

10 Practical Use of Intellectual Property in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and Venture Companies

At present, about 4.8 million small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) exist in Japan, supporting Japan's industrial base and playing a significant role in leading the local economy. Meanwhile, there are growing expectations for venture companies from the viewpoint of creating new industries. In order for these SMEs and venture companies to develop and expand based on their technology, intellectual property (IP) serves as an essential management element. However, considering the necessary funds and human resources, it is not necessarily easy for these companies to promote an IP strategy in all areas including IP creation, protection, and utilization.

In this study, a questionnaire survey was conducted on SMEs and venture companies to investigate and analyze the status of their engagement in IP activities and their problems related to IP. In addition, the existing support measures for SMEs and venture companies provided by various support organizations were identified and studied, while efforts on new support measures that are currently being prepared for implementation were also investigated and examined.

I Introduction

Today, an overwhelmingly huge proportion of patent applications are filed by large companies. However, patents are not only for large companies. The patent system is a national system that protects the mainstay technology of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and venture companies, which do not have as much land or funds as large companies, but have technology.

This study group conducted an interview survey and a questionnaire survey on relevant companies and institutions in order to investigate and review the problems concerning usage of intellectual property (IP) in SMEs and venture companies for (i) overall IP management and for the three phases (ii) IP creation, (iii) IP protection, and (iv) IP usage.

In addition, the measures and efforts of institutions and organizations for supporting the IP management and IP utilization of SMEs and venture companies were studied. Specifically, the study was made on: (i) IP management support using IP experts; (ii) IP management and utilization using IP trust and IP associations; (iii) support measures related to IP litigation; and (iv) methods of utilizing IP overseas.

II Outline of the Questionnaire Survey on Engagement in IP Activities

A questionnaire survey was conducted on 7,014 companies randomly selected from SMEs that have filed industrial property right applications such as those for patent or trademark over the past three years and SMEs in Ota City of

Tokyo and Higashi-Osaka City of Osaka, which are places where many companies are said to have proprietary technical capabilities, based on open databases.

The respondents showed a high degree of interest in IP with 84.3 percent answering "very interested" and "interested." The highest percentage of respondents answered the "self-utilization type" as their current model and future direction, while a large proportion of respondents forecasted that future IP strategy would be directed toward the "IP commercialization (licensing) type."

About 40 percent of the companies had employees in charge of IP, while many small companies did not have such personnel. Most of the employees in charge of IP (80.2 percent) were "concurrently holding another post." The average number of such staff members was two in the case of dedicated employees, one or two in the case of employees currently holding another post, and one in the case of temporary employees.

The most frequently used external experts were "patent attorneys," followed by "attorneys at law." These experts were generally "contracted only when necessary," but in half of the cases, the "patent attorney" was "contracted as an advisor of the company." The service most sought from external experts was "IP application management" at 49.6 percent.

The most mentioned problems related to IP management were "the low level of recognition and interest within the company" (36.8 percent) and "lack of funds and human resources for acquiring IP and dealing with IP infringement" (35.1 percent).

The particularly frequently mentioned problem in the IP creation phase was "lack of

human resources and funds for IP creation, such as R&D” at 52.7 percent.

As for the main purpose of filing IP applications and acquiring IP rights, a large proportion of respondents mentioned defensive purposes with 80 percent responding “to prevent the products and services from being imitated by competitors.” Many respondents also mentioned “advantageous for sales activities (higher customer confidence, etc.)” (60 percent). The most mentioned problem was “lack of funds,” followed by “difficulty of decision-making,” “being unable to acquire IP rights strategically,” and “lack of human resources.”

The relatively frequently mentioned problems related to IP transfer/licensing in the IP utilization phase were “difficulty of assessing IP and technology values” at 27.1 percent and “low in-house awareness of IP transfer/licensing” at 22.2 percent. In the case of finding that a Japanese IP right has been infringed, a particularly high proportion of the companies said they “consult a patent attorney or an attorney at law” (69.7 percent), followed by a smaller proportion that “warn the infringing party” (25.0 percent).

The reasons mentioned for “hardly taking any measures” included “difficulty of investigating infringement,” “do not know how to deal with infringement,” and “as a result of considering the cost-effectiveness.” A very high proportion of respondents (81.7 percent) mentioned “consultation with a patent attorney or an attorney at law” as a measure to be taken when being accused of infringement, followed by “confirm the presence and content of the right claimed by the opponent” at 33.3 percent.

The most mentioned request for support from the government or public support institutions were “upgrading of preferential measures (tax, subsidy, etc.) for R&D-oriented companies” (63.8 percent) for the IP creation phase. A large proportion of respondents mentioned financial support also for the IP protection phase, such as “expansion of the reduction/exemption measures concerning IP acquisition costs” (62.0 percent) and “loan/aid systems for IP acquisition costs” (52.4 percent). For the IP utilization phase, there were growing expectations for “holding seminars on IP utilization” (39.8 percent), “offering more information on assessment of IP values and contract-related legal affairs” (38.1 percent), and “enhancement of the market function (improvement of the IP transaction market) such as matching between IP providers and IP users” (35.1 percent).

The most mentioned support measures demanded upon being infringed or held accountable for infringement were “an increase of

consultation services concerning IP disputes” (48.3 percent) and “infringement investigation support by a public institution” (41.9 percent), followed by “measures for reducing SMEs’ litigation costs” and “systems for low-cost and quick conciliation or arbitration.” This indicates that there are high expectations for consultation services, investigation and arbitration services related to infringement, and financial support.

The most mentioned problem in using a public support institution or an external expert was “the unclearness of the support systems provided by the government or support institutions” at 50 percent, indicating that the support systems are not fully understood by companies. Following this, 20 percent of the companies mentioned a financial problem that “the expert fee is expensive.”

III IP-related Problems Facing SMEs and Venture Companies

One of the problems in overall IP management is the problem of cost. The most burdensome costs include the cost of strategically acquiring IP rights such as patents (filing multiple applications) or acquiring foreign IP rights (translation), as well as the cost for obtaining the infringing product and investigating the infringement and the cost for litigation when exercising IP rights.

In addition, lack of IP strategies, such as not including IP rights in the management strategy, not acquiring IP rights in consideration of their use, and not acquiring IP rights strategically, was also indicated as a problem. In the interviews and the study group meetings, the lack of contracts was also pointed out as a fundamental problem.

One of the problems in the IP creation phase was a lack of human resources and funds for technological development. Thus, financial support measures seem to be considered important for the IP creation phase.

For the IP protection phase, many respondents mentioned “lack of funds for acquiring IP rights” and “difficulty of determining whether or not to acquire IP rights” as problems for both Japanese and foreign IP rights. As for Japanese IP rights, many respondents also mentioned “being unable to acquire IP rights strategically” as a problem. As support measures, expectations were high for financial assistance while with regard to foreign patents, expectations were high for offers of information and education on foreign patents.

In the IP utilization phase, a relatively high proportion of respondents mentioned the difficulty of assessing the IP and technology values as a problem related to IP transfer/

licensing. As for infringement overseas, a relatively high proportion of respondents mentioned the difficulty of dealing with infringement of IP rights. As support measures, expectations were high for education on value assessment and offers of information as well as for enhancement of the market function and support for infringement investigation.

IV Existing IP-related Support Measures for SMEs and Venture Companies

For overall IP management, prefectural SME support centers and the Organization for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation, Japan (SMRJ), provide support for formulating IP strategies, and the SMRJ also offers an expert dispatch service. Consultation services are provided by the Patent Offices of the Regional Bureaus of Economy, Trade and Industry, the Japan Patent Attorneys Association (JPAA), the Japanese Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA), the Japan Institute of Invention and Innovation (JIII), the SMRJ, and the National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training (NCIPI). The Japan Patent Office (JPO), the JPAA, and the JIII hold workshops and seminars as IP awareness-raising activities.

As information-related support in the IP creation phase, the NCIPI provides industrial property information and examination progress information, which are searchable by document number or various classifications, and the JIII offers support including free prior art search before filing utility model applications. As cost-related support, various subsidies and financial support are provided by public institutions, such as subsidies from the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency (SMEA) as well as loans and finance from the Japan Finance Corporation for Small Business (JFS) and the Development Bank of Japan.

As filing-related support in the IP protection phase (filing/IP right acquisition), the branch offices of the JIII offer PCs for common use to be used for PC filings and an advisor service to provide guidance on how to use the PCs and the filing procedure. Cost-related support includes the system of reduction/exemption of patent acquisition cost. SMEs and venture companies who qualify can be fully or half exempted from the fee for requesting examination, and be fully or half exempted from the annual fees for the first three years or be granted a three-year grace period for these annual fees. As subsidies, some local governments such as Metropolitan Tokyo, Osaka Prefecture, and Aichi Prefecture have original systems to provide subsidies for patent filings

cost, etc. As support for prior art search toward strategic IP acquisition, the JPO provides a service where the JPO, upon the applicant's request, entrusts the prior art search for patent applications of SMEs and individuals before requesting examination to a private search agency and sends back the search results for free. In the examination and appeal phases, the JPO provides the accelerated examination system, the accelerated appeal examination system, examination through interview, appeal examination through interview, examination through visitation, and examination through TV interview.

Consultation services on IP utilization are provided by the JPAA, the JFBA, the NCIPI, and the JIII, while a dispute settlement service is provided by the Japan Intellectual Property Arbitration Center (JIPAC). As a cross-sectional support service, the JFBA in collaboration with the JPAA, the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI), the JIII, and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) decided to provide a joint consultation service on counterfeits and pirated copies.

As seminars on IP utilization, the NCIPI holds seminars for promoting patent transfer/licensing and JETRO holds seminars on measures against counterfeits and pirated copies.

As support measures for IP transfer/licensing, the JPO organizes patent licensing fairs and the NCIPI provides a patent licensing database. In terms of financial assistance, Metropolitan Tokyo provides a subsidy for the cost required for fact-finding investigation of IP infringement.

V Examples and Challenges of the Existing IP-related Support Measures for SMEs and Venture Companies

1 Japan IT Patent Association

The Japan IP Patent Association was founded in March 2001 under the recognition that a common framework for IP services is required for independent IT companies (particularly companies specializing in software). The association consists of a chairperson, a board of directors, members, and a secretariat. It currently has a membership of 25 companies and entrusts the secretariat to WebStar Co., Ltd.

Its services include support for building IP infrastructure, such as provision of IP educational programs, support for discovering/acquiring IP, support related to patent infringement warnings (including support for taking measures upon receiving an infringement warning, checking the risk of the company's products and technology

infringing competitors' patents, and prior art search services). It also provides IP strategy related services, such as consulting services on IP strategy and management as well as IP consulting services for entering the Chinese market.

2 Management support by comprehensive support centers for SMEs and venture companies

Support centers that provide management support to SMEs and venture companies currently exist in more than three-hundred locations nationwide. Meanwhile, the national centers run by the SMRJ are located in eight places throughout Japan. About 750 experts are registered with these centers. These experts include management experts, such as SME management consultants, certified public accountants, certified tax accountants, professional engineers, attorneys at law, and certified social insurance and labor consultants, as well as technology-related experts.

The consultation services are provided by two to three experts every day at eight support centers nationwide. In addition, experts make trips to seminars and exhibitions in various places to hold management consultation meetings. Management consultation services are also available by e-mail and telephone. The consultation services are free and can be used several times. They are suitable for use by business founders and people who have just started business.

The long-term expert dispatch service is a service where a management expert or a technical expert is dispatched to an SME or a venture company long-term, ranging from half a year to two years. In order to use the long-term dispatch service, it is desirable for the company to have the capacity to take in the expert. The long-term dispatch of an expert is a paid service.

3 Support measures by the IP Support Center of the JPAA

The JPAA established an IP Support Center in April 1999. One of the services provided by the support center is dispatch of instructors and consultants. It is a service to dispatch instructors and consultants when an institution with a public nature or a public benefit status holds a lecture, seminar, workshop, study meeting, or consultation meeting on IP.

The JPAA has permanent offices for free patent consultation in Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, and Fukuoka. The office in Fukuoka is open once a week, and the offices in Tokyo, Nagoya, and

Osaka are open on all weekdays. The offices receive more than 5,000 requests for consultation every year through visits or by telephone.

In fiscal 2004, the JPAA, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), and the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology (NICT) jointly held five IP seminars for IP ventures at seven locations nationwide, namely, Sapporo, Niigata, Kanazawa, Nagoya, Matsuyama, Kagoshima, and Naha.

In order to prevent – as far as possible – excellent workable inventions of individuals and SMEs from being buried due to economic reasons and to protect such inventions, the JPAA has a system for supporting patent filings, etc. and although small, it manages to provide some financial assistance from its tight budget.

4 Support measures by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)

Today, JETRO has a network of 76 overseas offices, headquarters in Tokyo and Osaka, and 36 offices throughout Japan.

As a service to provide information on the IP systems of various countries, JETRO holds seminars on measures against counterfeits and pirated copies, inviting IP practitioners of companies that are actively conducting business in the relevant country and JETRO staff stationed in the relevant country. In addition, it creates and distributes country-by-country manuals on the basics and know-how of anti-counterfeit measures and collections of court decisions and case examples. JETRO also provides advice and information individually upon request.

Besides these, as support for facilitating IP acquisition in the counterpart country, JETRO supports improvement of the skills of local IP-related persons and builds systems for developing IP translators by using the ODA budget, targeting local IP-related organizations, patent attorneys, etc. that are involved with Japanese companies.

JETRO supports individual and specific investigations of SMEs, which wish to gain an understanding of the overseas IP infringement situation, through JETRO's domestic network (supporting two-thirds of the investigation cost based on the SMEA budget).

In addition to the conventional consultation services, five IP-related organizations in Japan (the JFBA, the JPAA, the JCCI, the JIII, and JETRO) jointly launched a counterfeit consultation network with about 600 consultation access points nationwide in December 2004.

5 Consultation services for measures against infringement of industrial property rights provided by the Asia-Pacific Industrial Property Center of the JIPI

The Asia-Pacific Industrial Property Center (APIC) provides consultation services for measures against infringement of industrial property rights basically for free. The services are composed of a consultation service and advice by a consultant, an interview consultation service conducted by an expert of no longer than one hour in principle, and an offer of information through a mini guidebook. It also holds workshops and consultation meetings for local SMEs around 20 times a year with the cooperation of the branch offices of the JIPI. The APIC commissions the expert consultation services to 13 attorneys at law and 23 patent attorneys every year.

The notable matters consulted on during fiscal 2003 included the increase in dead copies of replacement parts for machines and equipment in North East Asia, the increase in counterfeits of the traditional products of locations within Japan, and the increased use of mail order routes for selling counterfeits.

When SMEs conduct business overseas, it is important for them to acquire patents, design rights, trademarks, etc. at an early stage as a preventive measure against counterfeits. However, there are differences in the IP right systems of various countries, so acquisition of multiple IP rights would be effective for avoiding loopholes.

6 Support measures for SMEs and venture companies provide by the JFBA

Attorneys at law have knowledge on not only IP laws, but various kinds of laws, and experience in litigation practices. Therefore, they are capable of supporting SMEs and venture companies in each phase of IP creation, utilization, and protection through creation of internal regulations or written agreements for preventing any future disputes and carrying out appropriate dispute settlement in anticipation of the developments of the litigation.

The respective bar associations of the JFBA have a framework for providing consultation services on IP-related legal issues, and it is possible for the consultant to directly undertake the case. Some associations have a list of special IP consultants and are able to introduce well-suited consultants. The legal consultation service is a paid service.

Legal aid is a system for providing legal expert support or assisting the cost for legal

proceedings. However, legal aid is only available to individuals with an income lower than a specific level, and unfortunately, it is currently not provided to SMEs and venture companies.

7 Support measures by the Japan Intellectual Property Arbitration Center

The Japan Intellectual Property Arbitration Center (JIPAC) has a paid consultation service system. The consultation service requires a booking, and is provided on the decided time and date by an attorney at law and a patent attorney or by either of the two at the JIPAC secretariat.

The main dispute settlement procedure is conciliation, and the procedure is taken in accordance with JIPAC's mediation procedure regulations. Conciliation is a procedure to settle a dispute based on an agreement between the parties, so it requires the consent of the opponent. The settlement terms are decided by an agreement between the parties. The procedure is confidential, so the conciliator and JIPAC's staff concerned also bear the duty of confidentiality.

Arbitration is a dispute settlement procedure in which the parties to the dispute agree to leave the judgment on the dispute to an arbitrator and to follow the judgment. The arbitrator renders an arbitration judgment after examining the claims and evidence of the parties. The arbitration judgment has the same legal effect as a final court judgment, and it can be enforced by gaining a court's decision of execution.

The Center Hantei (interpretation) service is a procedure in which JIPAC's experts determine (interpret) whether or not a specific product or process falls within the scope of an industrial property right or whether or not a specific industrial property right is valid, upon request of a party concerned. However, unlike arbitration, the result is not legally binding. There is unilateral Hantei, which involves only either one of the parties, and bilateral Hantei, which is conducted under agreement between both parties.

The advantages of using JIPAC include that it takes less time and cost compared to infringement litigation, and that the procedures are kept confidential.

8 Activities for promoting patent transfer/licensing (improvement of the patent licensing/technology transfer market)

The NCIPI conducts the following activities toward promoting patent transfer/licensing in order to support utilization of IP of SMEs, venture companies, universities, and research institutes.

As activities for promoting patent transfer/

licensing, the NCIPI dispatches patent licensing advisors (to local governments or TLOs), holds seminars for promoting patent transfer/licensing, and holds patent business fairs.

As activities for promoting provision and use of information on licensable patents, the NCIPI is creating a free patent licensing database^(*1) in which licensable patents are registered, provides collected examples of use of licensable patents, which incorporate ideas for new products and new businesses, offers patent licensing support charts (patent maps) that have concretely visualized the maturity level of technology and the trend of means for solving the problems for each technology theme, and dispatches advisors for supporting utilization of patent information, who provide consultation services on how to search and use patent information and hold workshops.

As activities for improving the IP transaction environment, the NCIPI provides a database on IP transaction agents, holds international patent licensing seminars, and provides training programs for developing IP transaction agents in various locations nationwide.

9 Current status and outlook of IP insurance

IP-related insurance is not used very actively in Japan or other countries such as the United Kingdom and the United States. This is due to the fundamental difficulty of covering the risks concerning IP infringement by insurance.

If a company makes insufficient effort to avoid infringement, it would be difficult to deem an act of IP infringement to be an accident. In addition, recognition of occurrence of infringement itself requires a high-level of expert knowledge, and sometimes the conclusion must be gained through litigation. This makes it difficult for an insurance company to independently recognize "occurrence of damage." This point needs to be theoretically resolved when designing insurance against damage from IP infringement.

Apart from this, there is also a need to address the following problems: the lack of statistical data that will enable the frequency and size of accidents to be measured; the securing of a large number of policyholders;^(*2) and the problem of adverse selection where only people facing high accident risk purchase insurance policies, and those facing less risk do not purchase policies.

Possible countermeasures would be to have the policies purchased by a group of companies, such as an association consisting of individual companies, which are potential policyholders, or to combine the insurance system with the mutual benefit system of a group. Furthermore, backup by a public system would also have to be considered.

VI New Attempts to Support IP of SMEs and Venture Companies

1 Regional IP strategy of Ota City

The Ota City Industrial Promotion Organization (OCIPO) provides IP consultation services for Ota City and IP-related support services for Metropolitan Tokyo. In July 2004, it launched a comprehensive IP consultation service for Ota City to provide a more in-depth consultation service. While offering an access point for consultation, the OCIPO aims to provide a one-stop service through this new framework for IP acquisition, measures against infringement, and IP utilization regarding IP rights of SMEs in Ota City.

Furthermore, in order to establish a regional IP strategy, it has started to make an effort to restrain IP infringement through the use of an "IP trust" scheme. This is a scheme to secure proper enforcement of local SMEs' IP by having within a local support organization a certain level of executive ability over IP infringement in addition to the various measures for IP protection and utilization provided by the national government, prefectural governments, and IP-related organizations. To this end, the OCIPO uses the abilities of various related organizations by gaining cooperation from a trust bank and a comprehensive law office.

2 Efforts toward development of IP trust

With the entry into force of the amended Trust Business Law, it became possible to accept IP rights on trust, and it became possible to establish an organization that manages a business group's IP in a centralized manner and undertake IP management and IP transfer/licensing operations of SMEs and venture companies by using the trust system.

In IP trust, care must be taken so that the assets in trust are not only managed separately, but the interests of the trustors do not conflict

(*1) The database registered about 55,000 licensable patents (on which 15,000 were patents of universities and research institutes) as of the end of fiscal 2003.

(*2) If the level of the premium rate is assumed to be 0.1 percent of the sum insured, at least several thousands to several tens of thousands of the parental population will be required in order to gain rather stable statistical data on the loss ratio.

with each other. Since the risk of conflict of interests will increase if the IP trust business is conducted nationwide, the business should be carried out by establishing a framework for a single regional unit.

Even if the framework encompasses the whole regional unit, it is not intended to manage the IP of individual SMEs and venture companies in a centralized manner, so the scheme is likely to be able to meet the needs of individual companies. Efforts should be made to have SMEs and venture companies use the necessary functions of trust banks as if they were their own IP divisions.

If the trust scheme contributes to strengthening the defense capability for SMEs and venture companies, the scheme is expected to serve as a restraint against infringement as a result of announcing such an aspect.

3 Support measures expected from JFBA in the future

The Central Board on Intellectual Property Rights of the JFBA launched the following two projects:

- a project to develop specialized attorneys at law (A Project); IP law training sessions were held three times each in Tokyo and Osaka; IP special training hosted by the Japan Law Foundation was held in Tokyo and Osaka; and
- a project to facilitate access to attorneys at law (B Project); a nationwide network of attorneys at law (IP network of attorneys at law [tentative name]) will be established with the aim of securing the quality and quantity of human resources and improving legal access (planned to be established in April 2005).

The Justice Support Center of Japan is planned to be established and to start operation in line with the promulgation of the Comprehensive Legal Support Law. At present, the Central Board on Justice Support Center of Japan is studying the following matters.

- Examination is being made on how to sort out the requests for consultation, the scope of consultation, and formulation of a manual for the consultation access point, as well as establishment of an introduction system and a database of attorneys at law who have good knowledge on specialized fields.
- Consideration is being made on expanding the scope of cases subject to civil legal aid to alternative dispute resolution (ADR) proceedings, reviewing the requirements for support (easing the income level requirements), and expanding the scope of cases subject to other types of support.
- Since nonprofit corporations are able to entrust

operations to the support center,^(*3) the support center can conduct operations that meet new demands in the future.

VII Conclusion

Lack of management resources such as human resources and funds as well as lack of the necessary information are pointed out as impediments for SMEs and venture companies in conducting "IP management," and various support measures are already being taken by public support institutions. However, overall the level of recognition and the degree of use of the existing support measures are low, so the primary task would be to widely publicize information on the public support measures available.

In the "IP creation" phase, companies are expected to upgrade their invention-incentive programs for employees and make further collaborations and interchanges with the government and universities or with other industries. In addition, they are expected to utilize the support measures provided by the SMEA, the Development Bank of Japan, the Japan Finance Corporation for Small Business, and so on.

In the "IP protection" phase, the lack of human resources and funds for filing IP applications and acquiring IP was pointed out. As support measures, public organizations provide consultation services and hold workshops, and as financial assistance, there is a system to reduce or exempt the patent annual fees and patent prior search support for SMEs. Meanwhile, information on the Intellectual Property Digital Library (IPDL), advisors for supporting utilization of patent information, and prior art search support (utility models) are available, so companies are expected to strategically acquire IP by using these services.

In the "IP utilization" phase, various activities are conducted for promoting patent transfer/licensing, such as patent licensing fairs, patent licensing advisors, and support for effective IP utilization (Development Bank of Japan).

Public organizations provide access points for consultation on IP infringement, and financial support measures are also available, such as the subsidy for investigation of infringement overseas provided by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Intellectual Property Center. As new efforts, regional IP strategies, IP trust, and the association system have the potential for providing effective support measures. In addition, mediation and arbitration by ADR are also considered to be effective means.

(*3) Article 30(2) of the Comprehensive Legal Support Law.

At present, measures including enhancement of collaboration between organizations, provision of a one-stop service, and development of human resources for IP management are being considered as future comprehensive IP support measures for SMEs and venture companies. In order to promote the use of these support measures, institutional improvements and awareness-raising activities should be continued in the future. It is hoped that the achievements of this study group will be helpful in considering future support measures for strategic IP management of SMEs and venture companies.

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