

KIPO NEWS



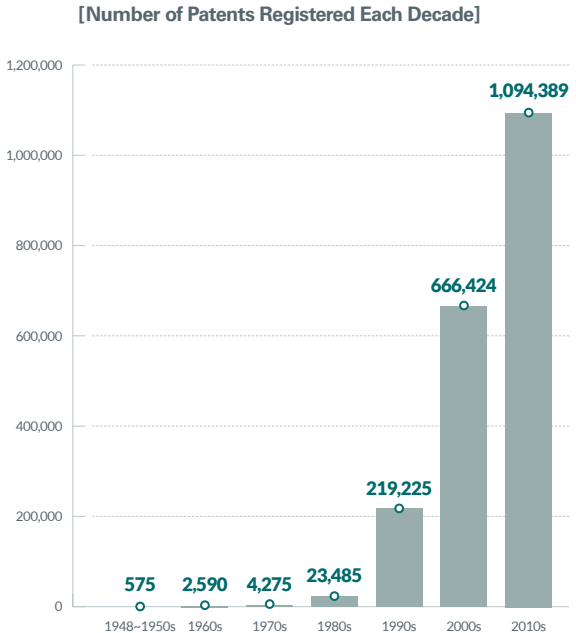
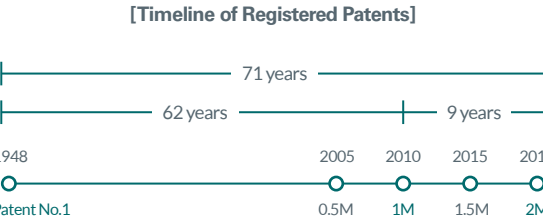
Korea Becomes the World's 7th Country to Surpass 2 Million Patent Registrations

Since the first establishment of a legal system for intellectual property (IP) in the Republic of Korea in 1946, the quantity and range of IP applications have increased exponentially. The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) registered its first patent in 1948 and reached one million patent

registrations by 2010. In 2019, KIPO issued the registration of its second millionth patent after nine years, becoming the 7th country in the world to achieve this milestone. In commemoration, the ROK President Jae-in Moon invited the right holders of the two-millionth patent and one-millionth design registration to the Blue House, the official presidential residence and executive office, in September 2019. The event was held to celebrate and encourage the innovative achievements made by entrepreneurs,

scientists, and technicians as well as emphasize the importance of technological innovations based on IP. In addition to being personally presented with a signed registration certificate by the President, the patent right holder Prof. Kim Yong-sung received an *Angbu-ilgu* (a hemispherical sundial from the Joseon dynasty), and the design right holder Mr. Kim Gwan-myeong received a *Sagak-yucheok* (a traditional ruler used by officials during the Joseon Dynasty). The rights holders took the opportunity to explain their development process and share opinions about IP policies. President Moon urged the importance of KIPO to support individuals and companies with intellectual property rights (IPRs) so that their technologies can be registered overseas amid the race for global competitiveness.

History of Korean Patent Registrations
Korea's first official patent registration was a sulphur dye method dating back to November 20, 1948. Thereafter, patent registrations have rapidly increased with every passing decade. There were about 20,000 patents registered in the 1980s, about 220,000 registrations in the 1990s, then about 670,000 in the 2000s. Most significantly, over 1.09 million patents were registered in the 2010s alone. This quantity surpasses the collective amount from 1948 until 2009 (about 920,000 patent registrations in 62 years). Now, Korea has the 4th greatest number of applications and records an annual registration of about 210,000 new patents.



Spotlight 2019

Moreover, Korea's industrial structure is shifting away from the production and manufacturing sector towards fields related to knowledge and technology. This can be seen, in particular, through patent registration trends after the 1980s with the adoption of technology classifications. For example, patent registrations related to semiconductors and mobile phones are taking a larger portion in comparison to the initial patent registrations in the chemistry and textiles.

[Top 10 Technology Classification Registrations by Decade]

Rank	~1980s		1990s		2000s		2010s	
	Classification	Portion	Classification	Portion	Classification	Portion	Classification	Portion
1	Organic fine chemistry	18.0	Audio-visual technology	11.6	Semiconductors	9.8	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	8.0
2	Textile and paper machines	7.0	Semiconductors	9.0	Audio-visual technology	8.1	Semiconductors	6.2
3	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	5.7	Computer technology	6.1	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	7.5	Computer technology	5.8
4	Audio-visual technology	4.9	Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy	5.9	Telecommunications	6.9	Transport	5.2
5	Materials, metallurgy	4.8	Transport	5.5	Computer technology	6.3	Civil engineering	5.1
6	Other special machines	4.4	Telecommunications	4.8	Optics	4.9	Digital communication	4.4
7	Basic materials chemistry	3.8	Organic fine chemistry	3.8	Transport	4.9	Audio-visual technology	4.2
8	Machine tools	3.8	Optics	3.5	Civil engineering	3.8	Measurement	4.1
9	Macromolecular chemistry, polymers	3.5	Materials, metallurgy	3.1	Other special machines	2.7	Optics	3.6
10	Other consumer goods	3.4	Textile and paper machines	3.0	Digital communication	2.6	Other special machines	3.6

※ Statistics based on WIPO IPC-Technology concordance table (35 technology fields)

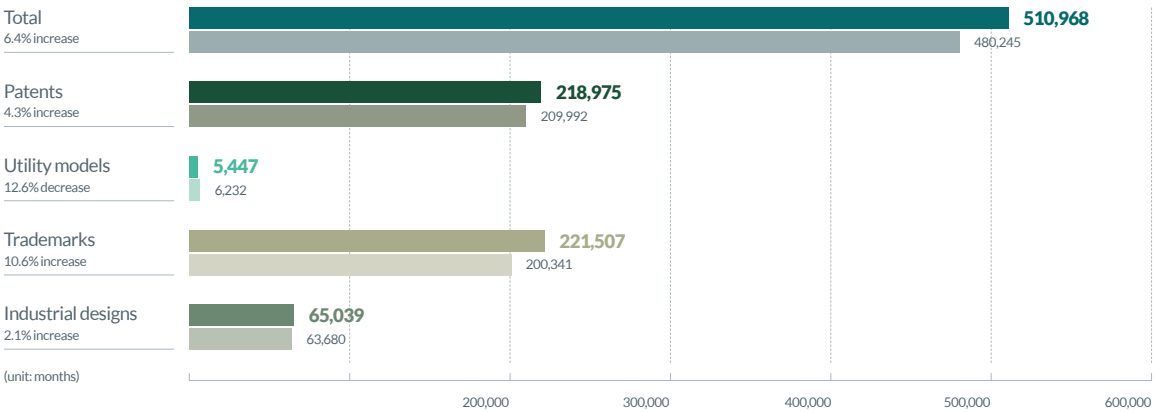
Spotlight 2019

500,000 in Annual IPR Filings

In 2019, the total volume of IPR filings for a one-year period increased 6.4% from the previous year. For the first time, there were over half a million IPR annual fillings. Patents recorded an increase by 5.6%, industrial designs by 5.9%, and trademarks

by 10.6%, while utility models decreased by 12.6%. Additionally, the rapidly growing domestic market for patents by small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) has allowed them to surpass large enterprises since 2015 in terms of volume of patent applications.

[Number of Applications by IPRs in 2019 (compared to 2018)]



[Volume of Patent Applications by Enterprises]

