

F. No. 12(3)/2018-D(Coord/DDP)
Government of India
Ministry of Defence
Department of Defence Production

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South Block, New Delhi-110011
Dated: 4th April, 2018

To

- (1) DGQA,
- (2) DGAQA,
- (3) DGOFF & Chairman, OFB,
- (4) Directorate of Standardisation
- (5) CMDs of all DPSUs

Subject: Intellectual Property Facilitation Cell (IPF Cell)-reg.

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is emerging as a strategic business tool to enhance Industrial Competitiveness. Geographical barriers to trade among nations are collapsing due to globalization. IPR plays a key role for any business organization to stand out in the world of competition and provides the desired "Winning edge" over the Competitors. The Indian Ordnance Factories and Defence PSUs can sustain in this competitive world through continuous growth and development oriented innovations. However, these organizations would need information, facilities and capacities to protect IPs thus created. These organizations can avail various forms of IPR to protect their intellectual creation.

2. It is observed that a number of Ordnance Factories, Defence PSUs and even the individual officials of these organizations have been carrying out innovative research leading to the development of certain materials, components/sub-assemblies/assemblies that result in performance up gradation of the existing systems/platforms and simultaneously reducing India's dependence on imports. Such innovations may be treated as intellectual properties and need to be protected by way of filing of patents for which the concerned organizations/individuals make their own isolated efforts. Need is felt to create a structured mechanism to facilitate and encourage such activities with a primary objective to "Boost IP culture" which would enhance the intellectual capital that is vital for encouraging in-house R&D in such organizations.

3. It was, therefore, decided in the Senior Officers' Meeting on 02 Feb 2018 held under the chairmanship of Secretary DP that an Intellectual Property Rights Facilitation Cell shall be set up in the Department of Defence Production.

4. The role and responsibilities of the IPF Cell will include:

- a) To provide general advisory about IPRs, such as patents, trademarks, designs and copyrights etc.
- b) To Provide Services such as IP Protection, IP Awareness & Training and Counseling & Advisory Services.

- c) To enable organizations/individuals in understanding, Identifying & using Intellectual Property.
- d) To provide services related to patent searches, patent drafting, patent prosecution, facilitation in commercialization of Inventions, trademark prosecution matters, etc.
- e) To follow up the applications submitted for patents with various government agencies for speedy clearances and early grant of patents.
- f) Keep the above organizations abreast of the latest amendments, if any, in the Indian Patents Act 1970 and Indian Patents Rules 2003 promulgated by the Government.
- g) To create IP News Tracker for latest news in Intellectual Property, patents, industrial designs, trademarks, copy rights, IP Office India etc.
- h) To hand hold organizations/individuals for identifying Intellectual Property in their day to day functioning & leverage it for Business Excellences.
- i) To create a delivery mechanism for comprehensive awareness & training in IPR to all stake holders of IP in the corresponding technological fields.
- j) To organize Patent Workshops at different locations to train the Engineers and guide them to formulate Patents by engaging IPR Consulting firms.
- k) To have an arrangement with NRDC to seek their advice and to share their experiences.
- l) To identify a panel of professional IP attorneys / IP Consultants and fix a fee structure for consulting them for professional services, so that the DPSUs / OFs can refer specific cases to them directly for professional expertise

Selection of Innovations and Filing of IPR Applications:

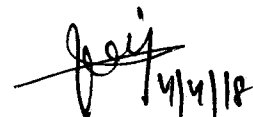
5. Identification and selection of innovations for filing of IPRs may be carried out by the respective DPSU / OF. Assistance of IPF Cell may be sought, if required.
6. The DPSUs and OFs would continue to file the IPR applications directly with respective regional patent / IPR office as hitherto fore. A copy of the IPR application should be forwarded to the IPF Cell for the purpose of information, follow-up and facilitation. The DPSUs / OFs may utilize the services of the IPF Cell (i.e. assistance on patent searches, patent / claims drafting, prosecution, commercialization, etc.) as and when required.
7. DPSU / OFs would continue to engage NRDC as per their present practice or equivalent service till the IPF Cell becomes fully operational.
8. The services of IPF Cell may be extended to the private sector including MSMEs once it has become fully operational.

Composition and functioning of IPF Cell:

9. The IPF Cell shall have a panel of Technical experts drawn from OFB, DPSUs and/or external consultants to provide assistance in this venture. Legal experts in the field of Intellectual Property Rights may also be hired.

10. IPF Cell may identify a panel of professional IP attorneys / IP Consultants and fix a fee structure for consulting them for professional services, so that the DPSUs / OFs could refer specific cases to them directly for professional expertise.
11. The Cell will meet at least once in a quarter or whenever any request for assistance and guidance is received from any of the member organization. The members nominated would operate from their respective DPSUs/Ordnance Factories for close coordination while interacting with the designers & engineers and Regional Patent Offices.
12. The necessary expenditure on training on IPR, organizing workshops, identifying and hiring of IP professionals, consultants, attorneys and payment of their fees, transportation and other logistics viz. computers, stationery, phones, printers/fax, internet connection for the officers of the cell etc. will be borne out of the budget allocated to DGQA.
13. DGQA will enjoy full financial powers to support the above mentioned activities by the IPF Cell. The expenditure would be made as per the provisions contained in GFR 2017.
14. The IPF Cell will be attached to HQ DGQA (PP&T), 'H' Block, New Delhi 110011. The IPR Cell would be headed by the Addl. DGQA (PP&T) and Director (PP&T) will act as the Nodal Officer for the Cell.
15. This issues with the approval of Hon'ble RM.

Yours faithfully,



(Pankaj Sharma)

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India

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Copy to: JS(LS), JS(DIP), JS(NS), JS(P&C), JS(AS), Economic Advisor, Advisor(Cost) with a request to take further necessary action.

Copy also to: PPS to Secretary (DP), PPS to AS (DP) for kind information please.