaria with 4,681 registered designs (18%), just ahead of Baden-Württemberg with 4,609 registered designs (17.7%).

The map shows the registered designs in 2024 and the registered designs per 100,000 population as well as the percentage change, broken down by German *Land* (residence or principal place of business of the holder).



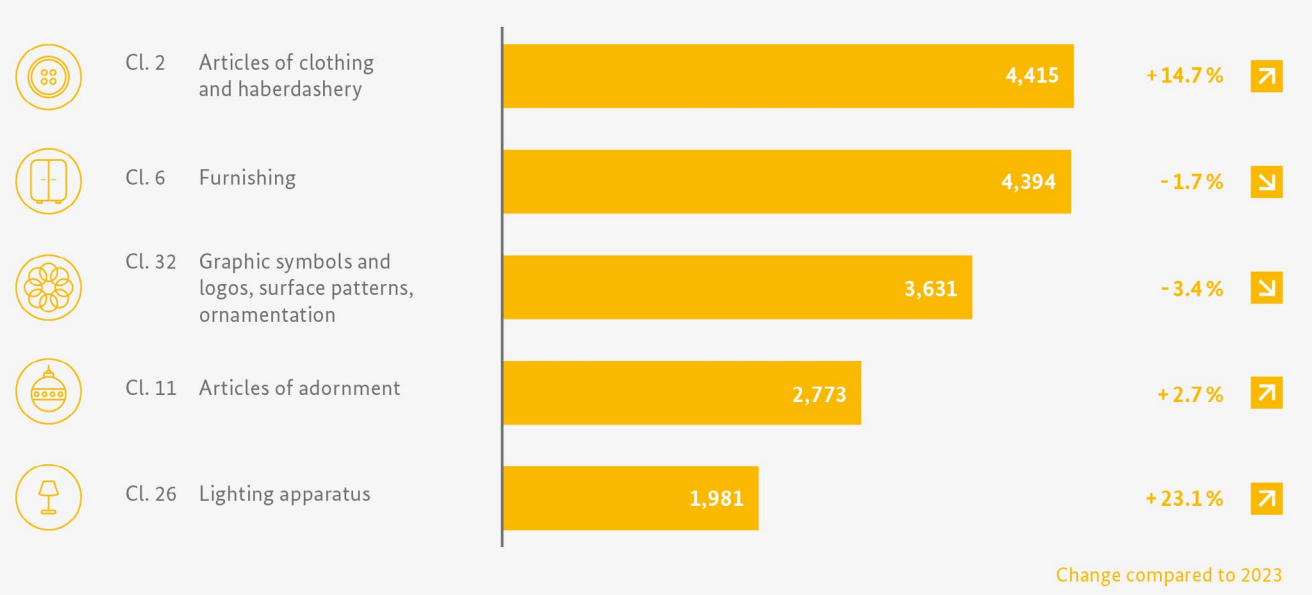
Registered designs per 100,000 in 2024, broken down by German Länder (residence or principal place of business of the owner)



Registered designs by classes of goods

In 2024, most designs (4,415, i.e. 13.3%) were registered in class 2 (articles of clothing and haberdashery). Class 6 (furnishing) was second with 13.2% (4,394 designs), followed by class 32 (graphic symbols and logos, surface patterns, ornamentation, arrangement of interiors and exteriors) with 10.9% (3,631 designs).

Top 5 Classes of goods of registered designs[1] 2024



[1] A design can be attributed to several classes of goods.

Post-registration procedures

A registered design may enjoy protection for a maximum period of 25 years, starting from the date of filing. During that period, the register entry can be changed by various procedures:

» Renewal or cancellation
A term of protection is five years. Renewal fees must be paid at the end of each term to renew protection. Unless renewed, design protection will lapse. An corresponding comment concerning the registered design will then be made in the register.

» Extension
When filing a design application, applicants can request that the representations of a registered design will not be published for a period of up to 30 months (deferment of publication of the representation). If a design has initially been registered only for a 30-month period of protection from the filing or priority date, deferring the publication of the representation, the holder of the registered design may pay a fee to extend the period of protection to the first five years after the filing date. In this case, a comment concerning the extension will be made in the design register and the reproductions of the design will be published.

» Recording of changes
We will record a change to an IP right in the register if, for example, it is transferred from the owner to another person or if there is a change of representative.

Design invalidity proceedings

In 2024, 22 applications for determination or declaration of invalidity were filed (2023: 15). The application for determination or declaration of invalidity will be served to the holder of the challenged design after receipt of a fee of 300 euro and examination of further admissibility requirements. If the application is not contested within one month, invalidity will be determined or declared by decision of the Design Division without further substantive examination and the design in question will be cancelled in the design register after the decision has become final. If the application is contested in due time, the Design Division will conduct an official examination of the grounds of invalidity (the appearance of the product does not constitute a design, lack of novelty or individual character; exclusion from design protection; earlier conflicting rights). Subsequently, the Design Division will make a decision in proceedings that — also with regard to the costs to be borne — are essentially based on the Code of Civil Procedure (*Zivilprozessordnung*). In 2024, a total of 34 design invalidity proceedings were concluded (2023: 21).

IN FOCUS

DesignEuropa Awards 2024: Lifetime Achievement Award for Dieter Rams

Tribute to a „design icon“: Dieter Rams received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the DesignEuropa Awards 2024. The jury honoured him as a „pioneer of both design and sustainability“ who „designed more than 200 iconic devices and shaped the look and functionality of consumer products for decades.”

Dieter Rams amidst his works

Dieter Rams, born on 20 May 1932 in Wiesbaden, is considered one of the most successful and influential industrial designers of the 20th century — and a pioneer of sustainable thinking: “Rams champions a design ethos that takes into account our finite resources and challenges designers and the public alike to consider the long-term impact of consumer behaviour,” the jury’s statement reads.

Rams began studying architecture and interior design at the Werkkunstschule Wiesbaden in 1947. After graduating in 1953, he worked for the Frankfurt architecture firm Apel for two years before joining the electrical appliance manufacturer Braun.

At the time, Braun’s design department worked closely with the legendarily influential but unfortunately short-lived Ulm School of Design, including Hans Gugelot and Otl Aicher. Ram’s talent was quickly recognised. One of his first designs for Braun in 1956 was the SK 4 radio-record player combination (nicknamed “Snow White’s Coffin”). The radically minimalist design of a white lacquered sheet metal body with a cover made of acrylic glass and light-coloured wood became a classic.

In 1961, Dieter Rams took over the management of the design department at Braun. He developed a unique product language that combined intuitive operation and outstanding aesthetics. Many products were far ahead of their time with their minimalist and functional design, which revolutionised the household appliance sector.

Under Ram’s leadership, many pioneering electrical appliances were created that have long been regarded as design classics, such as the T 1000 world receiver, the LE1 electrostatic loudspeaker, the Regie and Atelier hi-fi components, pocket and desk lighters and the ET 66 pocket calculator.

Ram’s second field of activity became furniture design. In his very first year at Braun, the 23-year-old sketched out a proposal for the company’s new interior design. This contained the first idea for a rail-based, wall-mounted storage system. In 1958, the “606” shelving system was launched on the market — a system that has often often been copied to this day. Rams is still affiliated with the manufacturer Vitsoe; the “620” armchair programme, which has been produced since 1962, is also well-known.

From 1981 until his retirement in 1997, Dieter Rams taught as Professor of Industrial Design at the Hamburg University of Fine Arts. From 1987 to 1997, he was President of the German Design Council. Dieter Rams has had numerous exhibitions and has been honoured worldwide, for example with an honorary doctorate from the Royal College of Art in London. Several of his designs are part of the collection of the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Rams is co-author of various patent applications (e.g. DE3011843C2, DE3026262A1, DE3037608A1).

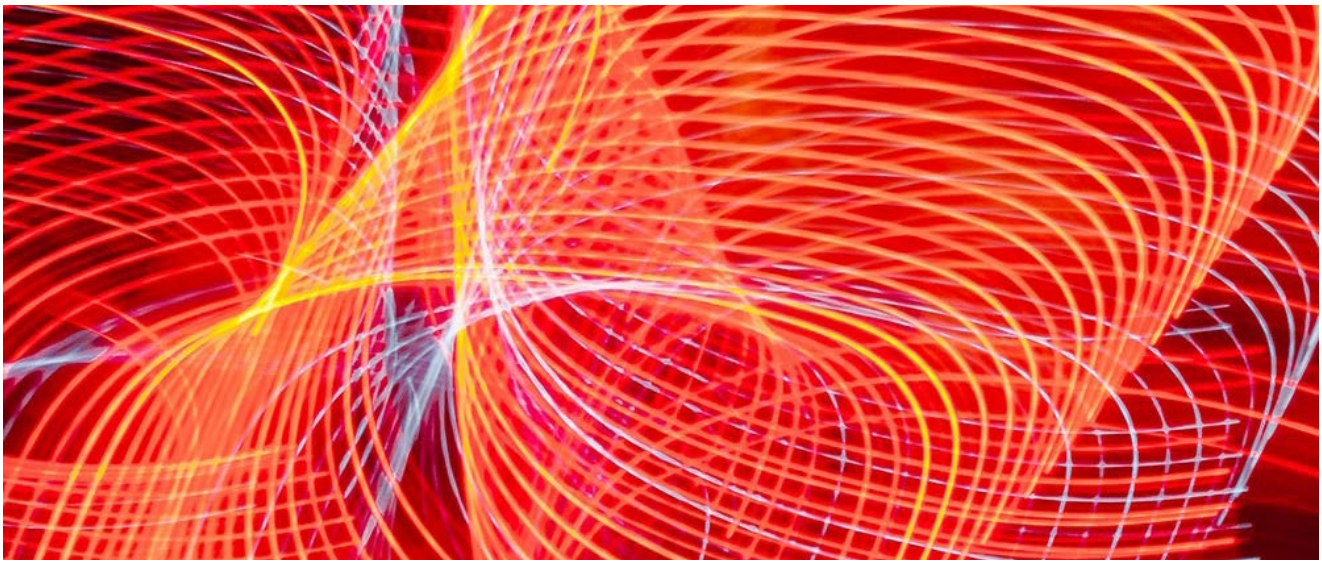
Apple is one of the many companies that have been influenced by him. Steve Jobs and former chief designer Jonathan Ive are said to have highly valued Rams' work and philosophy. Conversely, Rams praised: "You can count the companies that really take design seriously on ten fingers. Apple is one of them."

Rams' design follows his own philosophy: he is in favour of an "end to the age of waste" and questions how we can survive on a planet with finite resources "if we just throw everything away". His credo to this day is "Good design is as little design as possible" or "Less, but better".

Further information on the DesignEuropa Awards and the winners can be found on the EUIPO website.

BRIEFLY EXPLAINED

Successful update: European design reform strengthens an important IP right



Can light installations, virtual rooms or NFT objects be protected as registered designs? The new EU Design Directive answers this question with a definite yes. The central aim of the amendment was to adjust European design law to digitisation and open it up to new types of designs. After almost two years of negotiations, the amended version of the previous directives and regulations was published in the Official Journal of the EU on 18 November 2024.

Intense negotiations took place in Brussels over a modern, future-oriented and technologically neutral definition of "design" and "product". In the new directive, the "Community design" is now referred to as "EU design", and the broadening of the term "product" explicitly enables the protection of all physical and non-physical products. This includes graphical user interfaces, animated figures and items from the metaverse as well as holograms and NFT (non-fungible token) items, and thus ensures the effective protection of the economic interests of the creators of digital designs too.

Protection for digital designs

New types of designs and the technological progress require modern ways to register designs. By introducing dynamic and animated types and formats of reproduction for the visual representation of designs, the EU aims to establish modern filing options at the IP offices and make access to design protection easier. Basic common rules for the requirements for the representation of designs are to make the procedures simple, efficient and legally secure throughout Europe. In addition to the harmonisation of the national registration procedures, the directive, for the first

time, provides for extensive procedural alignments concerning the deferment of publication of the representation and the extension and maintenance of the protection of registered designs. Furthermore, certain basic procedural provisions on official invalidity proceedings, which the member states are free to provide, have been harmonised.

Other changes

The amendment focuses not only on official procedures but also on the rights of design holders:

- **New registration symbol**
  Design holders can now use the (Ⓓ) symbol, the new registration symbol for national designs and EU designs, to display a uniform design notice on their products and indicate that a product enjoys design protection.
- **Provision on 3D printing technologies**
  When 3D printing technologies emerged, it became clear that the current design law did not provide sufficient protection. In the past, it was possible to send consumers files that enabled them to create private copies of protected designs using a 3D printer. As such copying was not based on the actual form of the product, the design was not deemed infringed according to the law. Accordingly, design holders were not able to take action against the person who had sent the file. To change this, the legislator introduced new rules. Now, the holder of a design can prevent other persons from creating, downloading, copying or sharing any medium or software used to counterfeit a protected design.
- **Transit provision**
  Rightholders can prevent the movement of products infringing design rights through the EU. This also applies where these products are not intended to be sold within the EU.
- **Repair clause**
  The repair clause allows producers of spare parts to use protected designs, so they can produce and market what is referred to as must-match spare parts, i.e. spare parts that are identical to the original part. However, this only applies under certain conditions. The purpose of the new provision is to harmonise limitations in the spare parts market at the EU and national level. The repair clause introduced in Germany in 2022 already essentially corresponds to the new EU provisions.

Another central aim was to strengthen the coexistence of the national and European design systems. In particular, it was important to strike a proper balance with regard to fee structures. For this purpose, the fees for the extension of the protection of an EU design have been increased significantly to establish a sufficient difference from the national IP systems of the member states and take into account the different territorial scope of protection.

The member states must now implement the amendments provided for in the directive into national law by 9 December 2027. Some of the new provisions of the regulation concerning the Europe-wide protection through the EU design apply from 1 May 2025, other amendments will only apply from 1 July 2026.

Further information on design protection is available on our website.

INTERVIEW WITH MARION KREß, HEAD OF THE ADMINISTRATION AND LEGAL DEPARTMENT

“We want as much flexibility as possible for our staff”

Chief HR Officer, Chief Financial Officer and General Counsel — in her position as Head of the Directorate General “Administration and Law” at the DPMA, Marion Kreß unites all these roles. In this interview, she talks about strategic challenges in recruitment, putting diversity into practice and the “House of Innovation”.

In May 2024, **Marion Kreß** took over as Head of Directorate General 4 (Administration and Law). She has been with the DPMA since 2005, when she joined the office as a legal advisor for personnel matters. After her secondment to the Federal Ministry of Justice she held positions as a legal examiner in the trade mark area and as a head of section in the trade mark department, and she was a head of section and finally a head of division for budget and organisation. Since then, she has also been acting as Chief Financial Officer. Marion Kreß studied law at the universities of Konstanz and Lausanne.

Miss Kreß, our ageing society is becoming more and more of a problem for the job market. The baby boomer generation is retiring. Does this worry you, as the DPMA’s Chief HR Officer?

Of course it worries us. And we are doing a lot to meet this challenge head-on. For us, this development means that we need to put even more effort into finding staff. We depend on highly-skilled experts, the same ones who also get wooed by international tech companies. But thanks to our innovative recruitment team we have already been very successful in the last few years.

Since finding new staff is becoming more and more difficult, we have to take especially good care of the colleagues already employed at the DPMA, so that they will want to stay with us, and provide them with career opportunities here. We want to offer interesting jobs and varied tasks and ensure a healthy work environment. The atmosphere at the DPMA is very open and makes people feel appreciated. If our staff endorses us as an employer, that is already a very effective way of recruitment.

What advantages does the DPMA offer its staff?

The DPMA offers a wide variety of job profiles and career paths. As a lawyer myself, I personally really appreciate the wide range of legal topics and areas where one can work: there´s the work with industrial property rights, the supervision of collective management organisations or positions concerning international relations, to name just a few.

Our patent examiners have a technical or scientific background and find exciting and meaningful tasks here. And they do not just work in solitude all by themselves. There is a lot of contact with the applicants as well as exchanges with other national offices, the European Patent Office, the EUIPO and WIPO. With the IP rights they grant, our colleagues make an important contribution to strengthening the competitiveness of companies.

How flexible are the working hours and the work location at the DPMA?

We want as much flexibility as possible for our colleagues. In addition to flexible working hours, we also offer remote work options. This way we contribute to the work-life balance of our staff and enable them to work quite autonomously.

We also offer attractive part-time options, which is especially interesting for colleagues with family commitments, whether they have children or need to take care of elder relatives. This also applies to leadership positions. And if the personal situation as well as the situation at the DPMA allow it, the working hours can be increased again.

Employer attractiveness can also be obtained by creating a work environment that offers inclusion and diversity. How advanced is the DPMA when it comes to these topics?

Diversity is part of our culture and also — according to my own experiences — part of our daily life here. We have always had staff with diverse backgrounds, whether that concerns culture, religion or gender. We have staff with and without disabilities. That´s what makes us who we are, and what makes it so stimulating to work at the DPMA. Public authorities in particular should be at the forefront of cultivating tolerance and social participation.

Diversity has been put into practice here for a long time. And to communicate our mindset even more clearly to the public, we will sign the *Charta der Vielfalt* (Diversity Charta) this year. We also participated in a survey initiated by the Federal Ministry of the Interior that examines the situation at various authorities. We hope to get further insights from this, so we can meet the needs of our staff even better.

This year, the patent examiners moved to a new office building in the so-called Werksviertel in Munich — right next to start-up centres and new companies. How important is this innovative environment?

First of all, the new office building enables us to unite all patent examiners in Munich, who were previously spread across three buildings, in one location. And as the “House of Innovation” we fit seamlessly into the new neighbourhood, the vibrant and innovative *Werksviertel* directly behind the Munich East station — which also ensures perfect access to public transport! The new building can enhance the exchange and connection between our examiners in completely new ways. It offers a modern and inspiring work environment with many meeting points, but also room for focussed individual work.

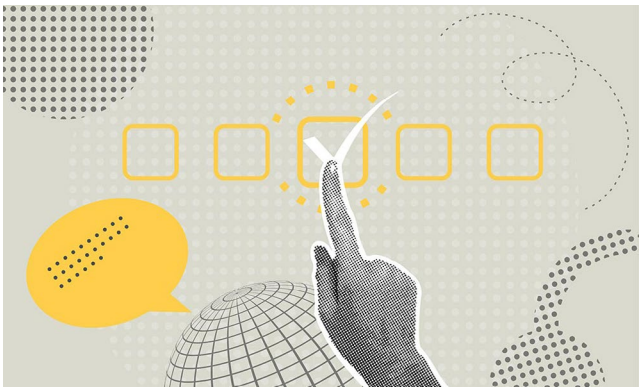
Will the new office also be open to customers?

Yes, and we are looking forward to that, too. Apart from patent examinations, the new office will also host all hearings concerning patent and utility model proceedings. There will also be events taking place there, so the building will be accessible to a larger public.

IN FOCUS

Who actually knows about the DPMA?

For the first time, a representative analysis carried out on behalf of the DPMA at the end of 2023 provides insights into the level of IP knowledge among the wider public. A total of 1,830 persons were surveyed about different IP topics and the DPMA. The survey results provide the office with valuable data for strategic decisions.



With the extension of patent law, raising the awareness of the public and especially of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) regarding the relevance of IP has become part of the official duties of the DPMA. As we strive to develop tailored information and event offerings, determining the knowledge level of these two groups concerning IP and IP rights is crucial to us. For this purpose, with the help of a market research institute, we carried out an awareness analysis. Based on their age, education and origin, a total of 1,830 persons were surveyed.

IP knowledge

We used an unaided open question and asked for an explanation to find out if the respondents knew the term “intellectual property” at all. The majority of respondents were able to use examples showing that they knew its meaning. About half of all participants even named specific IP rights and were able to explain the term in an abstract way.

Moreover, in a self-assessment we asked about the knowledge about rights protecting intellectual property. Only 8% of those polled from the general public indicated that they had relevant knowledge, whereas more than 60% indicated having only little knowledge or none at all. When it comes to enterprises, that is the B2B sector, our survey findings were more positive: more than 40% of those polled indicated that they had knowledge about IP rights and just barely 30% admitted knowing nothing or only a little.

Awareness regarding the DPMA and IP rights

Asking questions about the awareness regarding the DPMA was also part of the survey. This revealed that only 3% had been in contact with the DPMA before or had already used its services. Fortunately, as far as enterprises are concerned, a quarter of all polled answered in the affirmative.

On the average, about 44% of all participants knew the DPMA from the media. However, out of all respondents, more than half of those coming from the general public and almost 30% of enterprises indicated that they did not know the DPMA at all or only by hearsay.

A particularly pleasing survey finding is the public awareness regarding the DPMA’s diverse IP rights. The large majority knew about the eponymous IP rights “patents” and “trade marks”. As far as enterprises are concerned, the distribution was quite similar and the awareness was even slightly higher.

On average, designs and utility models were also known by half of all respondents — with significantly less knowledge among those coming from the general public than among enterprises.

Satisfaction with the services of the DPMA

Out of all respondents, only those having indicated in a previous answer that they had used the services of the DPMA before were surveyed about their satisfaction with its services. Among the public, there were only very few DPMA users, which made it impossible to get a valid individual analysis.

In the B2B sector the users’ overall cumulated satisfaction with the DPMA was much more pronounced (95%) — about half (51%) were even very satisfied. Positive survey results were received especially from enterprises (100%), science (100%), IP users (97%) and start-ups (93%).

Utilisation and outlook

The awareness analysis delivered helpful insights that we can use in many areas of the DPMA. In particular, they are part of a comprehensive communication concept that we will complete in 2025. We will use it to review existing information and event offerings, which will then be adapted to our users’ needs. Moreover,

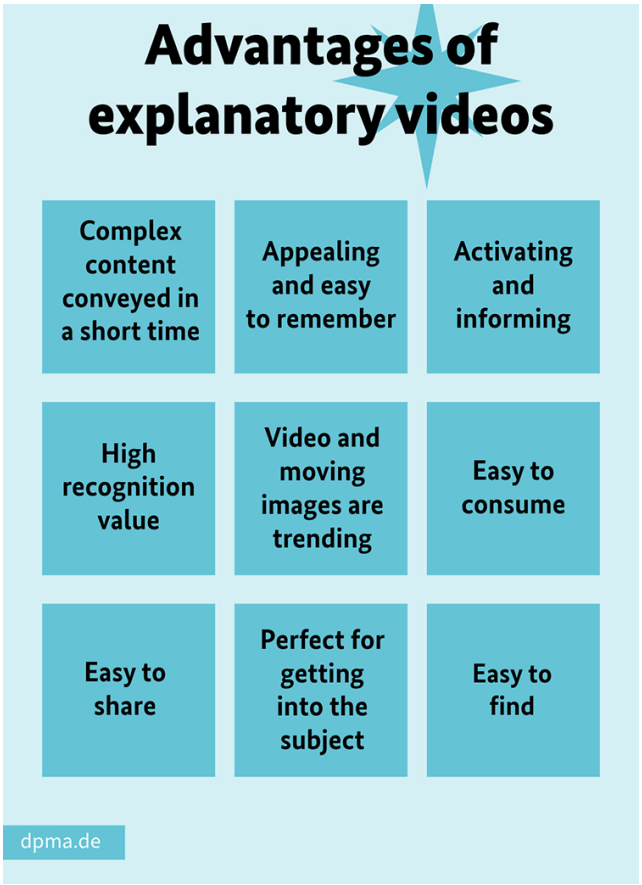
we will develop new communication formats. As of today, in order to examine how the knowledge level about IP has developed, we plan to carry out the awareness analysis once more at a later date.

IN FOCUS

IP rights briefly explained

“Complicated” is a thing of the past! In our explainer videos, we cover complex topics regarding IP rights in simple and clear terms. In less than three minutes, you get straight-forward answers to important questions. It is digital, compact and tailored to the target audience: our YouTube channel has a lot to offer!

IP rights are all around us — in the form of patents, utility models, trade marks and designs. But the granting of an effective IP right involves a lot of technical terms, examination procedures and legal requirements and often seems to be very complicated. This is where our explainer videos come into play: they cover complex topics in an understandable, compact and visually pleasing way, so that everyone wishing to have their idea protected can quickly find all necessary information.



Our explainer videos shed light on a variety of topics. In less than three minutes we give clear, straight-forward and precise answers to frequently asked question — without any legal jargon, but with all the necessary know-how. Whether covering basic information such as “What is a trade mark?” or “How much does a trade mark application cost?” or more specific subjects like “How do classes for goods and services work?”, our videos do not require any previous knowledge and provide viewers with all the information they need to successfully protect their ideas.

The trust in this digital format has paid off: our first explainer video “Four IP rights everyone should know” already has more than 10,000 views. The following videos concerning trade marks together have more than 12,000 views — a clear indication that making information available is important. In 2024, the first patent video was added. It was well received and expands our offer. The video provides a compact overview of the strengths of the German patent system, from the excellent examination quality to

the strategic use in disputes. Our videos are complemented by a post from the patent information centres, which act as an important trusted partner and central point of contact for consultations and searches.

Our explainer videos are part of the DPMA's comprehensive project for providing digital information. They are produced in cooperation between the specialist areas, the internet editorial office and the social media team. This interdisciplinary collaboration ensures that the content is accurate, but also suitable for the target audience and presented in a visually attractive way.

In addition to their long version, there is also a short version available for all videos, which were specifically created for the use on platforms like YouTube Shorts or LinkedIn. These target users who need information in an even quicker and more compact format.

All videos are freely available on the DPMA's official YouTube Channel as well as on our website. All of them offer the option of English subtitles. Please feel free to see for yourself!

INSIGHT

Technology Day: understanding trends, re-assessing the inventive step

To mitigate climate change and fulfil fundamental needs such as housing, heating and mobility with renewable energy sources: these are some of the biggest challenges of our time. In order to make competent decisions on the patentability of innovations, the Technology Day provided our patent examiners with further training regarding green technologies. Knowledge building at the DPMA with external experts: focused, fresh and very interactive.

"We wanted to create more awareness for the crucial paths to a sustainable and decarbonised world with renewable energy sources. And we succeeded," said Justus Kruse in the aftermath of the Technology Day in October. The patent examiner and assistant to the head of the Directorate General 1 "Patents and utility models" was responsible for the programme, the speakers and the organisation. The training day for patent examiners, which was open to all of the DPMA's areas and had around 300 participants, covered not only the technical challenges of the energy transition, but also political factors and the necessary legal framework.

Think systemically and explore the details

From a brilliant idea to a marketable solution, multiplying the value for the economy and individuals alike with IP rights: Prof Oliver Mayer of Bayern Innovativ calls for more courage to take entrepreneurial risks and for combining systemic thinking with details. He also gave an overview of the practical usage and the relevance of certain approaches, from agrophotovoltaics, which combines cultivating fruit on agricultural land with the production of solar energy, to geothermal energy and solar panels swimming on quarry lakes. Further solutions to the energy transition which were presented by company representatives were power-to-heat, where electric energy is converted into heat, and flow batteries for remote energy storage. The Technology Day concerning green technologies offered infotainment at its best: there was a lot of laughter, many discussions and quite some debates about technical details.

At the Technology Day, experts from companies, associations and institutes contribute their expertise and their perspectives concerning current as well as cross-sectional topics, from great paradigms to tricky details. In 2024, the focus was on green technologies, in the year before everything was about robotics. Before the break due to COVID-19, some key themes on the agenda were lightweight construction and interconnectivity.

Deputy Director General of the Physics Cluster in Directorate General 1, Detlev-Georg Schmidt-Bilkenroth, sums up last fall's event about green technologies as follows: "We have seen that even small details that seem obvious at first can lead to good solutions. This is definitely something to consider when assessing the inventive step."

AT A GLANCE

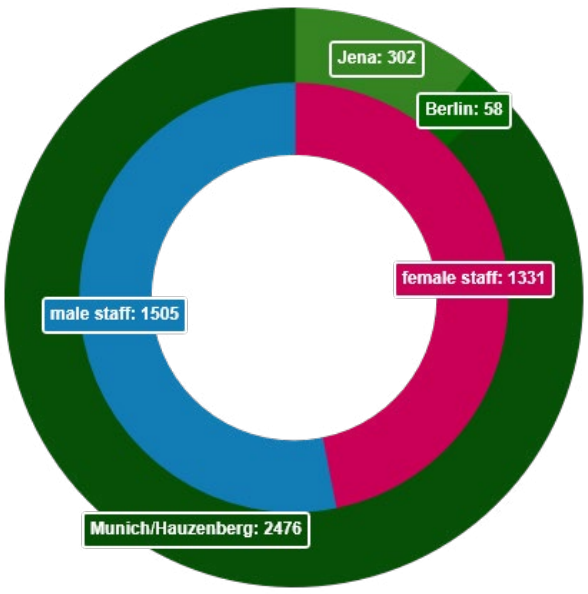
Personnel and finances

Staff and recruiting numbers

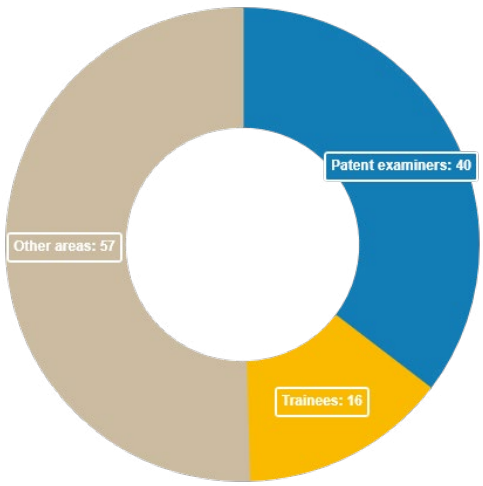
The DPMA had a total of **2,836** staff at the end of 2024 (+ 1.5% compared to 2023).

In 2024, 40.0% of management positions at the DPMA were held by women. The proportion of part-time employees in management positions was 16.2%.

In 2024 we hired 113 new staff.



1,331 femal staff and 1.505 male staff: 302 in Jena, 58 in Berlin and 2,476 in Munich and Hauzenberg



40 patent examiners, 16 trainees and 57 in other areas

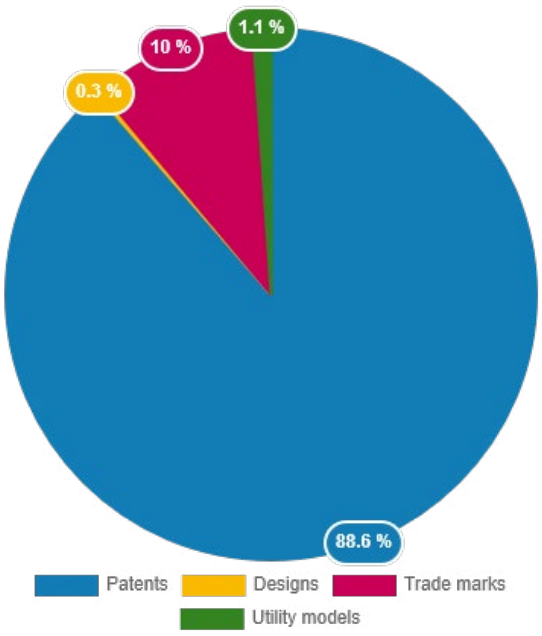
Vocational and further training

A total of 39 trainees in 6 skilled occupations offered by the DPMA in Munich.

Further training

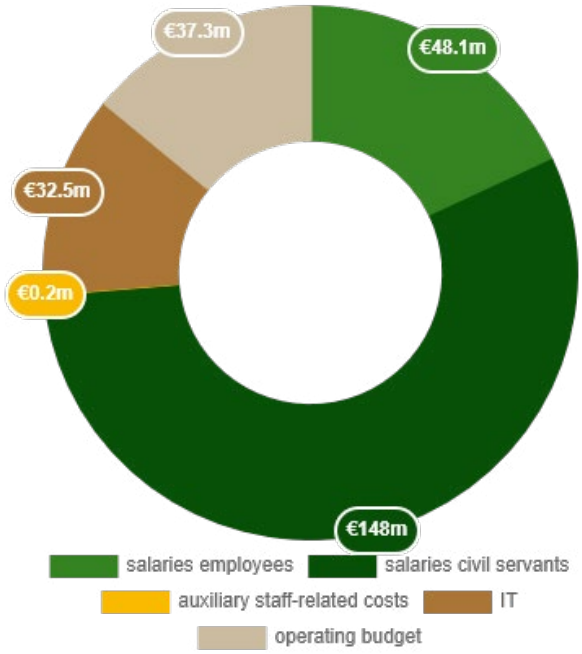
4.3 training days were used on average by staff for personal further training in 2024.

Breakdown of income by type of IP



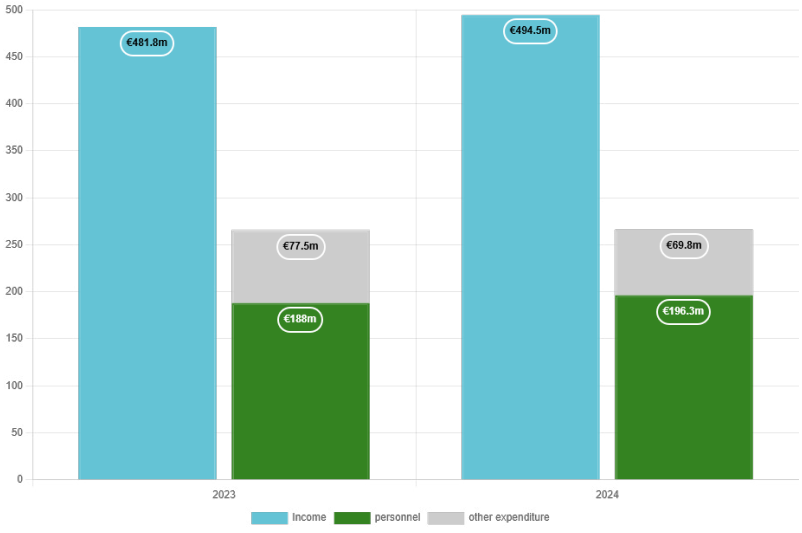
Patents, Designs, Trade Marks, Utility models

Total expenditure DPMA €266.1m in 2024



Total expenditure DPMA €266.1m in 2024

Finances



Income and expenditure 2023 compared to 2024

OUR SERVICES

Information for you, exchange with you

You have questions about the application procedures, about the costs or would like to know more about search options? You offer information yourself and wish to have access to our databases?

The DPMA provides you with a varied and comprehensive range of information on its webpages. You can also address your questions and concerns regarding IP directly to the DPMA's Customer Care and Services.

Customer Care and Services

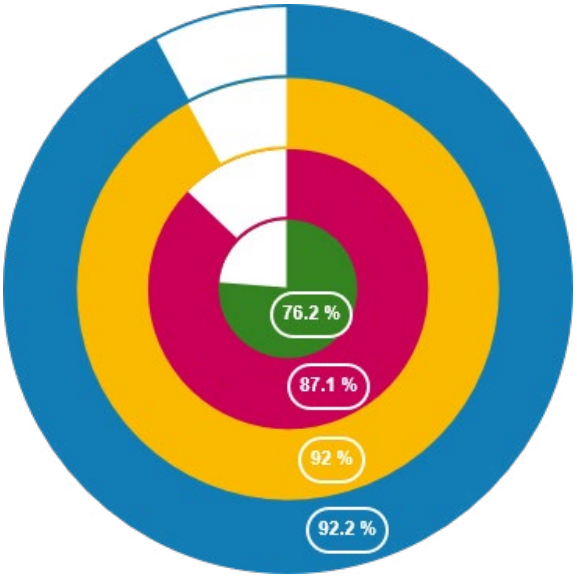
Telephone: +49 892195-1000
(Monday to Thursday 8:00-16:00,
Friday from 8:00-14:00)

E-Mail: info@dpma.de

Contact to the Central Customer Care and Services

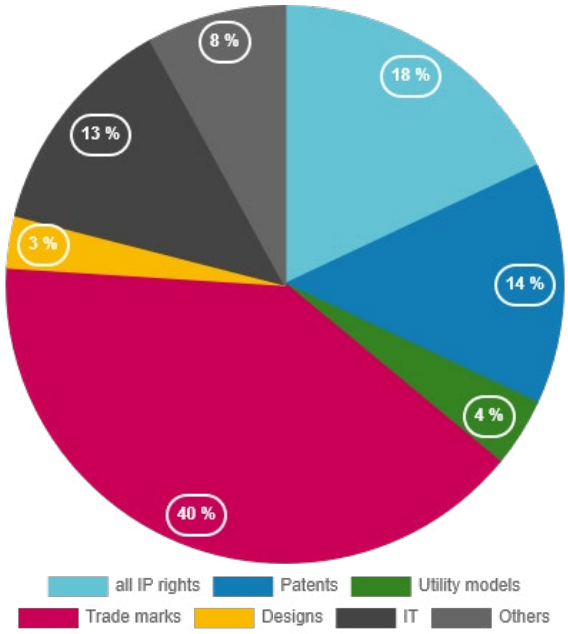
If you would like to receive general information, make an on-site appointment, give us a call, send us an e-mail, or — if you prefer the traditional way — send us a letter. The Customer Care and Services team will be happy to provide you with information on the correct way to file IP applications or on the procedural status information of applications that have already been filed.

Online applications 2024



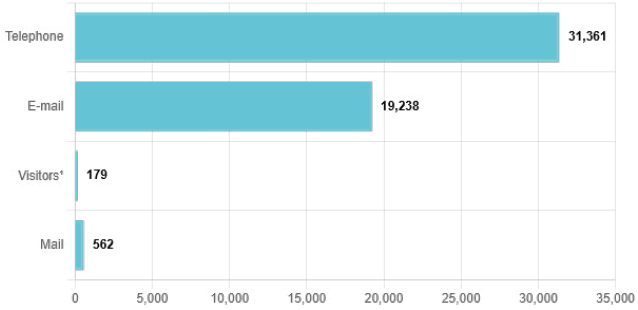
National patent applications (92.2%); Design applications (92.0%); National trade mark applications (87.1%); National utility model applications (76.2%)

Customer enquiries in 2024



We provided information and assistance over 51,000 times in2024:

Customer contacts by communication channel in 2024



[1] Customer contacts at trade fairs and at the research workshops and WebEx training courses offered were not consistently recorded in the Omnitracker ticket system. A higher number of visitors can therefore be assumed overall.

Search: we offer information and support

You can search the DPMAregister and DEPATISnet databases online at any time; DPMAregister also allows you file inspections. Search assistance is available by phone or e-mail. In Berlin and Munich, you can also receive search assistance on site. Our Customer Care and Services will be happy to arrange an appointment with you.

Initial consultation for inventors

In cooperation with the Chamber of Patent Attorneys, various institutions in many cities across Germany offer free initial consultations for inventors provided by experienced patent attorneys who advise you on your application. In Munich and Berlin, these consultations take place at the DPMA. Lawyers are also available to answer your questions on non-technical IP rights.

To make an appointment, please contact the Central Customer Care and Services in good time by calling +49 89 2195-1000. You may also send an e-mail to info@dpma.de. Please indicate the following information in the subject line: "Appointment — consultation for inventors in Munich" or "Appointment — consultation for inventors in Berlin" (depending on where the appointment is supposed to take place). For further information, please go to our webpages.

Workshops and seminars

Our staff in Munich and Berlin regularly offer practical IP workshops and seminars. This way, we aim to empower small and medium-sized enterprises in particular, but also interested private persons, lawyer's offices or chambers of industry and commerce to provide IP basics and deepen their relevant knowledge. In addition, we intend to create easy access to searches in our DPMAregister and DEPATISnet databases. In 2024, our efforts in this regard focused on the online services of DEPATISnet, where we implemented a new IPC application, to name just one example. The workshops on our search options will also be showcased at events such as the PATINFO or the DPMAnutzerforum.

Have we aroused your interest? For our current range of workshops and seminars, please visit our webpages.

The lecture service — new service with many facets

It is quite new, but already in great demand: with the lecture service of the DPMA the interested wider public can ask for DPMA lecturers who cover the various topics that our office handles. We offer tailored lectures, workshops and seminars that provide engaging content about patents, utility models, trade marks as well as designs, search options and further IP questions. Numerous tours of our office buildings in Munich and Berlin give interesting insights into the DPMA's wide range of duties and its exciting history. More than 500 guests, mainly from universities and institutions of higher education, visited us online or in person in 2024. This proves how important our service is. Please feel free to contact us! Further information can be found here (in German).

Our print and online publications

If you want to find out more about the services of the DPMA, you can obtain information on IP protection on different channels and in various formats — and almost always in two languages (German and English). We offer you comprehensive information on patents, utility models, trade marks and designs, but also on searches, our electronic services and various events on our website, on our social media channels or via various print formats. We are increasingly focussing on digital services, but are still keeping an eye on the print world as well.

A number of brochures are available both online and as printed bound versions; the annual report is available in a completely digital version. On our LinkedIn channel, you will find current information about the DPMA as well as interesting short news items of a more general nature. And on YouTube we post tutorials and valuable background information on IP rights, searches and events. Feel free to follow us!

In addition to our usual news — announcements, important notices and notices of the President — and the traditional information on our IP rights, we also publish special information on IP protection and interesting facts from research and technology. For this purpose, we issue various newsletters and special publications, such as our "DPMAinformativ" series for special topics on patent information and, last but not least, our monthly journal *Blatt für Patent-, Muster- und Zeichenwesen (BlPMZ)*, which is dedicated to legal issues, but above all, selected decisions of the courts and notices on the representative system. On our website you can access these free publications as well as the latest issue of BlPMZ, which is published in co-operation with Carl Heymanns Verlag. The monthly issue is free of charge, the annual subscription is subject to a fee.

e services: take advantage of the wide range of services

The DPMAregister and DEPATISnet databases are freely accessible and can be used free of charge. In these databases, you can search patents, utility models, trade marks and designs. DPMAregister enables you to view the DPMA's register of legal and procedural status information; DEPATISnet provides you with an overview of the state of the art worldwide. With DPMAkurier, you can monitor IP rights and receive the results automatically by e-mail. DPMAconnectPlus enables you to automatically retrieve all official register and publication data from DPMAregister online and to download patent and utility model specifications from the DEPATIS document archive.

Trade fair activities

Trade fairs are hotspots for innovation and development. But how well known are IP rights and their limitations? At trade fairs, we realise time and again that the need for information is high. What are IP rights, what do they have to do with me and my product and how is an IP right filed at all? Regardless of whether we are on site with an exhibition stand or travelling with mobile teams, there is always room for interesting discussions that give us the opportunity to provide people and enterprises with helpful information. At the same time, our efforts have a preventive effect against product piracy and raise awareness of how to deal with

counterfeiting: a win-win situation for everyone. We look forward to meeting you at a trade fair — you can find the current trade fair schedule for 2025 in our trade fair calendar.

Our cooperation with the patent information centres

We know that there is strength in numbers. For many years now, our cooperation with the patent information centres (PIZ) has proven its worth. As our exclusive regional partners, the patent information centres are located throughout Germany and provide a wealth of valuable information on IP rights and how to search for them. They also provide advice on IP strategies and options for utilisation. Their entire service portfolio, which is primarily aimed at SMEs, start-ups, founders and the university sector, can be found here.

Complaints management: we need your feedback!

You are not satisfied with our services? Please let us know. Send an e-mail to info@dpma.de or a letter with your concerns by post. Please note: contacting our complaints management does not replace the required input and answers in IP proceedings. Here, the rules and procedures of the respective IP rights apply. Please adhere to all provisions so that you will not suffer any disadvantages.

Your general written complaints will be analysed and your request will be answered in close cooperation with all departments involved. This often reveals potential for improvement. Thank you for drawing our attention to this.

OVERVIEW

News from the IT services

Online hearings

Since the amendment of section 128 (a) of the Code of Civil Procedure came into force on 19 July 2024, the DPMA has the legal option to not only permit a video hearing and support its execution, but to also order it or to annul this order, as the case may be. The DPMA's IT systems were expanded to enable the divisions to efficiently take advantage of this possibility.

EU sanctions against Russia

Council Regulation (EU) 2024/1745 of 24 June 2024 amending Regulation (EU) No 833/2014 concerning restrictive measures in view of Russia's actions destabilising the situation in Ukraine came into force as part of the 14th package of sanctions on 25 June 2024. This EU sanctions package against Russia has led to restrictions regarding the acceptance of applications and requests in on-going registration procedures submitted by Russian nationals, natural persons residing in Russia and legal persons, entities or bodies established in Russia.

Since the 14th sanctions package has taken effect, all natural persons who want to file an application for an IP right or a request during an on-going procedure are required to submit an additional declaration. The notifications requesting the submission of the additional declaration were and are currently being sent, if needed, for all pending application procedures (also automatically), or the information is obtained via a register search. The additional declaration or the reply can also be uploaded and submitted via DPMAdirektPro. In addition, the filing systems DPMAdirektPro and DPMAdirektWeb have been configured in a way that does not allow applications from legal persons established in Russia anymore, in accordance with Article 5s section 1 of Regulation (EU) 833/2014.

IPC search upgrade

On 19 November 2024, the DPMA's overhauled IPC application became available. The upgrade contains numerous enhancements which make searches even more efficient and user-friendly.

The following features were improved:

- The search form of the previous IPC application was pre-defined and non-adjustable. The new version features a search form that can be expanded and allows you to add search fields for your terms.
- Not only is the IPC symbol now included in DEPATISnet, but you also have the option to choose whether you want to use it for searches in DEPATISnet or DPMAregister.
- You do not need to switch search panels. Using a dropdown menu, you can specify whether you want to search for an IPC symbol, a search term or a cross-reference.
- In addition to the IPC symbol, the hit list now also contains detailed title information. The results are sorted by main groups for a compact display. All this makes the hit list clearer and easier to comprehend.
- The newly available comparison view introduces a completely new concept. It enables you to choose the version and language of the two views to make the comparison as efficient as possible.

The IPC application is available in DEPATISnet and DPMAregister as usual.

CAREER AT THE DPMA

Are you looking for a new career venture? Are you interested in a varied job with a wide range of development opportunities at the cutting edge of technology? At the same time, you would like to be able to balance work and personal life?

As a federal authority, we have a lot to offer to you — both as a central provider of IP services and as a family-friendly employer with flexible working hours.

Information on job vacancies for the Jena location as well as on other interesting employment opportunities at the DPMA is available on our website under “Career”. Subscribe to our RSS feed so that you won’t miss out on any advertised job vacancies.

Follow us on XING. Follow us on Linkedin.

OVERVIEW

Electronic services

The following e-services are available to our customers:

DPMAregister

- Online search in the bibliographic data as well as in the legal and procedural status data
- You can produce an uncertified excerpt from the register yourself
- You can inspect the various parts of a patent case file online
- You can choose between three different search modes: basic, advanced or expert
- **NEW**: Search for refused or withdrawn trade marks
- **NEW**: Trade Mark Journal, Patent Gazette and Design Gazette online
- **NEW**: Part 7 — Geographical indications of source can be searched in the Trade Mark Journal online
- **NEW**: Uniform search field (VSTT) for all national IP rights
- **NEW**: Search queries that are not to be saved in the history can now be deleted with a trash can icon.
- **NEW**: All representations of a design can already be displayed in the hit list (using arrow keys).
- **NEW**: GDR form treasure can be searched (DFG research project of the Landespatentzentrum Thüringen “PATON”)

DEPATISnet

- Document archive with clearly more than 100 million data records from about 100 countries; you will receive almost 60% of these data records directly as PDF
- You can conduct online searches for prior art published in patent literature from all over the world
- **NEW**: Search requests that should not be saved in the history can now be deleted with a trash can icon.
- **NEW**: Analysis of search results with regard to IPC classes after a search
- **NEW**: Convenient export of the new IPC ranking to a CSV file

DPMAdirektPro / DPMAdirektWeb

DPMAdirektPro

- Legally valid online filing of applications for all IP rights
- You need a special software, which we provide to you free of charge, as well as a qualified signature card
- You can register for the electronic document mailing service
- **NEW**: Product branch version 4.0 with technical updates, including updating the software libraries used to the latest versions and more efficient software updates

DPMAdirektWeb

- Legally valid online filing of applications for trade marks and designs as well as international registration of marks
- Contrary to DPMAdirektPro, no signature card or special software is required

DPMAkurier

- Legal status monitoring of certain IP rights
- You can subscribe to receive IP gazettes/journals by e-mail
- You can submit combinations of applicant/inventor/owner as well as of classification symbols
- **NEW**: Merging and exchanging monitoring in DPMAkurier

DPMAconnectPlus

» Establishment of an interface, which provides automated access to all official register and publication data from DPMAregister
» You can download patent and utility model documents from the DEPATIS document archive through an interface
» Facsimile documents of DE, DD, EP and WO documents as well as optionally the corresponding bibliographic data
» We provide you weekly with the current data and documents of the German IP rights in the form of data packages

Detailed information on our IT developments and e-services is available on our website.

E-filing of IP applications and Search

INSIGHT

Our Strategy

In 2024, we once more successfully completed a number of strategic measures.

The DPMA now participates in “WIPO DAS” (Digital Access Service), which means that applicants requesting priority documents concerning patent or utility model applications can now instruct the DPMA free of charge to deposit the priority document electronically in “WIPO DAS”.

You can find a detailed article concerning this new service in the chapter “Patents”.

Digitisation is a key element of our strategy and our top priority when it comes to our services but also to our internal processing of files. In our IP fields patents, utility models and trade marks we have already successfully introduced entirely electronic file processing. In addition to this important step, thanks to our project „Electronic administrative work”, we are now able to process our administrative files in a paperless way, too. We have also made progress with our project concerning the introduction of the electronic IP case file for designs.

When it comes to “Sustainability at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office”, which is one of the DPMA’s key topics, our work has gained further impetus in 2024. Concerning the “Programme of Measures for Sustainability” for federal authorities, we have implemented further initiatives. We are thus getting closer to achieving the objectives set for many of ours fields of activity. Sustainability is of great importance at the DPMA. We want to make a contribution to protecting our nature and environment, utilising resources economically and achieving the goals for a sustainable development.

Another focus of this year’s strategy conference of the senior management was the development of our IT systems. How can we advance the existing comprehensive IT landscape of the DPMA in the best possible way? Which possibilities do the federal IT services provide? What are the needs of our users? For many years now, we have been performing our core tasks fully electronically

and without media discontinuity. This requires intensive planning, support and the constant modernisation of IT systems.

In view of this, we debated how to bundle innovative ideas and approaches in the DPMA's IT area. We plan to implement an "IT Innovation Lab" so we can efficiently focus on setting up and promoting the central IT topics of the future. The results achieved by this measure are to help us refine our systems and the range of digital services we offer. The support of our procedures by a continued use of artificial intelligence (AI) will also be a topic in this context.

OUR PROJECT

Survey service – Your opinion matters!

Your opinion is important to us. This is why we introduced an inhouse survey service in 2024. After some preparation, we implemented two surveys at one time. Your feedback will have a significant influence on key decisions in our office.

The DPMA acts as a competent and experienced partner and service provider of its customers in the field of IP. Our decisions often have great financial significance for our customers and directly affect them. We therefore make decisions on the basis of solid data. As we strive to understand our customers' needs even better, we have created a point of contact with our survey service which conducts surveys of any kind and provides professional assistance. The direct feedback of the users is taken into account for our decisions and our quality management.

What does the survey service do?

The chief purpose of the survey service is to better get to know all stakeholders, that is the groups of people who are in contact with the DPMA, and to make this information public all across the office. Of course, the focus is on the users in this context.

Moreover, we deal with topics such as the classic event feedback, inhouse staff surveys or the evaluation of new processes and applications. In addition, with external support, we conduct nationwide representative surveys, for example about IP knowledge and about the wider public's awareness regarding the DPMA.

First surveys conducted

At the end of 2024, besides other smaller surveys, we published the first large user survey. It has provided crucial insights for the decision-making process in the office: more concretely, we have asked the users to inform the DPMA about their preferences and proposals concerning specific aspects of the application portals, as these are to be technically re-structured. The feedback of over 600 participants has given us a clear picture of their needs.

By the end of 2023, we had a market research institute conduct a representative nationwide awareness analysis for the first time. This way, we were able to collect valuable information on the knowledge about IP and IP rights among the wider public but also among different user groups. For the first time, the public's awareness regarding the DPMA and its services was also surveyed. We can deduce concrete and tailored measures from the data collected, especially for the communication and information services of the DPMA. The results of the survey as well as further relevant information can be found in our article on the awareness analysis.

What happens to the results?

The DPMA publishes the results of the various analyses via the office's internal communication channels. They are distributed to all relevant parties, analysed and taken into consideration for decision-making. If the results are considered to be of potential interest to the public, we of course also publish them on different communication channels, such as on our website and our social media channels.

Outlook

For the current year, other interesting surveys are already on the agenda. We will publish yet another large survey on the quality of the first office actions and on conducting hearings in the field of patents. Moreover, the survey among the readers of the gazette Blatt für Patent-, Muster- und Zeichenwesen (BlPMZ), a regular publication issued by the DPMA on amendments concerning the legal IP system, will provide the basis for the decision on its relaunch.

As you can see, your opinion counts! Take part in our surveys and make a crucial contribution to the development and improvement of our services.

Our latest surveys can be found on our webpages.

FURTHER DUTIES

Patent attorney training

Patent attorneys provide their know-how to help inventors as well as companies protect their innovations and to enforce their IP rights. Working at the intersection of natural sciences, engineering and law, they play an important part in the success of patents, trade marks and designs. The DPMA is responsible for the training and the examination of aspiring patent attorneys.

The DPMA's role as training institution

The DPMA's duties cover the admission to the training as well as organising and conducting parts of it; in addition, it is also responsible for organising and conducting the patent attorney examination.

The training in detail

The patent attorney training follows a specified order of phases that build upon each other and aim to prepare the candidates for this highly demanding profession. To be admitted to the training, a candidate must have a university degree in natural sciences or engineering and have at least one year of practical work experience in a technical job.

The patent attorney training consists of three phases:

First training phase: the first phase starts after the DPMA has admitted a candidate to the training and lasts at least 26 months. During this stage, the patent attorney candidates work in a patent law firm or in the patent department of a company to gain practical experience and a deeper understanding of the profession's demands. At the same time, they also participate in regional study groups that are organised by the Chamber of Patent Attorneys and led by experienced patent attorneys.

Second training phase: the second phase takes place at the DPMA for two months. To gain practical experience in the two most important IP fields and get some insight into the work of the DPMA, the patent attorney candidates are assigned to a patent as well as a trade mark division for one month each.

Third training phase: the third and final phase of the patent attorney training (six months) is spent at the Federal Patent Court. The future patent attorneys are assigned to a board of appeal for trade marks for two months and to a technical board of appeal for four months for practical training.

Alongside their training, they also need to take classes in general law – theses courses are usually taken at the FernUniversität in Hagen. This study programme serves to complete the theoretical training and as preparation for the final patent attorney examination.

Course of training

New examination board

The patent attorney examination is taken before an examination board for patent attorneys, which is appointed by the DPMA. It consists of the chair, at least four deputy chairs and at least 20 judges from the Federal Patent Court or members of the DPMA as well as at least 60 patent attorneys or Patentassessorinnen/ Patentassessoren.

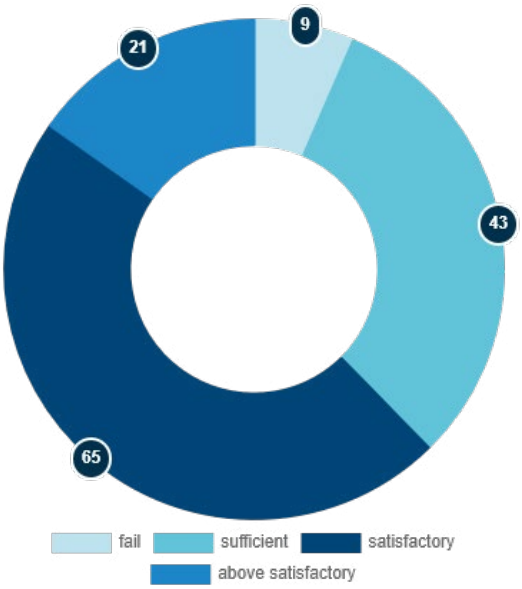
At the end of 2024, the DPMA appointed a new examination board, effective from 1 January 2025. It was the first time we acted on this responsibility, as previously this was the duty of the Federal Office of Justice. Apart from re-assigning this task, the new legislation also extended the term of appointment from three to five years. This means the new commission with chair Ingrid Kopacek, presiding judge at the Federal Patent Court, will be in office until 31 December 2029.

Workshop with the Chamber of Patent Attorneys

In 2024, the Board and the management team of the Chamber of Patent Attorneys once again met with the senior management of the DPMA to discuss important topics that affect both institutions. This year it was the DPMA's turn to host.

Grade	Participants (in %)
excellent	0.0%
good	0.0%
above satisfactory	15.2%
satisfactory	47.1%
sufficient	31.2%
fail	6.5%
Total	**100%**

Qualifying examinations for patent attorneys in 2024



2024 in numbers

In the year 2024, 110 applicants were admitted to the patent attorney training. 138 candidates participated in the patent attorney examinations, which take place three times a year. 129 of them passed the examination..

Detailed information

You can find more information about the patent attorney training and the patent attorney examination on the following webpages of the DPMA.

Supervision under the Act on Collective Management Organisations

Unlike industrial property rights, copyright arises upon the creation of the work. But sometimes, enforcing their rights can prove to be quite difficult for authors. Collective management organizations (CMOs) are there to support authors — and the DPMA acts as the supervisory authority for these CMOs.

A comprehensive collection of protected works: the gallery hall of the Stuttgart Public Library

Collective management organisations are private-law organisations that unite authors as well as related rightholders for the purpose of enforcing their legal rights. These claims often concern the equitable remuneration for the use of the works created or performed. Since their works are often used in many different ways and in large numbers, it is almost impossible for individual creatives to keep track of every single use process.

As a matter of principle, every person needs permission to use a copyrighted work. However, users often do not know who to contact to obtain the necessary licenses. Collective management organisations thus act as a point of contact for both sides: they grant licenses according to the conditions set up in their tariffs and divide the resulting income according to fixed rules among the rightholders.

In addition to their fiduciary activities, CMOs usually also hold a monopoly position, since most of the time they are specialised in a certain field (e.g. the GEMA in musical works). Because of their fiduciary nature and their monopoly, the CMOs are subject to supervision by the DPMA. As a federal supervisory authority, the DPMA only acts in the public interest and makes sure that the CMOs comply with the statutory provisions of the Act on Collective Management Organisations (CMO Act — Verwertungsgesellschaftengesetz). The CMO Act imposes many duties on the CMOs — not only regarding the internal processes of their organisation and the rightholders they represent, but also regarding the external relations concerning their users. For example: the CMOs have to fulfil specific requirements regarding their distribution plans, which determine the allocation of the income from the rights amongst the rightholders. Furthermore, the CMO Act

provides rules regarding the setting of the tariffs, which detail the amounts due for a desired use. As a supervisory authority, the DPMA as a matter of principle acts ex officio. However, it can also carry out supervisory audits on the basis of submissions made by rightholders or users.

At present, there are 13 CMOs in Germany authorised by the DPMA. Together, they had a revenue totalling around 2 billion euros in 2023. The following table shows the amounts generated by each CMO.

CMOs always have to act in accordance with the applicable legislation. This also means they have to adhere to court decisions regarding the interpretation of the relevant European law. Since the end of 2024, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) has been conducting a preliminary ruling procedure reviewing whether CMOs have the right to support works of cultural importance and if so, under which circumstances. The reason for this procedure is a lawsuit initiated by an author who wants to prevent the defendant, a CMO, from using the income from the authors' statutory remuneration rights for supporting works of cultural importance and thus decreasing the plaintiff's share of this income. The CJEU's decision will impact the promotion of cultural works by all European collective management organisations. It remains to be seen whether German CMOs will have to adapt their support measures depending on the result of the proceedings.

Revenues of the collective management organisations in 2023

Collective Management Organisations		Total budget[1] in 2023
GEMA	Gesellschaft für musikalische Aufführungs- und mechanische Vervielfältigungsrechte, rechtsfähiger Verein kraft Verleihung	€1,277.068m
GVL	Gesellschaft zur Verwertung von Leistungsschutzrechten mbH	€249.186m
VG Wort	Verwertungsgesellschaft WORT, rechtsfähiger Verein kraft Verleihung	€174.644m
VG Bild-Kunst	Verwertungsgesellschaft Bild-Kunst, rechtsfähiger Verein kraft Verleihung	€72.783m
VG Musikedition	Verwertungsgesellschaft Musikedition, rechtsfähiger Verein kraft Verleihung	€10.995m
GÜFA	Gesellschaft zur Übernahme und Wahrnehmung von Filmaufführungsrechten mbH	€5.167m
VFF	Verwertungsgesellschaft der Film- und Fernsehproduzenten mbH	€43.242m
VGF	Verwertungsgesellschaft für Nutzungsrechte an Filmwerken mbH	€12.073m
GWFF	Gesellschaft zur Wahrnehmung von Film- und Fernsehrechten mbH	€46.465m
AGICOA GmbH	AGICOA Urheberrechtsschutz-Gesellschaft mbH	€34.219m
Corint Media	Corint Media GmbH	€70.114m
TWF	Treuhandgesellschaft Werbefilm mbH	€5.164m
GWVR	Gesellschaft zur Wahrnehmung von Veranstalterrechten mbH	€97,876.00
Total	**€2,001.218m**	**2.001,218 Mio. €**

[1] *Revenues include income from licences and claims to remuneration, income from interest and securities and other operating income.*

Supervision over authorised entities under the Copyright Act

The DPMA also acts as the supervisory authority for authorised entities under the Copyright Act. Authorised entities are institutions which provide education, accessible reading or information access on a non-profit basis to people with a visual impairment or a reading disability. They are legally obligated to notify the DPMA of their activities. This can be done via a form on the DPMA website. There you can also find a freely accessible list of all authorised entities which have notified the DPMA as well as an FAQ with more information about this topic.

Register of anonymous and pseudonymous works

The DPMA also maintains a register for anonymous and pseudonymous works. Here authors who have created or published works anonymously or pseudonymously can have their real names registered. This way these works can also benefit from the regular duration of the copyright protection pursuant to the Copyright Act, which only expires 70 years after the death of the author. Without the registration in this register, the copyright protection would already expire 70 years after the creation or the publication of a work since the true author would be unknown. For more statistical data regarding this topic, please see the statistics part of the annual report.

Arbitration boards at the German Patent and Trade Mark Office

In a dispute, independent arbitrators can often be helpful. Two such independent arbitration boards are located at the DPMA: the Arbitration Board under the Employee Inventions Act (*Gesetz über Arbeitnehmererfindungen*) and the Arbitration Board under the Act on Collective Management Organisations (*Verwertungsgesellschaftengesetz*). Their task is to mediate an out-of-court settlement — and there are a large variety of contentious issues out there.

Arbitration Board under the Employee Inventions Act

Provisions under the Employee Inventions Act

When something is invented in Germany, this is almost always done by an employee. That should not come as a big surprise — a company's development environment and being integrated in operational processes provide an ideal framework for innovation.

The patent law applies to these inventions just as it does to any other invention, and initially attributes the right to the patent to the inventor. But since the invention is usually the result of the operational work environment, the Employee Inventions Act stipulates that companies can claim the rights to inventions which were created in the course of the employment for themselves. On the other hand, they are also required to file a patent for these innovations.

If the company exercises its right to claim the invention, which it can do via an explicit declaration, but also by letting the period for claiming it pass, the right to the patent will be transferred to the company. As compensation, the inventors will receive a payment that is not tied to their salary.

Determining the compensation

The exact amount of the compensation depends on the commercial applicability of the invention, the duties and position of the employee in the company and the share of the company's contribution to the invention — so on many vague legal terms, which can easily lead to differing assessments of the situation and thus to disputes between the parties to the employment contract. This, in turn, can have a negative effect on the work relationship and hinder the development of further inventions.

For these reasons, the state has established the Arbitration Board under the Employee Inventions Act as a mediator in disputes, whose members combine legal and technical expertise. Its chairperson is a lawyer qualified for judicial office; and the two assessors are appointed to the respective arbitration proceedings from among the patent examiners according to their specific technical knowledge. Equipped with all this expertise, the Board then tries to assist with the correct understanding of the relevant employee inventions law and its appropriate application to avoid unnecessary court proceedings.

First, the Arbitration Board gives the parties the opportunity to present their views, then it submits to them a proposal for an amicable settlement. If the parties accept the settlement proposal, they enter into a private-law contract, thereby resolving the dispute.

Proceedings concluded by the Arbitration Board

In 2024, the Arbitration Board concluded 53 proceedings; in 63% of cases, their proposals were accepted.

The following is a selection of issues dealt with by the Arbitration Board in these proceedings:

- Questions about claiming a patent originating from the "adhesive label decision" of the Federal Court of Justice — Arb. Erf. 59/20
- Inventor rights in collaborations between universities and industry — Arb.Erf. 50/22
- Offset options for the wrong application of compensation agreements — Arb.Erf. 20/23
- Interpretation and adjustment options for compensation agreements — Arb.Erf. 50/21
- Intracompany order development and supply of temporary workers — Arb.Erf. 24/23
- Lawfulness of treating inventions as a company secret — Arb. Erf. 09/22
- Monopoly use despite prior public use — Arb.Erf. 57/22
- Blocking patent — Arb.Erf. 05/23
- Consequences of abandoning established rights in IP — Arb. Erf. 26/22

For more details about these and other selected decisions by the Arbitration Board and more information about the Arbitration Board and employee inventions law, please visit the website of the DPMA.

Statistics

Requests	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Receipt of requests	**66**	**53**	**60**	**53**	**52**
Arbitration proceedings concluded by					
Settlement proposals and compromises	44	44	43	36	35
Proposals accepted (%)	50.0	65.9	67.4	61.1	62.9
Refusals to participate in arbitration proceedings	19	16	6	9	11
Other cases concluded, in particular, by withdrawal of request, order, provisional proposals, etc.	9	8	2	6	7
Total of cases concluded	72	68	51	51	53
Arbitration proceedings pending at the end of the year	**88**	**73**	**82**	**84**	**83**

Arbitration Board under the Employee Inventions Act

Arbitration Board under the Act on Collective Management Organisations

Every day, an incredible amount of works protected by copyright are used — collective management organisations (CMOs) such as GEMA facilitate the entry into licensing contracts for users as well as rightholders. Without such CMOs, restaurant owners, radio channels or streaming services would have to enter into individual licensing contracts with every composer and lyricist whose music they want to play. In addition, CMOs also collect remuneration for uses that, although permitted by law, have to be paid for.

If there is a dispute about the remuneration requested by the CMO, it can be brought before the Arbitration Board under the Act on Collective Management Organisations. The Board can also be involved for disputes between a user association and a CMO about the terms of a general agreement as well as in cases where a CMO wants to conduct an empiric investigation on the scope devices and storage mediums are utilised for legally allowed uses.

Current proceedings before the Arbitration Board

In 2024, the Arbitration Board was once again able to further reduce the number of pending proceedings. At the end of the year, 141 proceedings were pending, 67 proceedings were concluded and 57 were new, including two general agreement proceedings.

In the reviewed period, the Board decided that the online storage that cloud providers offer their customers is neither a device nor a storage medium. For this reason, it rejected the request for conducting an empiric investigation on the usage of the cloud (Sch-Urh 11/22, confirmed by the ruling of the Bavarian Highest Regional Court of 12 August 2024, file no. 101 VA 64/24, not final), as well as the requests for information and assessment addressed to various cloud providers (e.g. Sch-Urh 46/22).

The Arbitration Board also proposed a remuneration of 3.5% of the income for the use of music in circuses in general agreement proceedings (Sch-Urh 58/21).

In other general agreement proceedings (Sch-Urh 138/19), the Board looked at the remuneration payable to music authors by providers of music streaming subscriptions. It proposed a general remuneration of 9% of the provider's income and a minimum remuneration of € 1.20 per subscriber and month, after deduction of a general agreement discount.

In addition, the Arbitration Board decided that a remuneration of € 1.50 is payable for every infotainment system with a built-in hard drive that is integrated in a power-driven vehicle (related proceedings Sch-Urh 87/20 and Sch-Urh 42/21).

All decisions mentioned here and many more are published on our website in anonymised form.

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Statistics

Requests / Cases concluded	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Requests					
Total requests received	96	58	61	55	57
including inclusive contracts under Sec. 92(1), no. 3 CMO Act	5	1	1	1	2
Cases concluded by					
Settlement proposals of the Arbitration Board	81	95	56	43	48
Partial settlement proposal of the Arbitration Board	20	13	0	0	0
Order	126	111	55	59	19
Total (without partial settlement proposals)	207	206	111	102	67
Requests pending at the end of the year	**396**	**248**	**198**	**151**	**141**
Payment of security / provisional settlement					
Requests	3	4	12	14	3
Orders	32	37	6	16	4

Arbitration Board under the Act on Collective Management Organisations (CMO Act)

Raising awareness on intellectual property

In Germany and the European Union, 99% of all companies are small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). They employ 100 million people throughout Europe and are a source of entrepreneurial spirit and innovation. By offering a comprehensive range of information and advice on the exercise and enforcement of IP rights, the DPMA contributes to strengthening the competitiveness of many companies.

Raising awareness among SMEs

It is often small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that come up with innovations that give significant impetus to a national economy. In this context, German SMEs are among the most innovative in Europe (EU Innovation Scoreboard 2023).

Several studies show that there is still untapped potential for the use of IP in SMEs in Europe, including Germany. Too few SMEs file IP applications — because they are poorly informed, lack knowledge of services and service providers in connection with the protection of their IP rights and hold prejudices that prevent an application, e.g. that IP rights are too costly or applications are too complex. Or there are doubts about the effectiveness of IP rights, since it allegedly takes great effort to enforce them.

IP protection demonstrably delivers many benefits, especially to SMEs, and often enables the commercialisation of high-risk innovations.

If used correctly, patents and trade marks can considerably contribute to achieving commercial success. Studies show a strong connection between the existence of IP rights and commercial success.

» SMEs that own IP rights have 68% higher revenue per employee than similar SMEs that do not (EUIPO study 2021).
» On average, start-ups in their early growth stage are ten times more likely to raise venture capital funding if they hold patents and trade marks (EUIPO study 2023).

In addition, IP rights strengthen the bargaining power against investors or in mutual licensing, enable exclusivity, enhance the reputation and allow for profitable licensing.

Against this background, the DPMA has added a lot of useful information to its Information pages for SMEs and has made these pages user-friendlier.

Raising awareness in the education system

Another focus of our activities in 2024 was on measures to raise IP awareness in the education system. This way, we aim to inform pupils and students already at an early stage on intellectual property (especially patents, trade marks, designs and copyright) as well as on the commercial potential of intellectual property and to support them in broadening their problem-solving skills through the use of IP databases. For this purpose, we devised and held certain workshops at universities and schools as well as seminars at the media authorities of the German Länder.

Young people are the inventors and/or entrepreneurs of tomorrow. And only if they know what trade marks, patents, designs and the like are, they will be able to effectively protect their intellectual property.

According to the Federal Government's Commission of Experts for Research and Innovation, Germany also has difficulties with research-based spin-offs from scientific institutions. This is mainly due to the difficulties with the transfer of intellectual property in the form of patent sales or licences from the scientific institution to the company to be established. Likewise, there are still too few financing possibilities for technology- and IP-intensive companies in the growth stage (e.g. through the provision of venture capital). Compared to other European countries, venture capital investments as a percentage of GDP are below average (EU Innovation Scoreboard 2023).

The cooperation with higher education institutions and universities and their transfer offices is becoming increasingly important for us. For example, in cooperation with proF, a transfer office, and Freie Universität Berlin (FU), we provided a large group of bioscience PhD students with detailed insight into intellectual property. Furthermore, we introduced the young scientists to DEPATISnet and informed them about how to use our free database for searching IP rights for inventions and scientific and technical innovations.

OUR PARTNERS

OVERVIEW

National cooperation projects and User Advisory Council on Patents/Utility Models

Many different organisations, one common goal: the DPMA champions the establishment of a strong and experienced network for the protection of intellectual property. Our partners are important stakeholders in the field of IP rights, from chambers of industry and commerce to trade associations, universities promoting innovation and even customs. Together with the patent information centres, we offer professional services all over Germany, especially for SMEs.

The patent information centres — powerful partners of the DPMA

There is strength in numbers. At the DPMA, we know this — which is why we see ourselves as a central stakeholder in a Germany-wide network of partners for the protection of intellectual property. For many decades now, we have worked together with the patent information centres (PIZ), which complement our network consisting of chambers of industry and commerce, trade associations, universities promoting innovation and customs. The 16 PIZ can be found in almost every German Land and are an essential component of the German innovation landscape. As part of the European PATLIB network with more than 300 partners, they primarily act as regional and, above all, neutral points of contact for economy, science and individuals who are looking for advice and support regarding IP rights. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), new establishments and start-ups, but also technology transfer offices at universities and institutions of higher education value the comprehensive and individual services of the PIZ. These range from personal consultations to identifying suitable IP strategies as well as searching for patents, trade marks and designs in national and international databases. With their expertise, the PIZ make an essential contribution to overcoming supposed and actual obstacles to the protection of innovations and help their customers gain a clear competitive advantage. All this just affirms our intention to expand our collaboration in the coming years and to provide new impetus.

Locations of the patent information centres
Contact and further information: www.piznet.de
and Locations of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office

PIZnet awareness week 2024

For many SMEs, the date is circled in red in their calendar: the nation-wide PIZnet awareness week, which took place in November 2024 for the eighth time, this time together with the "Global Entrepreneurship Week Germany". The thematic connection is obvious: the awareness week primarily targets founding teams and start-ups that want to take advantage of the free, confidential and neutral PIZ consultations regarding the utilisation of IP and strategies for risk mitigation. They received an initial assess-

ment of their companies' individual IP situation and the economic opportunities and risks it presents, as well as an auditor's report full of valuable tips for optimising their companies' IP situation. The DPMA, which was involved in the development of the PIZnet awareness week, was very pleased with the positive response the event received!

PIZ Conference 2024

The annual PIZ conference has become a regular element of the collaboration between the DPMA and the PIZ. The event is characterised by a familiar, open and relaxed atmosphere which facilitates the exchange about current topics, new developments in the IP landscape and joint projects for strengthening IP awareness. And of course, we also discussed ideas for the strategic long-term continuation and expansion of our own exclusive collaboration.

Speaking of strategy: Katja Behr, Head of the Department for Patent Law at the Federal Ministry of Justice, not only talked about the current development of new bills concerning IP rights but also provided detailed insights into the establishment of a national IP strategy. The latter is something that has not only been called for by the Federation of German Industries, but also by many other IP stakeholders that want to strengthen the appeal of Germany as a business location with a vibrant innovation landscape. With that in mind, the PIZ also discussed the growing importance of IP in education. To raise the public's awareness for maintaining a strong innovation ecosystem, the topic of intellectual property should already be covered in an age-appropriate way at schools and universities; this is something everyone present agreed on and various strategies and solutions were discussed.

Just as in previous years, we enjoyed the exchange with the PIZ very much. These conferences strengthen our long-standing cooperation and offer a valuable platform to discuss trends, changes and strategies for the protection of IP, and they also give new impetus.

Group photo with Minister Dr. Marco Buschmann

DPMAnutzerbeirat for patents and utility models

On the occasion of the publication of the annual report, we take a look back at the second term of the *DPMAnutzerbeirat* (DPMA User Advisory Council) for patent and utility models. A good time to take stock!

The DPMA User Advisory Council Patents/Utility Models stands for trustful exchange and the opportunity to change perspectives

Whether patent quality, increasing the attractiveness of the examination procedure or raising awareness for IP rights: in its capacity as advisory body, the DPMAnutzerbeirat has made numerous suggestions and has proven itself to be a valuable source of new ideas. The topics that were cause for the most intense debates were the quality of our IP rights as well as the timeliness of search reports, communications and decisions. The use of AI for patent examinations, the DPMA's new statutory information duty and the option to participate in hearings via video conferences were further focuses of the second term. The council provided many useful incentives, and we will also continue the exchange on the aforementioned topics in the next term — in the interest of all users.

Based on the evaluations that took place in the first quarter of 2024, we systematically investigated the DPMAnutzerbeirat's framework and working method. The participants of the study included the members of the DPMAnutzerbeirat, colleagues from the various specialist departments and senior management. After analysing the evaluation results, we can confirm the DPMAnutzerbeirat's function as external advisory body. The overall response showed the high acceptance of the council and characterised it as an important feedback channel. Especially the direct and confidential exchange, the opportunity to switch perspectives and the DPMA's open ear for the wishes and needs of the user groups were emphasised by the members of the DPMAnutzerbeirat. The evaluation results will also inform the preparations for the next term, for example when it comes to proposals for selective changes of represented user groups in the DPMAnutzerbeirat.

In its second term, the DPMAnutzerbeirat met for eight sessions. The next term of appointment will commence with the constituent meeting of the council in the first half of 2025 and last until 2029.

We want to thank all members for their great work in the DPMAnutzerbeirat and are looking forward to the next chapter!

INTERVIEW

“The patent information centres should be part of a national IP strategy”

Arne Krüger, Head of the working group of German patent information centres (piznet e.V.), explains why the cooperation between the patent information centres within piznet offers SMEs additional value, how the patent information centres want to grow — and what he would like to see from the government.

Arne Krüger, Head of piznetz

Mr Krüger, the patent information centres are independent service providers and each has its own regional customers. What do they need piznet for?

piznet is a platform that supports the professional exchange and the networking between our 16 patent information centres (*Patentinformationszentren, PIZ*) on a national as well as a European level. In addition, we have national IP service providers as sustaining members that work very closely with us and develop services for our customers in cooperation with us. Together, we define shared quality standards for our IP searches and coordinate our training needs with each other and the DPMA. We support one another with marketing activities and trainings and organise free events, such as the joint awareness week with free consultations for companies, our annual conference or the “IP Enforcement Day”.

All these activities enable interested parties, customers and our partners to access an extensive network of experts — across regional and even national borders. This is because piznet is part of the PATLIB network, which connects more than 300 European patent information centres. The yearly PATLIB conferences give us the opportunity for international exchanges and allow us to present the latest developments or interesting topics on the European level — which also secures us the support of the European Patent Office..

How do you define the shared mission of the PIZ?

Our shared mission consists in providing high-quality, neutral information about IP rights in the German Länder and to facilitate the access to technical and scientific knowledge.

We are the first point of contact for customers who are considering protecting their intellectual property, and we offer a wide range of services: we regularly offer initial consultations for inventors with local patent attorneys as well as IP scans and consultations regarding funding opportunities. Our PIZ at universities are also involved in the patent management and technology transfer within start-ups and SMEs.

Since each PIZ specialises in a different topic, we can cultivate those synergies to cover a broad spectrum of tools and special subjects. If some customers’ questions cannot be answered satisfactorily by the local PIZ, they are forwarded within the network to the PIZ that has the most expertise in this field. This means our customers benefit from the entire German as well as European network, directly at the location closest to them.

Does the protection of intellectual property have the same importance everywhere? Or are there regional differences?

In general, the protection of IP is considered an essential factor for economic development everywhere. But there are still big regional differences, as the annual statistics by the DPMA show. There are particularities of the economic structures that lead to a different focus. The regions in Southern Germany with a lot of industry and a dense population have very high application numbers, but there is also a lot of inventive activity in the East and the North. A study by the German Institute for Economic Research (Deutsches Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, DIW Berlin) from last summer showed that, based on the number of students, the Eastern universities file the most applications in Germany.

To help balance out the situation, it is our goal to have a strong presence in all regions of Germany. This way we can raise aware-

ness for IP rights everywhere — at companies as well as in politics and the public administration.

If you were granted one wish for the PIZ, what would you ask for from the government?

My biggest wish would be for more focused innovation policies that actively recognise and support the value IP rights have for economy and society. Germany urgently needs a national IP strategy that not only manages the status quo but also incorporates a future-oriented approach. It should strengthen Germany's technological sovereignty, promote digital processes and facilitate international collaborations. The new federal government should make the incorporation of the tasks, the role and the importance of a patent information centre in every Land a mandatory part of the national IP strategy. And I would like to see the funding of the patent information centres' work regulated by law. At the moment, the budget caps at funding bodies lead to downsizing and therefore to limitations of the services provided to the public. The important work of raising awareness for IP rights cannot be done in a cost-effective way or as a purely private enterprise — for this purpose, we need political commitment as well as the insistence by the PIZ.

What role does the DPMA play in your work?

The DPMA is not only our most important partner, but also the central authority for the entire IP rights system in Germany. By providing clear provisions, technical and regulatory support and a stable framework, the DPMA secures the quality of all our IP rights. Together with the patent courts and the patent attorney bar it plays an essential part in the legal protection and strengthens the trust in the enforcement of IP rights, especially for medium enterprises.

In addition, the DPMA is a crucial multiplier for our services. A significant part of our external customers finds their way to us via the platforms and information provided by the DPMA. The DPMA also actively supports the development of the PIZ, e.g. by offering high-quality trainings, free workshops or sending expert speakers to our events. It has a leading role in the European patent landscape. Our close cooperation is a crucial factor in ensuring that we can always offer our customers the highest level of service and enables us to continuously work on improving the protection of intellectual property in Germany.

What will your work focus on in the near future?

The future of the PIZ will be shaped by two important developments: the advancement of digitisation and the strengthening of the European network. We strive to further digitise our services and to refine our information systems to keep up with the growing challenges of a data-driven economy. The use of AI plays an increasingly important part in this as well, e.g. in the patent search or the automated analysis of IP data.

At the same time, the close collaboration within Europe is crucial to make the protection of intellectual property even more effective at an international level. Strengthening the PATLIB network will be another key task to further improve the knowledge transfer between national and European IP institutions.

The patent information centres have been trusted partners for economy and science in Germany for a long time. I am looking forward to continue this journey together with the DPMA and our partners and to actively shape the future of the protection of industrial property.

International cooperation

In a world that is globally interconnected, the cooperation with other national and international organisations is an essential part of the work of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office. As the largest national patent office in Europe and the sixth largest patent office in the world, we contribute substantially to advancing the international IP rights systems by maintaining an intensive exchange, in particular with other national and international offices and organisations.

In addition to many other contacts and ongoing collaborations, the following high-level meetings took place last year:

In 2024, we continued our particularly close cooperation with the Japan Patent Office (JPO). There were two bilateral meetings at working and management level and one examiner exchange where important topics and developments were discussed and the cooperation was further intensified..

Visit of the Deputy Commissioner of the Japan Patent Office (JPO)

In May, Vice-President Dr Maria Skottke-Klein and Vice-President Bernd Maile welcomed Mr Masanori Katsura, Deputy Commissioner of the Japan Patent Office, and his delegation to the DPMA. Representatives of the Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) also participated in the talks.

The focus of this visit was on the latest IT developments in our office. The representatives of the DPMA explained the project work concerning the development of the electronic file as well as the inhouse search programme DEPATIS and demonstrated it using practical examples.

Another main topic of this meeting was the patent examiner exchange, which was resumed in person in 2024.

Deputy Commissioner of the Japan Patent Office (JPO), Masanori Katsura, and his delegation at the DPMA

Patent examiner exchange programme with the JPO

The patent examiner exchange programme with the Japanese Patent Office has been in place for more than 20 years. During the pandemic we had to switch to a virtual format, so the examiners were only partly able to get to know each other personally.

In June 2024, we resumed the exchange in person. Two patent examiners of the DPMA visited their colleagues in Tokyo and discussed the examination practice of their offices using selected parallel applications from the fields of civil engineering and medical technology. We are glad that this important and valuable tradition can now be continued to the full extent again.

A living tradition — the German-Japanese patent examiner exchange

Visit of the Japan Intellectual Property Association (JIPA)

In October 2024, we were once more able to welcome a delegation of the JIPA to Munich.

The colleagues of the JIPA were given an extensive insight into the working methods, application numbers and latest developments at the DPMA. Moreover, the search and examining methods and the patent examiner training were explained.

Visit of WIPO Director General Daren Tang to Munich

A highlight of the year 2024 was the visit of Daren Tang, Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), to Munich.

Together with other representatives of the DPMA, WIPO Director General Daren Tang and President Eva Schewior discussed current topics such as digitisation, but also the empowerment of women in IP. WIPO affirmed its intention to promote the cooperation with industrial as well as developing countries. Moreover, the participants talked about details concerning conducting a joint analysis on the utilisation of IP rights by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Germany.

Visit of WIPO Director General Daren Tang in Munich

WIPO Assemblies in Geneva

At the beginning of July, the senior management of the DPMA participated in the WIPO Assemblies in Geneva.

On the margins of the Assemblies, DPMA President Eva Schewior and Vice President Dr Maria Skottke-Klein met with the heads of the IP offices of Canada, the Republic of Korea, the UK, China and Japan as well as with WIPO Director General Daren Tang.

On 9 July 2024, President Eva Schewior had a meeting with her Canadian counterpart Konstantinos Georgaras. The discussion was not only about the latest developments in the two offices, but also about how to further intensify the collaboration in terms of IP awareness. Moreover, both sides agreed on an exchange concerning the CIPO's green patents project that allows for an accelerated examination without additional costs for the applicant.

A meeting between DPMA President Eva Schewior and her British counterpart Adam Williams also covered the latest developments at the two offices. It focussed on the latest progress made in patent and trade mark proceedings and on the role of IP when it comes to fostering innovation. Another topic was the EU Commission's latest regulation on standard essential patents. The two heads stressed the necessity of a close cooperation in order to strengthen the innovative capacity of the two countries.

In Geneva, President Schewior and her Chinese counterpart Commissioner Dr Shen Changyu discussed the long-standing cooperation between the two offices and the latest developments. The Commissioner provided information about legal amendments concerning IP in China. The two heads also discussed the use of artificial intelligence for IP rights examination while emphasising the importance of IP protection for the global economy.

The Commissioner of the Japan Patent Office, Yota Ono, underlined the significance of a regular exchange between the two offices and acknowledged the meetings regarding IT topics which took place on working level. Moreover, both heads highly valued the patent examiner exchange that contributes essentially to a deeper understanding of the examination practice in the two offices.

The meeting of President Eva Schewior with her Korean counterpart, Commissioner Dr Kim Wan Ki, was characterised by a mutual recognition of the successful cooperation so far.

The central topic was drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that is to strengthen the present cooperation structures and establish new ways for joint work, especially in the fields of digital transformation and harmonised patent procedures. This MoU also aims at intensifying the cooperation concerning public relations work for raising IP awareness.
In addition to the discussions with the counterparts of national offices, DPMA President Schewior and Vice-President Dr Skottke-

Klein also met WIPO Director General Daren Tang for a bilateral meeting. On this occasion they discussed topics of global relevance, such as the role of patents for the production of vaccines in developing countries and the importance of artificial intelligence in medicine for the aging population worldwide. WIPO suggested, among other topics, a close exchange of both patent offices concerning the digitisation of IP procedures.

In Geneva there was another meeting with EUIPO Executive Director João Negrão and the Presidents of national offices. It focused on current topics of trade mark law and most notably the implementation of the EU's 14th sanctions package.

DPMA delegation in Geneva

Visit of Ms Vaishali Udupa, Commissioner for Patents of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

DPMA Vice-President Bernd Maile met his US-counterpart Vaishali Udupa in Munich at the end of July 2024.
They discussed the challenges and opportunities of artificial intelligence (AI) and its effects on patent offices. This included the increasing numbers of patent applications in complex fields of technology with a connection to AI.

Information on the recruitment, training and commitment of new patent examiners was of particular interest to the USPTO, as in 2025, about 1,600 new patent examiner jobs are scheduled to be created at the USPTO.

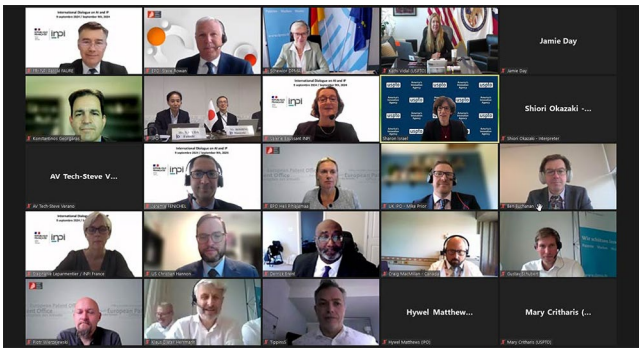
Visit of Ms Vaishali Udupa, Commissioner for Patents of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO)

Virtual G7 meeting on intellectual property — international dialogue on artificial intelligence

Initiated by the USPTO, the heads of all patent and trade mark offices of the leading industrial nations (G7) and representatives of the European Patent Office (EPO) came together for a virtual meeting on artificial intelligence in September.

The main topics of the meeting were the handling of AI-related inventions, their legal status and current legislation and strategies. The participants held short speeches about the legal conditions and the resulting examination practices.

The rapidly evolving field of AI and the question of how to handle it will continue to be a topic of international discussions in the years to come. All participants emphasised the importance of an intensive exchange for the harmonisation of legal conditions.



Virtual G7 meeting on intellectual property

DPMA President Schewior welcomes CEO of the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP)

The DPMA President welcomed her counterpart from Saudi Arabia, Dr Abdulaziz Muhammad Al-Swailem, to an exchange on relevant IP topics in Munich.

DPMA President Schewior receives the CEO of the Saudi Arabian Intellectual Property Authority (SAIP)

Both heads gave a brief overview of the respective current developments. Dr Al-Swailem talked about the goals of "Vision 2030", which aims to reduce Saudi Arabia's high dependency on the oil industry to ensure the long-term diversification of the economy.

A main component of "Vision 2030" is to increase the significance of IP, which led to the foundation of the SAIP more than ten years ago. Since then, the application numbers have considerably increased and are expected to keep growing.

In order to further promote the mutual cooperation, the SAIP has proposed a joint working plan which stipulates a patent examiner exchange in the years to come, among other things.

Visit of a delegation of the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA)

In October, the CNIPA staff learned about the structure and working processes of the patent examination at the DPMA and gained insights into our office's patent examination training. A final discussion served to deepen selected topics such as the digitisation of the two offices and the handling of the high application numbers that are continuing to rise globally.

Visit by a delegation from CNIPA

Meeting with President of the International Trademark Association (INTA) Dana Northcott

In December, DPMA President Schewior welcomed INTA President Dana Northcott and INTA CEO Etienne Sanz de Acedo to a meeting in Munich.

The main subject of discussion was once more the current and future handling of AI-based applications. President Northcott underlined the relevance of trade mark protection in the virtual world and explained the INTA's initiatives. Other main topics were the fostering of sustainable innovations and the future importance of national IP offices.

Meeting with the President of the International Trademark Association (INTA) Dana Northcott at the DPMA in Munich

EUIPO

The European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) is responsible for the registration and administration of European Union trade marks and registered designs at EU level.

For 30 years, the EUIPO has been cooperating with the national IP offices of the EU Member States to go beyond European law and harmonise the practice of registration procedures for trade marks and designs in Europe.

The DPMA regularly sends experts to working groups on different topics as part of Convergence Projects. Last year, the Convergence Project to develop a joint practice on the similarity of goods and services was completed and its results published as Common Practice at the beginning of 2025. Also in 2025, the DPMA will participate in several working groups on different trade mark issues again.

In addition, DPMA experts are working to evaluate previous Convergence Projects and plan new ones for a convergence analysis.

The DPMA also actively cooperates with the EUIPO on comprehensive classification and search tools, such as a unified classification database for goods and services (eKDB/TMClass) and search tools in the TMView and DesignView register databases.

The DPMA strongly focuses on supporting SMEs regarding the effective utilisation of IP rights and therefore participates in correspondent European projects.

For more information on our international collaborations, please go to our website.

Inventor and innovation awards

“Innovation is the lifeblood of a successful business location. This is particularly true for Germany, a country with few natural resources. Our prosperity and competitiveness are not based on large deposits of gas, oil or lithium, but on creativity, inventiveness and know-how,” DPMA President Eva Schewior said. For this reason, the DPMA has been actively supporting some renowned awards for years.

The team recommended by the DPMA and President Eva Schewior

Last year, DPMA President Eva Schewior and other senior staff of the DPMA once again served as members of juries or were part of boards of trustees. In addition, our patent examiners proposed outstanding innovations for recognition.

In 2024, the DPMA was involved in the following awards:

Deutscher Zukunftspreis — the Federal President’s Award for Technology and Innovation

www.deutscher-zukunftspreis.de/en

The *Deutscher Zukunftspreis* award honours outstanding research and development projects that can be successfully commercialised and create sustainable jobs. The prize is awarded personally by the Federal President and comes with prize money of 250,000 euros.

The DPMA President is a member of the board of trustees, which determines the direction of the selection decisions. Moreover, the DPMA is entitled to submit promising proposals to the jury which will then also be considered in selecting the nominations or prize winners.

The 28th *Deutscher Zukunftspreis* award was presented on 27 November 2024 by Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier to Dr Norwin von Malm, Stefan Grötsch (ams-OSRAM International GmbH, Regensburg) and Dr Hermann Oppermann (Fraunhofer IZM, Berlin). Their innovative lightening source for headlights uses more than 25,000 small LEDs arranged in a matrix, creating a spotlight that is comparable to a video projector. Each LED can be controlled individually, so that the spatial distribution of the light can be directed and optimally adapted to the given situation.

The following teams were also nominated for the *Deutscher Zukunftspreis* award in 2024:

Prof Dr Björn Ommer (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München) and Dr Anna Lukasson-Herzig (nyris GmbH, Düsseldorf) were nominated with their project "Democratisation of Generative AI — Stable Diffusion from Development to Practice". Prof Ommer's team developed a compact and efficient generative AI system. It is freely available and has the potential to make the search for spare parts easier, to name just one example. Relevant images can be used to train an image search engine, which can then identify a part in seconds using a photo of it.

Federal Minister of Education and Research Cem Özdemir (November 2024), the winners 2024, Dr.-Ing. Hermann Oppermann, Dr. rer. nat. Norwin von Malm, Stefan Grötsch, Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and presenter Yve Fehring

Dr Konrad Schraml, Dr Caspar Leendertz (Infineon Technologies AG, Munich) und Prof Dr Thomas Basler (TU Chemnitz) developed a semiconductor module that, while supporting the same module size, enables significantly higher current flows and 90% fewer switching losses compared to previous models. This team was nominated for the Deutscher Zukunftspreis award by the DPMA.

The DPMA is entitled to nominate projects for the Deutscher Zukunftspreis award to the jury: Please draw our attention to your projects! Proposals for nominations for the 2026 Deutscher Zukunftspreis award can be submitted at any time until the beginning of November 2025. For more information, visit our website.

European Inventor Award

www.epo.org

The European Inventor Award of the European Patent Office (EPO) recognises inventors from all over the world who translate their ideas into technological progress, economic growth or improvements to everyday life. In 2023, more than 600 candidates from 12 countries were proposed who were indicated as inventors in at least one European patent granted.

The European Inventor Award is presented in five categories. The award winners of 2024 were:

- **Industry:** The "Giga Press" developed by the Italian Fiorenzo Dioni and the German Richard Oberle is the world's largest die-casting machine and applies especially high pressure. The press is an important step towards reducing waste, energy consumption and carbon emissions resulting from the production of large vehicle parts.
  DPMA President Eva Schewior emphasises: **"Congratulations to Richard Oberle and Fiorenzo Dioni! With the new technology, they are enabling an innovative approach in order to make automotive manufacturing even more efficient."**
- **Research:** The European Inventor Award 2024 in the "Research" category went to the German AI researcher Cordelia Schmid. She was awarded for her pioneering "computer vision" research, which enables AI to "see" and interpret complex visual data in real-time. This opens up new application possibilities, for example for interactive robots and self-driving vehicles.
  DPMA President Eva Schewior: **"My heartfelt congratulations go to Cordelia Schmid for being awarded with the European Inventor Award. Cordelia Schmid is an outstanding scientist and inventor. Using self-improving machine learning models, she has decisively advanced the processing speed of AI applications in computer vision — thus pushing the boundaries of what technology can achieve for our lives. Economically and socially highly relevant applications such as autonomous driving and interactive robotics have only become possible because of this."**
  Cordelia Schmid is Research Director of the National Institute for Research in Digital Science and Technology (INRIA). She is one of the internationally leading researchers in computer vision and co-author of numerous scientific research papers and patent applications.
- **Non-EPO Countries:** Neodymium-iron-boron (Nd-Fe-B) magnets have greatly changed the field of permanent magnets and have become an indispensable component of today's modern technologies. The strongest variety, namely Sintered NdFeB magnets, was developed by materials scientist Masato Sagawa from Japan.
- **SMEs and Popular Prize:** The printable perovskite solar cells developed by Olga Malinkiewicz and her team from Poland are characterised by their light weight and high flexibility. These two important features have the potential to raise the world-wide generation of electricity retrieved from renewable energy sources to a new level.
- **Lifetime Achievement:** The native mass spectrometry developed by the British chemist Dame Carol Robinson has revolutionised our understanding of proteins in their natural

environment and paved the way for advances in the fields of drug discovery and personalised medicine.

Young Inventors Prize:

» The portable test kit by Rochelle Niemeijer was devised to quickly diagnose bacterial infections using state-of-the-art medical technology in order to address the pressing issue of antimicrobial resistance.
» A pioneering technology transforms autumn leaves into environmentally friendly paper, thus avoiding deforestation and significantly lowering greenhouse gas emissions. The innovative process was developed by Valentyn Frechka from Ukraine.
» MOOVOBRAIN is a smart all-in-one solution for wheelchair control helping people with physical limitations navigate. It was conceived by Khaoula Ben Ahmed, Ghofrane Ayari, Souleima Ben Temime and Sirine Ayari from Tunesia.

From 2025 on, the Young Inventors Award will be awarded separately and alternate annually with the European Inventor Award by the European Patent Office.

The prize winners in 2024

Bavarian Innovation Prize

www.innovationspreis-bayern.de

The Bavarian Innovation Prize is awarded every two years. It honours product and process innovations as well as technology-oriented services that were developed in Bavaria and launched on the market no more than four years ago.

At the 2024 awards ceremony, the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Federation of Bavarian Chambers of Industry and Commerce (Bayerischer Industrie- und Handelskammertag) and the Federation of Bavarian Chambers of Crafts (Arbeitsgemeinschaft der bayerischen Handwerkskammern) once again honoured several companies for their outstanding new developments. Vice-President Bernd Maile was a member of the jury. The assessments of several patent examiners of the DPMA were also included in the evaluation.

At the award ceremony, the chairman of the jury, Prof Dr Dr h.c. (NAS RA) Arndt Bode emphasised the important role of the DPMA in selecting the award winners. The valuable information on the existing IP rights of the more than 150 submissions and the DPMA's well-founded assessment of their novelty and degree of innovation was "decisive", it was said at the award ceremony in Munich.

You can find the prize winners of each category on the website of the Bavarian Innovation Prize.

The prize winners 2024

Thuringia Innovation Award

www.innovationspreis-thueringen.de

The Thuringia Innovation Award is regarded as a benchmark for ground-breaking new developments and inventions and honours outstanding innovations. It comes with a reward of 110,000 euros which makes it one of the awards with the highest prize money in Germany and was awarded for the 27th time in 2024.

The awards were presented jointly by the Thuringian Minister of Economic Affairs Wolfgang Tiefensee, the Foundation for Technology, Innovation and Research of Thuringia (STIFT), TÜV Thüringen and the Ernst Abbe Foundation in Weimar on 4 December 2024.

The DPMA was again represented in the 18-member jury by Markus Ortlieb, Head of the Jena sub-office.

The winners of the individual categories can be found on the website of the Thuringia Innovation Award.

The prize winners 2024

Jugend forscht contest

www.jugend-forscht.de

This year's round of the Jugend forscht contest included a total of 10,492 young participants from STEM fields. One of the aims of the contest is to motivate girls to conduct research in mathematical and technical fields in order to equalise the gender distribution in technical and scientific subjects. Girls accounted for 39.8% of the young scientists. The proportion of girls is still highly dependent on the subject area, with the highest proportion in biology at 58% and the lowest in technology at 19%. Of the 107 projects that made it to the national competition, Maja Leber and Julius Gutjahr received the Chancellor's award. Their project about inverse bubbles was awarded as the most original contribution. Every child knows soap bubbles — but Maja and Julius made drops fall deliberately through a glass tube into a water basin. When the drop meets the water surface, it is immured by a thin air layer. This creates an inverted bubble which is referred to as an anti-bubble. By making videos and analysing them, Maja and Julius were able to find out which dropping heights and tube diameters were needed for the most successful creation of the anti-bubbles.

Maja Leber and Julius Gutjahr, the winners of the Federal Chancellor's Award for the most original work

The national winner in the technology category was Ediz Osman. He developed an innovative vertical take-off concept for civil planes which cleverly combines four engines. This leads to an upward thrust when the plane is rising as well as to a forwards thrust, thus enabling energy-saving long-distance flights. The junior scientist was even able to demonstrate some components and flight phases of the concept using a model.

Maja, Julius and Ediz were sent to participate in the 35th European Union Contest for Young Scientists (EUCYS) in Katowice (Poland) with their projects, where each of them succeeded in winning an award. We congratulate the talented winners and wish them continued success!

We wish all prize winners continued success in the future!

EVENTS / OUTLOOK

WHAT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO US

Press releases 2024

Visit of WIPO Director General Daren Tang in Munich

» **07 February 2024**
Your text, your picture, your music: German Patent and Trade Mark Office provides information on copyright too

» **5 March 2024**
More inventions filed by German companies

» **6 March 2024**
Partners for a strong innovation ecosystem

» **18 March 2024**
DPMAnutzerforum 2024: Boom in filings of AI inventions

» **26 April 2024**
Fresh impetus for renewable energy innovation

» **14 May 2024**
Counterfeits, fakes: DPMA informs about the enforcement of IP rights

» **05 June 2024**
DPMA Annual Report 2023: Digital technologies still thriving

» **26 June 2024**
International MSME Day: DPMA expands its information offer for small and medium-sized enterprises

» **15 July 2024**
WIPO General Assembly 2024: DPMA strengthens cooperation with partner offices

» **11 September 2024**
Energy-efficient semiconductors, digital light and generative AI for new business models

» **25 September 2024**
DesignEuropa Awards 2024: DPMA President congratulates Dieter Rams

DPMA President Eva Schewior and the nominated Team 3: (from left) Dr. Caspar Leendertz, Dr. Konrad Schraml and Prof. Dr.-Ing. Thomas Basler

The DPMAnutzerbeirat at its meeting in April 2024

» **26 September 2024**
Global Innovation Index 2024: DPMA President calls for more dynamism to ensure innovative capacity
» **10 October 2024**
Free IP advice for start-ups and SMEs
» **24 October 2024**
Independent inventors: “An important part of our innovation landscape”
» **07 November 2024**
“Valuable impulses”: DPMA User Advisory Council concludes meeting period
» **27 November 2024**
“Digital light” for cars and augmented reality: DPMA President congratulates the winners of the Deutscher Zukunftspreispreis
» **10 December 2024**
“A Christmas without fakes”

You can find out which topics, events and anniversaries have been on our agenda in 2024 on our website.

A glance at 2025

View from the DPMA building in Munich

Innovative IP strategies: study on German tech start-ups will be concluded soon

This year, we will publish a study by the East Bavarian Regensburg University of Applied Sciences that looks into the innovation strategies of young technology companies. We conducted this ground-breaking survey in collaboration with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) to analyse the IP strategies of German start-ups.

The research, which took place over several months, combines qualitative and quantitative approaches. At its core are numerous structured in-depth interviews with founders from various innovative technology sectors. The study aims to determine in detail how young companies use and perceive intellectual property.

The focus was put on questions such as: What role do patents play for emerging technology companies? What obstacles do start-ups face when it comes to the protection of their innovations? And how can national offices better support these companies in the future?

The results promise to deliver important insights for promoting innovation and economic development. They are meant to help adapt the services for the protection of IP to better suit the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises. We expect the study to be published in full at the end of the third quarter of 2025.

DPMAnutzerbeirat: third term with new members

The DPMAnutzerbeirat (User Advisory Council) has started its third term — with new members. The newcomers to the council are one member from the German Startup Association and another from the Federal Agency for Breakthrough Innovation (SPRIND). With the new additions, the DPMA emphasises the central role start-ups play in a dynamic and future-oriented innovation ecosystem, especially in regard to new technologies. With the participation of SPRIND, the office acknowledges the immense importance IP rights have for the commercial success of disruptive technologies, in particular in the deep tech sector. Other than that, and just like in the previous terms, all relevant user groups are represented again — the patent bar, delegates from big industry, SMEs represented by the patent information centres and the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, universities and patent information providers. In its new composition, the DPMAnutzerbeirat continues to be our central advisory council. We appreciate its expertise and will use it to advance our IP procedures and other services in the interest of our customers.

OVERVIEW

DPMA Trade fair calendar 2025

Date	Trade fair	Venue	Info
February			
7 to 11 February 2025	Ambiente	Frankfurt	Booth with Plagiarius
May			
10 to 11 May 2025	Velo Berlin	Berlin	Mobile IP experts
21 to 23 May 2025	GITEX Europe	Berlin	Mobile IP experts and Booth
21 to 23 May 2025	PatInfo	Ilmenau	
June			
5 June 2025	Innovationstag Mittelstand BMWK	Berlin	Booth
July			
16 July 2025	Tag der gewerblichen Schutzrechte	Stuttgart	Booth
September			
11 September 2025	Festival der Berliner Wirtschaft 2025	Berlin	Booth
October			
10 to 11 October 2025	deGUT	Berlin	Booth
November			
1 to 3 November 2025	iENA	Nuremberg	
18 November 2025	Potsdamer Gründertag	Potsdam	Booth
27 to 28 November 2025	Future of festivals	Berlin	Mobile IP experts

An up-to-date version of our trade fair and event calendar is available on our website.

Statistics

To generate the statistical data, we use the dynamic statistics system DPMAstatistik. Due to this dynamic, the values can change over time, for example, when a legal status change has a retrospective effect. For this reason, the values depend on the respective date of retrieval.

More detailed statistics are available in the March edition of the gazette *Blatt für Patent-, Muster- und Zeichenwesen (Blatt für PMZ)*, published by Carl Heymanns Verlag.

Funded by the European Union
NextGenerationEU

The DPMA has received funding from the European Union's NextGenerationEU programme to improve the technical infrastructure and the data basis of the in-house statistical system.

PATENT APPLICATIONS AND PATENTS

1.1 National patent applications at the DPMA and international patent applications effective in Germany

Year	National applications [1]			PCT applications in the national phase			Patent Applications		
	Domestic[2]	Foreign[2]	Total	Domestic[2]	Foreign[2]	Total	Domestic[2]	Foreign[2]	Total
2020	41,098	13,489	54,587	1,171	6,354	7,525	42,269	19,843	62,112
2021	38,986	12,691	51,677	843	6,057	6,900	39,829	18,748	58,577
2022	36,517	13,689	50,206	687	6,318	7,005	37,204	20,007	57,211
2023	37,771	13,448	51,219	737	6,706	7,443	38,508	20,154	58,662
2024	39,284	12,974	52,258	780	6,222	7,002	40,064	19,196	59,260

[1] Applications for a German patent filed with the DPMA. / [2] Residence or principal place of business of the applicant.

1.2 Patent applications before entry into the examination procedure

Year	Total applications received [1]	Procedures concluded before filing of examination request[2]	Patent applications pending at the end of the year	
			Total	Applications for which formal examination has been concluded
2020	54,712	20,890	149,037	143,197
2021	51,770	21,412	143,794	138,740
2022	50,296	18,408	140,120	134,445
2023	51,325	16,777	137,905	132,111
2024	52,310	16,655	137,214	131,023

[1] New applications and cases referred back by the Federal Patent Court, allowed appeals, reinstatements.

[2] Withdrawals, non-payment of application or annual renewal fees, examination request not filed and refusals.

1.3 Patent applications in the examination procedure

Year	Examination requests received		Examination procedures concluded	Patent grants published
	Total	Examination requests received along with application		
2020	43,353	23,393	41,768	17,305
2021	43,353	22,694	48,521	21,113
2022	43,474	22,685	45,520	23,591
2023	44,816	23,991	42,671	22,363
2024	43,983	23,629	45,242	23,944

1.4 Patents in force (granted by the DPMA)

Year	Patents entered into force	Patents no longer in force	Patents in force at the end of the year
2020	17,336	17,007	132,330
2021	21,145	18,742	134,732
2022	23,622	15,681	142,670
2023	22,394	16,700	148,364
2024	23,968	18,669	153,654

1.5 Opposition proceedings

Year	Oppositions received	Opposition proceedings concluded				Opposition proceedings pending at the end of the year[2]
		Total	Patent revoked	Patent maintained or patent maintained in amended form	Including other[1]	
2020	259	304	102	148	54	1,138
2021	252	249	80	114	55	1,141
2022	230	308	93	158	57	1,063
2023	276	292	89	154	49	1,046
2024	237	271	66	163	42	1,012

[1] *Termination of the proceedings, inadmissibility of the objection.*

[2] *Including a substantial part of the proceedings pending before the Federal Patent Court.*

1.6 Percentage of national patent applications where the applicant is identical with the inventor, broken down by residence or principal place of business of the applicant

Origin	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Domestic	7.2	6.9	5.9	5.1	4.5
Foreign	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.3	1.2
Total	**5.8**	**5.6**	**4.7**	**4.1**	**3.7**

1.7 Breakdown of domestic patent applicants by filing activity (%)

Percentage of applicants having filed	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
one application	66.9	66.7	65.3	63.4	63.7
2 to 10 applications	28.9	28.8	29.6	31.4	30.7
11 to 100 applications	3.8	4.0	4.5	4.5	4.9
more then 100 applications	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.6
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Percentage of applications by appplicants having filed	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
one application	13.2	12.7	11.2	10.0	9.4
2 to 10 applications	18.9	18.3	17.6	17.0	15.4
11 to 100 applications	21.3	19.7	21.1	20.9	21.2
more then 100 applications	46.7	49.3	50.2	52.0	53.9
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

1.8 Patent applications by country of origin (residence or principal place of business of the applicant, applications at the DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

Country	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Germany	42,269	39,829	37,204	38,508	40,064
Japan	7,248	6,131	6,339	6,404	6,592
United States	5,880	5,893	6,850	6,695	5,885
Republic of Korea	1,618	1,558	1,636	1,421	1,324
Switzerland	777	867	863	997	901
China	499	568	702	928	817
Austria	766	782	867	878	812
Taiwan	933	753	497	558	588
France	303	400	428	318	368
Sweden	321	320	360	319	323
Other	1,498	1,476	1,465	1,636	1,586
Total	**62,112**	**58,577**	**57,211**	**58,662**	**59,260**

1.9 Patent applications (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase) broken down by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)

German Länder	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Baden-Württemberg	13,686	13,573	13,444	14,653	15,494
Bavaria	12,702	11,879	10,550	10,819	11,361
Berlin	675	526	484	477	468
Brandenburg	295	257	229	196	202
Bremen	121	102	104	109	136
Hamburg	622	463	377	401	440
Hesse	1,568	1,479	1,202	1,090	1,043
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	107	98	177	122	58
Lower Saxony	3,233	2,985	2,792	2,826	3,141
North Rhine-Westphalia	6,398	5,675	5,292	5,538	5,336
Rhineland-Palatinate	781	856	805	606	681
Saarland	192	178	137	98	113
Saxony	642	604	592	546	543
Saxony-Anhalt	159	154	122	141	98
Schleswig-Holstein	481	475	426	384	430
Thuringia	607	525	471	502	520
Germany	**42,269**	**39,829**	**37,204**	**38,508**	**40,064**

1.10 Patent applications, shares and applications per 100,000 inhabitants by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)

German Länder	2023			2024			Change from 2023 to 2024 (%)
	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	
Baden-Württemberg	14,653	38.1	129	15,494	38.7	137	+5.7
Bavaria	10,819	28.1	81	11,361	28.4	85	+5.0
North Rhine-Westphalia	5,538	14.4	30	5,336	13.3	29	-3.6
Lower Saxony	2,826	7.3	35	3,141	7.8	38	+11.1
Hesse	1,090	2.8	17	1,043	2.6	16	-4.3
Rhineland-Palatinate	606	1.6	15	681	1.7	16	+12.4
Saxony	546	1.4	13	543	1.4	13	-0.5
Thuringia	502	1.3	24	520	1.3	25	+3.6
Berlin	477	1.2	13	468	1.2	12	-1.9
Hamburg	401	1.0	21	440	1.1	23	+9.7
Schleswig-Holstein	384	1.0	13	430	1.1	14	+12.0
Brandenburg	196	0.5	8	202	0.5	8	+3.1
Bremen	109	0.3	16	136	0.3	20	+24.8
Saarland	98	0.3	10	113	0.3	11	+15.3
Saxony-Anhalt	141	0.4	6	98	0.2	4	-30.5
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	122	0.3	7	58	0.1	4	-52.5
Germany	**38,508**	**100**	**45**	**40,064**	**100**	**47**	**+4.0**

1.11 Leading fields of technology[1] in the individual German Länder in 2024

German Länder	No.	Fields of technology	Patent applications	Change from 2023 to 2024 (%)
Baden-Württemberg	32	Transport	3,482	+6.5
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	2,273	0.0
	10	Measurement	1,463	+10.2
Bavaria	32	Transport	2,552	+10.3
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	1,807	+3.1
	10	Measurement	792	+15.1
Berlin	6	Computer technology	48	+29.7
	13	Medical technology	46	+35.3
	10	Measurement	40	+37.9
Brandenburg	27	Engines, pumps, turbines	30	+100.0
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	29	+20.8
	35	Civil engineering	14	+55.6
Bremen	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	37	+94.7
	10	Measurement	30	+50.0
	32	Transport	10	-41.2
Hamburg	32	Transport	88	+137.8
	25	Handling	58	-1.7
	14	Organic fine chemistry	55	+44.7
Hesse	31	Mechanical elements	116	+30.3
	13	Medical technology	111	+22.0
	10	Measurement	95	+10.5
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	35	Civil engineering	11	+22.2
	29	Other special machines	9	+12.5
	30	Thermal processes and apparatus	5	0.0
Lower Saxony	32	Transport	970	+16.6
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	311	+33.5
	10	Measurement	260	+36.8
North Rhine-Westphalia	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	634	-1.6
	35	Civil engineering	564	+13.9
	32	Transport	446	+14.7
Rhineland-Palatinate	35	Civil engineering	85	+32.8
	32	Transport	78	+44.4
	31	Mechanical elements	51	-10.5
Saarland	31	Mechanical elements	23	+53.3
	24	Environmental technology	13	+44.4
	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	12	+20.0
Saxony	1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	71	+2.9
	10	Measurement	51	-5.6
	21	Surface technology, coating	40	+25.0
Saxony-Anhalt	8	Semiconductors	16	-5.9
	35	Civil engineering	13	+44.4
	13	Medical technology	11	-15.4
Schleswig-Holstein	19	Basic materials chemistry	49	+88.5
	13	Medical technology	41	+5.1
	35	Civil engineering	31	+24.0
Thuringia	9	Optics	129	+57.3
	13	Medical technology	94	0.0
	10	Measurement	55	+12.2

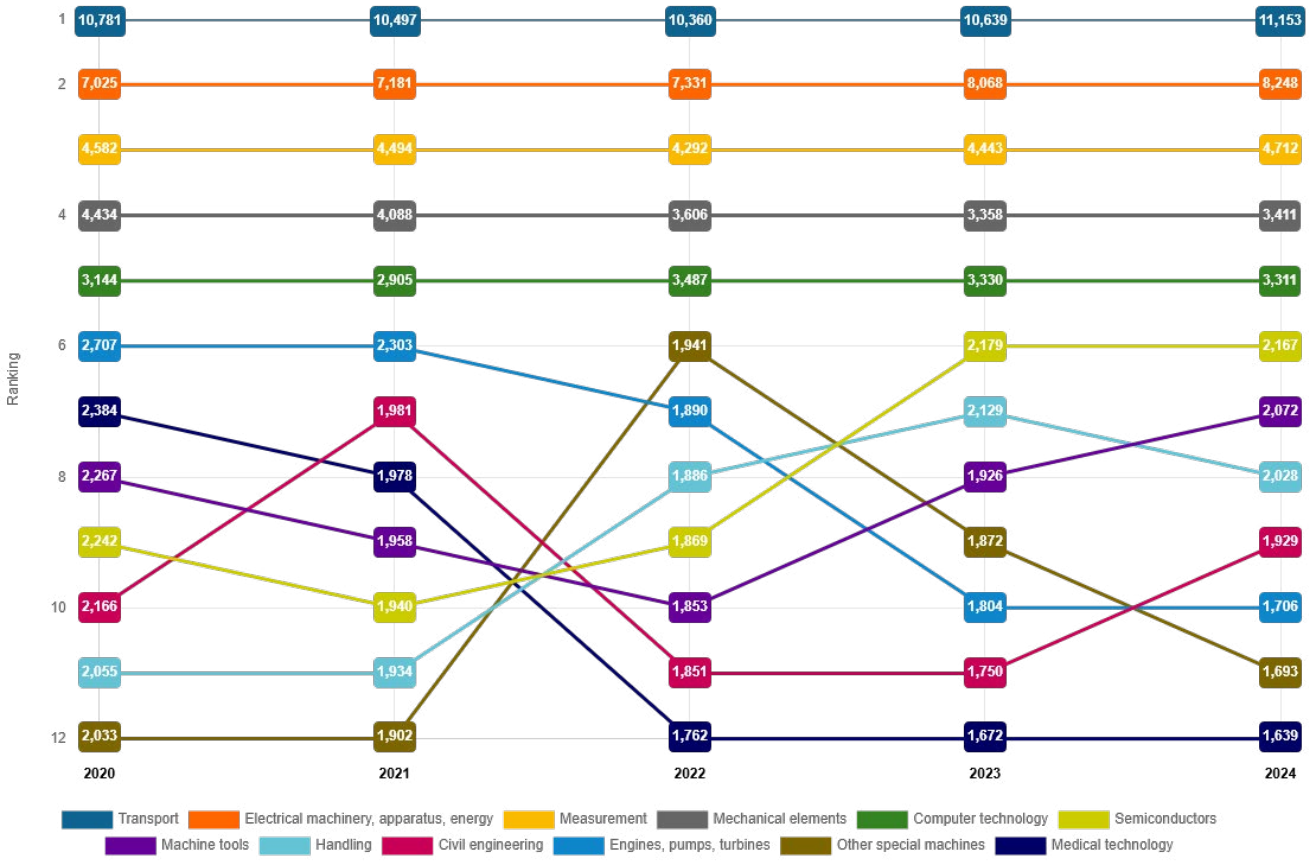
[1] *According to the WIPO IPC-Technology Concordance Table: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources.*

1.12 Patent applications filed by universities by German *Länder* (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

German Länder	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Baden-Württemberg	67	72	49	42	47
Bavaria	59	44	58	43	51
Berlin	16	12	15	10	12
Brandenburg	14	15	12	5	10
Bremen	12	8	12	7	10
Hamburg	17	16	7	9	6
Hesse	45	44	22	33	24
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	19	20	11	8	6
Lower Saxony	43	29	29	26	25
North Rhine-Westphalia	131	131	114	116	130
Rhineland-Palatinate	10	15	13	14	13
Saarland	5	7	2	1	5
Saxony	118	109	105	96	75
Saxony-Anhalt	27	26	10	17	8
Schleswig-Holstein	22	17	15	21	9
Thuringia	26	24	28	26	27
Germany[1]	**629**	**588**	**502**	**469**	**457**

[1] *Due to rounding differences the sum of the figures may differ from the figure for Germany..*

1.13 Patent applications by technology fields[1] with the largest number of applications in 2024 (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)



[1] *According to the WIPO IPC-Technology Concordance Table: www.wipo.int/ipstats/en/index.html#resources.*

1.14 Companies and institutions with the highest numbers of patent applications in 2024 (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

Rank	Applicant[1]	Principal place of business		Applications
1	Robert Bosch GmbH	DE		4,496
2	Bayerische Motoren Werke AG	DE		2,297
3	Mercedes-Benz Group AG	DE		2,138
4	Dr. Ing. h.c. F. Porsche AG	DE		1,409
5	GM Global Technology Operations LLC		US	1,299
6	ZF Friedrichshafen AG	DE		1,175
7	VOLKSWAGEN AG	DE		1,147
8	Schaeffler Technologies AG & Co. KG	DE		1,080
9	AUDI AG	DE		1,058
10	Ford Global Technologies, LLC		US	962
11	Mitsubishi Electric Corporation		JP	672
12	Continental Automotive GmbH	DE		520
13	Carl Zeiss SMT GmbH	DE		388
14	ams-OSRAM International GmbH	DE		383
15	Infineon Technologies AG	DE		363
16	Toyota Jidosha K.K.		JP	354
17	MAHLE International GmbH	DE		353
18	Continental Reifen Deutschland GmbH	DE		343
19	NVIDIA Corporation		US	322
20	Miele & Cie. KG	DE		315
21	Siemens Healthineers AG	DE		310
22	YAZAKI Corporation		JP	308
23	FANUC Corporation		JP	292
24	BSH Hausgeräte GmbH	DE		280
25	Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co., Ltd.		TW	270
26	Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V.	DE		268
27	DENSO Corporation		JP	262
28	Hyundai Motor Company		KR	260
29	Kia Corporation		KR	257
30	Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V.	DE		241
31	KRONES AG	DE		235
32	LG Display Co. Ltd.		KR	225
33	Hitachi Astemo, Ltd.		JP	216
33	Valeo Schalter und Sensoren GmbH	DE		216
35	Hewlett Packard Enterprise Development LP		US	210
35	SEW-EURODRIVE GmbH & Co KG	DE		210
37	Intel Corporation		US	195
38	Stellantis Auto SAS		FR	194
39	Siemens Energy Global GmbH & Co. KG	DE		186
40	Siemens AG	DE		183
41	Voith Patent GmbH	DE		181
42	ROHM Co., Ltd.		JP	178
43	Siemens Mobility GmbH	DE		174
44	Deere & Company		US	172
45	Apple Inc.		US	169
46	Daimler Truck AG	DE		167
46	Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation		US	167
48	Aktiebolaget SKF		SE	160
49	HELLA GmbH & Co. KGaA	DE		157
50	Henkel AG & Co. KGaA	DE		147
50	Shimano Inc.		JP	147

[1] *Proportional counting in the case of several applicants; without taking into account any business intra-group affiliations.*

UTILITY MODELS AND TOPOGRAPHIES

2.1 Utility models (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase)

Year	Filings				Procedures concluded		
	New applications	Domestic applications	Other[1]	Total	By registration	Without registration	Total
2020	12,313	8,894	15	12,328	10,736	1,496	12,232
2021	10,575	7,028	15	10,590	9,972	1,363	11,335
2022	9,470	5,524	14	9,484	8,765	1,082	9,847
2023	9,703	5,515	9	9,712	8,325	994	9,319
2024	9,577	5,234	21	9,598	9,064	857	9,921

Year	Pending registration procedures at the end of the year	Utility models in force at the end of the year	Renewals	Lapsed utility models
2020	3,911	74,868	18,308	12,805
2021	3,163	72,737	18,177	12,129
2022	2,792	70,253	17,632	11,272
2023	3,183	67,019	16,833	11,593
2024	2,852	64,009	16,144	12,099

[1] *Cases referred back by the Federal Patent Court, allowed appeals, reinstatements.*

2.2 Topographies under the Semiconductor Protection Act (*Halbleiterschutzgesetz*)

Year	New applications received	Procedures concluded			Pending applications at the end of the year	Lapsed due to expiry	Registrations in force at the end of the year
		By registration	Without registration	Total			
2020	0	0	0	0	0	1	20
2021	3	1	2	3	0	1	20
2022	2	1	0	1	1	2	19
2023	1	1	0	1	1	8	12
2024	3	3	1	4	0	2	13

2.3 Utility model applications (applications at DPMA and PCT applications in the national phase) by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)

German Länder	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Baden-Württemberg	1,578	1,292	1,092	1,002	934
Bavaria	2,019	1,535	1,204	1,254	1,227
Berlin	343	254	189	200	138
Brandenburg	106	97	62	69	71
Bremen	46	32	28	24	18
Hamburg	154	128	97	90	94
Hesse	615	493	330	377	304
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	61	55	37	61	31
Lower Saxony	596	541	419	344	350
North Rhine-Westphalia	2,250	1,699	1,399	1,471	1,419
Rhineland-Palatinate	352	283	208	198	218
Saarland	68	49	26	29	45
Saxony	286	198	150	156	151
Saxony-Anhalt	109	69	60	59	37
Schleswig-Holstein	180	175	137	107	108
Thuringia	131	128	86	74	89
Germany	**8,894**	**7,028**	**5,524**	**5,515**	**5,234**

2.4 Utility model applications, shares and applications per 100,000 inhabitants by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)

German Länder	2023			2024			Change from 2023 to 2024 (%)
	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	
North Rhine-Westphalia	1,471	26.7	8	1,419	27.1	8	-3.5
Bavaria	1,254	22.7	9	1,227	23.4	9	-2.2
Baden-Württemberg	1,002	18.2	9	934	17.8	8	-6.8
Lower Saxony	344	6.2	4	350	6.7	4	+1.7
Hesse	377	6.8	6	304	5.8	5	-19.4
Rhineland-Palatinate	198	3.6	5	218	4.2	5	+10.1
Saxony	156	2.8	4	151	2.9	4	-3.2
Berlin	200	3.6	5	138	2.6	4	-31.0
Schleswig-Holstein	107	1.9	4	108	2.1	4	+0.9
Hamburg	90	1.6	5	94	1.8	5	+4.4
Thuringia	74	1.3	3	89	1.7	4	+20.3
Brandenburg	69	1.3	3	71	1.4	3	+2.9
Saarland	29	0.5	3	45	0.9	5	+55.2
Saxony-Anhalt	59	1.1	3	37	0.7	2	-37.3
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	61	1.1	4	31	0.6	2	-49.2
Bremen	24	0.4	3	18	0.3	3	-25.0
Germany	**5,515**	**100**	**7**	**5,234**	**100**	**6**	**-5.1**

NATIONAL TRADE MARKS

3.1 Applications and registrations

Year	Filings					
	New applications			After being concluded by the Federal Patent Court	Total	Registration pursuant to section 41 Trade Mark Act (*Markengesetz*)
	Total	Domestic applications	Proportion of services (%)[1]			
2020	84,623	78,713	44.8	336	84,959	60,445
2021	87,649	81,817	44.0	282	87,931	68,638
2022	73,312	68,190	44.3	284	73,596	53,636
2023	75,261	69,577	42.7	252	75,513	48,689
2024	77,221	70,305	42.4	255	77,476	49,991

[1] *Proportion of claimed service classes in all claimed classes in national trade mark applications, as a trade mark application may be assigned to several classes.*

3.2 Opposition proceedings

Year	Oppositions received			Opposition proceedings concluded		
	Trade marks challenged by oppositions	Number of oppositions	Number of opposing signs	Without affecting the trade mark	Cancellation in full or in part	Procedure obsolete[1]
2020	2,842	3,063	4,816	1,893	521	662
2021	3,305	3,565	5,700	1,784	428	680
2022	2,764	2,983	4,955	1,750	530	638
2023	2,161	2,294	3,833	1,738	590	548
2024	2,205	2,373	3,821	1,504	525	534

[1] *(Partial) cancellations in particular due to the surrender of the proprietor.*

3.3 Cancellations, renewals, trade marks in force

Year	Cancellations as well as other disposals	Renewals	Trade marks in force at the end of the year
2020	45,181	39,491	845,728
2021	45,818	35,945	868,539
2022	41,521	34,369	880,642
2023	40,536	34,296	888,773
2024	41,032	35,891	897,701

3.4 Procedures for the international registration of marks

Year	Applications for international registration of trade marks originating from Germany			
	Applications received	Procedures concluded		Cases pending at the end of the year
		Applications transmitted to WIPO[1]	Applications withdrawn or refused	
2020	4,415	4,255	137	294
2021	4,958	4,779	125	351
2022	4,385	4,386	120	230
2023	3,612	3,528	104	211
2024	3,359	3,320	67	183

Year	Extension of protection of international registrations of marks originating from Madrid Union countries to Germany						
	Requests received[2]	Erledigung			Cases pending at the end of the year	Requests received	
		Full grant of protection	Grant of protection in part	Refusal, surrender or cancellation in the International Register		Oppositions	Appeals
2020	4,819	3,582	336	772	3,458	172	23
2021	4,686	2,969	371	1,222	3,579	171	26
2022	4,118	3,558	286	712	3,138	145	34
2023	3,433	3,272	262	727	2,310	115	23
2024	3,144	2,542	203	516	2,192	109	16

[1] *Not including requests for the extension of protection under Art. 3ter(2) Madrid Agreement; 62 requests for the extension of protection were received in 2024, and 54 requests were transmitted to the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).*

[2] *Not including other requests and not including renewals.*

3.5 National trade mark applications by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the applicant)

German Länder	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Baden-Württemberg	10,141	9,992	8,362	8,343	8,053
Bavaria	14,470	14,846	12,520	11,191	11,431
Berlin	5,930	6,009	5,189	4,785	4,758
Brandenburg	1,440	1,388	1,167	1,167	1,127
Bremen	633	749	533	486	569
Hamburg	4,090	4,188	3,257	3,186	3,117
Hesse	6,311	6,445	5,272	5,270	5,106
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	765	852	615	574	551
Lower Saxony	5,709	6,086	4,692	5,068	5,055
North Rhine-Westphalia	18,123	19,858	17,710	20,359	21,568
Rhineland-Palatinate	3,606	3,805	2,801	3,042	2,858
Saarland	723	639	499	541	570
Saxony	2,314	2,275	1,840	1,930	1,834
Saxony-Anhalt	851	818	707	705	815
Schleswig-Holstein	2,648	2,789	2,147	2,136	2,164
Thuringia	959	1,078	879	794	729
Germany	**78,713**	**81,817**	**68,190**	**69,577**	**70,305**

3.6 Trade mark applications, shares and number of applications per 100,000 inhabitants by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the proprietor)

German Länder	2023			2024			Change from 2023 to 2024 (%)
	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	Applications	Share in %	Applications per 100,000 inhabitants	
North Rhine-Westphalia	20,359	29.3	112	21,568	30.7	119	+5.9
Bavaria	11,191	16.1	83	11,431	16.3	85	+2.1
Baden-Württemberg	8,343	12.0	74	8,053	11.5	71	-3.5
Hesse	5,270	7.6	82	5,106	7.3	80	-3.1
Lower Saxony	5,068	7.3	62	5,055	7.2	62	-0.3
Berlin	4,785	6.9	127	4,758	6.8	126	-0.6
Hamburg	3,186	4.6	167	3,117	4.4	163	-2.2
Rhineland-Palatinate	3,042	4.4	73	2,858	4.1	68	-6.0
Schleswig-Holstein	2,136	3.1	72	2,164	3.1	73	+1.3
Saxony	1,930	2.8	47	1,834	2.6	45	-5.0
Brandenburg	1,167	1.7	45	1,127	1.6	44	-3.4
Saxony-Anhalt	705	1.0	32	815	1.2	37	+15.6
Thuringia	794	1.1	37	729	1.0	34	-8.2
Saarland	541	0.8	54	570	0.8	57	+5.4
Bremen	486	0.7	70	569	0.8	82	+17.1
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	574	0.8	35	551	0.8	34	-4.0
Germany	**69,577**	**100**	**82**	**70,305**	**100**	**83**	**+1.0**

3.7 Classes[1] of national trade marks applied for

Rank	Class	Class essentially includes[2]	2023	2024	Change (%)
1	35	Advertising; business management, organisation and administration; office functions	24,056	23,986	-0.3
2	41	Education; providing of training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities	18,320	19,284	+5.3
3	9	Electrical apparatus and instruments; computer hardware; software; optical apparatus and instruments	14,175	15,025	+6.0
4	25	Clothing, footwear and headgear	12,322	12,360	+0.3
5	42	Scientific and technological services	12,416	12,213	-1.6
6	16	Office requisites; stationery	9,870	10,678	+8.2
7	21	Household and kitchen utensils and containers; articles for cleaning purposes; tableware, dishes; glassware	7,797	8,302	+6.5
8	28	Games, sports articles	6,207	6,860	+10.5
9	44	Medical services; hygienic and beauty care; agriculture, horticulture and forestry services	6,556	6,784	+3.5
10	30	Foodstuffs of plant origin; pastries, pasta and confectionery; seasonings, condiments; coffee, tea and cocoa; sugar	5,756	6,094	+5.9
11	36	Insurance and financial services; real estate affairs	5,786	6,011	+3.9
12	43	Services for providing food and drink; temporary accommodation	5,663	5,886	+3.9
13	37	Building, construction and repair services; installation services	5,613	5,318	-5.3
14	3	Cleaning preparations; cosmetics; perfumery	5,025	5,282	+5.1
15	5	Pharmaceuticals; materials for dressings; disinfectants; dietary supplements	4,712	5,276	+12.0
16	18	Leather products; luggage and carrying bags	5,731	5,172	-9.8
17	20	Furniture and home decorations	5,092	4,958	-2.6
18	38	Telecommunications services	4,584	4,682	+2.1
19	32	Non-alcoholic beverages; beers	4,051	4,256	+5.1
20	11	Heating; ventilation; apparatus and installations for sanitary purposes	3,891	4,156	+6.8
21	45	Legal services; security services for the physical protection of individuals	3,877	3,993	+3.0
22	39	Transport and travel arrangement; packaging and storage of goods	4,128	3,956	-4.2
23	24	Woven material and blankets; household linen	3,889	3,868	-0.5
24	33	Alcoholic beverages	3,400	3,433	+1.0
25	7	Machines, motors and engines	3,195	3,328	+4.2
26	40	Treatment of materials; printing services	3,348	3,327	-0.6
27	29	Foodstuffs of animal origin; milk products; processed fruits and vegetables	3,334	3,317	-0.5
28	14	Jewellery, clocks and watches	3,299	3,029	-8.2
29	12	Vehicles	3,141	2,848	-9.3
30	10	Medical apparatus and instruments; orthopaedic articles	2,316	2,630	+13.6
31	6	Common metals and goods made thereof for building and construction; small items of metal hardware	2,655	2,479	-6.6
32	31	Agricultural, horticultural and forestry products; foodstuffs for animals	2,290	2,450	+7.0
33	8	Hand tools; cutlery	1,927	1,924	-0.2
34	1	Chemicals; fertilizers; unprocessed plastics and artificial resins	1,972	1,836	-6.9
35	19	Non-metallic building and construction materials	1,928	1,702	-11.7
36	26	Haberdashery; decorative articles for the hair	1,499	1,392	-7.1
37	4	Industrial oils and lubricants; fuels	1,540	1,373	-10.8
38	27	Floor coverings and mats; wall coverings and ceiling lining	1,141	1,128	-1.1
39	34	Tobacco, smokers' articles	928	972	+4.7
40	22	Ropes; tents, tarpaulins and sails	910	900	-1.1
41	17	Insulating materials; semi-processed goods; flexible pipes, tubes and hoses, not of metal	1,074	893	-16.9
42	2	Paints; varnishes; lacquers; printing inks	862	739	-14.3
43	15	Musical instruments	389	486	+24.9
44	13	Firearms	200	283	+41.5
45	23	Yarns and threads	233	211	-9.4
Not classified			48	49	
Total			**221,146**	**225,129**	**+1.8**

[1] A trade mark application can be attributed to several classes. / [2] Class headings in accordance with the current version of the Nice Classification.

3.8 Top companies and institutions in terms of trade mark registrations in 2024 (registrations of trade marks pursuant to section 41 of the Trade Mark Act)

Rank	Proprietor[1]	Principal place of business		Registrations
1	Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH	DE		135
2	Point Commerce B.V.		BE	95
3	Henkel AG & Co. KGaA	DE		56
4	TK Gruppe GmbH	DE		37
5	Bayerische Motoren Werke AG	DE		33
6	enovative GmbH	DE		32
6	LOTTO Hessen GmbH	DE		32
8	ApoE Consulting GmbH	DE		31
9	OmniVision GmbH	DE		30
10	MERCK KGaA	DE		29
10	VOLKSWAGEN AG	DE		29
12	Adrock Media FZCO		AE	26
12	Hyundai Motor Company		KR	26
14	Bothmer Pyrotechnik GmbH	DE		24
14	Chongqing Changan Automobile Co., Ltd.		CN	24
14	Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft zur Förderung der angewandten Forschung e.V.	DE		24
17	EDEKA ZENTRALE Stiftung & Co. KG	DE		21
17	VISIONBORN IP GmbH	DE		21
19	advastore SE	DE		20
19	Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V.	DE		20
19	Evonik Operations GmbH	DE		20
19	HARIBO Holding GmbH & Co. KG	DE		20

[1] *Proportional counting in the case of several proprietors; without taking into account any business intra-group affiliations.*

DESIGNS

4.1 Applications and procedures concluded

Year	Filings[1]				Procedures concluded			
	Designs in							
	Applications with multiple designs	Applications with one design	Total	Designs in domestic applications	By registration	Domestic	Without registration	Total
2020	37,659	2,493	40,152	35,867	37,130	33,213	4,210	41,340
2021	34,988	2,261	37,249	33,985	31,089	28,329	3,390	34,479
2022	32,637	1,180	33,817	31,777	36,256	34,132	3,602	39,858
2023	28,110	1,149	29,259	27,564	27,018	25,411	2,733	29,751
2024	28,723	1,239	29,962	27,924	28,024	25,967	2,651	30,675

[1] *Provisional for 2024, as the actual number of designs applied for is not known before completion of the registration procedure.*

4.2 Registered designs by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the proprietor)

German Länder	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Baden-Württemberg	5,056	4,869	5,868	4,762	4,609
Bavaria	6,139	4,853	5,227	4,246	4,681
Berlin	1,731	1,875	2,362	1,579	1,544
Brandenburg	172	150	277	200	284
Bremen	98	135	185	257	110
Hamburg	715	719	681	697	758
Hesse	1,544	1,351	1,511	1,091	1,303
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	188	134	88	294	128
Lower Saxony	2,546	1,729	2,670	1,582	1,723
North Rhine-Westphalia	10,584	9,178	10,581	7,785	7,349
Rhineland-Palatinate	1,114	930	2,089	1,012	1,456
Saarland	308	115	110	123	124
Saxony	1,268	953	903	657	581
Saxony-Anhalt	580	220	244	164	152
Schleswig-Holstein	892	925	788	712	887
Thuringia	278	193	548	250	278
Germany	**33,213**	**28,329**	**34,132**	**25,411**	**25,967**

4.3 Pending designs (applied for) and registered designs in force; invalidity proceedings

Year	Pending designs (applied for) at the end of the year	Extensions of registered designs[1]	Designs maintained / renewed[1]	Cancellations	Registered and in force at the end of the year	Invalidity proceedings	
						Applications filed	Proceedings concluded
2020	13,517	3,374	15,294	50,005	290,596	59	63
2021	16,273	3,185	16,292	51,200	270,485	19	28
2022	10,227	2,505	15,326	46,340	260,401	36	26
2023	9,718	2,305	13,370	38,520	248,899	15	21
2024	8,988	2,150	13,516	38,730	238,193	22	34

[1] *Data correction compared to the previous year's statistics.*

4.4 Registered designs, percentages and designs per 100,000 inhabitants by German *Länder* (residence or principal place of business of the proprietor)

German Länder	2023			2024			Change from 2023 to 2024 (%)
	Registered designs	Share	Registered designs per 100,000 inhabitants	Registered designs	Share	Registered designs per 100,000 inhabitants	
North Rhine-Westphalia	7,785	30.6	43	7,349	28.3	40	-5.6
Bavaria	4,246	16.7	32	4,681	18.0	35	+10.2
Baden-Württemberg	4,762	18.7	42	4,609	17.7	41	-3.2
Lower Saxony	1,582	6.2	19	1,723	6.6	21	+8.9
Berlin	1,579	6.2	42	1,544	5.9	41	-2.2
Rhineland-Palatinate	1,012	4.0	24	1,456	5.6	35	+43.9
Hesse	1,091	4.3	17	1,303	5.0	20	+19.4
Schleswig-Holstein	712	2.8	24	887	3.4	30	+24.6
Hamburg	697	2.7	36	758	2.9	40	+8.8
Saxony	657	2.6	16	581	2.2	14	-11.6
Brandenburg	200	0.8	8	284	1.1	11	+42.0
Thuringia	250	1.0	12	278	1.1	13	+11.2
Saxony-Anhalt	164	0.6	8	152	0.6	7	-7.3
Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania	294	1.2	18	128	0.5	8	-56.5
Saarland	123	0.5	12	124	0.5	12	+0.8
Bremen	257	1.0	37	110	0.4	16	-57.2
Germany	**25,411**	**100**	**30**	**25,967**	**100**	**31**	**+2.2**

4.5 Top companies and institutions in terms of registered designs at the DPMA in 2024 (excluding partnerships organised under the German Civil Code)

Rank	Proprietor[1]	Principal place of business		Registered designs
1	Betty Barclay Group GmbH & Co. KG	DE		972
2	SWING Collections GmbH	DE		708
3	SHOE CONZEPT Handels GmbH	DE		569
4	monari GmbH	DE		516
5	The House of Art GmbH	DE		420
6	Goebel Porzellan GmbH	DE		322
7	AstorMueller AG		CH	291
8	GEMINI Schuhproduktions- und Vertriebs GmbH	DE		286
9	Innostyle-Möbelvertriebs GmbH & Co. KG	DE		261
10	Räder GmbH	DE		258
11	Candy Polstermöbel GmbH	DE		235
12	Wohnmanufactur Grünberger s.r.o.		CZ	234
13	Mercedes-Benz Group AG	DE		224
14	Paul Green GmbH		AT	188
15	Wilhelm Johann Meier GmbH	DE		177
16	Schuh-Import und Export GERLI GmbH	DE		175
17	Dyckhoff GmbH	DE		160
18	Wolf Möbel GmbH & Co. KG	DE		155
19	MB Brand Collection UG (haftungsbeschränkt)	DE		154
20	Epic Brands GmbH	DE		150

[1] *Proportional counting in the case of several proprietors; without taking into account any business intra-group affiliations.*

OTHER TOPICS

» 5. Register of anonymous and pseudonymous works
» 6. Patent attorneys and representatives

5. Register of anonymous and pseudonymous works

Year	Works in respect of which the author's true name was filed for registration	Applicants[1]	Procedures concluded		Pending applications at the end of the year
			By registration	Without registration	
2020	5	2	0	0	5
2021	2	2	6	1	0
2022	6	5	4	1	1
2023	0	0	1	0	0
2024	15	3	14	1	0

[1] *Some applicants may have submitted several applications or applications for several works.*

6. Patent attorneys and representatives

Year	Patent attorneys [1]			European and foreign patent attorneys as members of the German Chamber of Patent Attorneys (section 20 Act on the Activities of European Patent Attorneys in Germany, section 157 Patent Attorney Code)[1]	Patent attorney companies[1,2]
	Entered in register	Cancellations	Registered at the end of the year		
2020	157	66	4,022	37	32
2021	158	81	4,099	40	35
2022	199	93	4,205	44	184
2023	161	120	4,246	49	328
2024	143	115	4,274	47	354

Year	Qualifying examination for patent attorneys		General powers of attorney		
	Number of examinees	Sucessful candidates	Entered in the register	Cancelled	Registered at the end of the year
2020	163	155	573	318	34,349
2021	174	166	707	369	34,687
2022	168	161	545	558	34,674
2023	147	138	426	389	34,711
2024	138	129	490	833	34,368

[1] *Source: German Chamber of Patent Attorneys.*
[2] *As a rule, all professional practice companies (Berufsausübungsgesellschaften) have been required to obtain admission by the German Chamber of Patent Attorneys (section 52f (1) Patent Attorney Code) since 1 August 2022.*

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