

(1) Outline of patent licensing promotion activities

In the 21st century, in order for the Japanese economy to recover and contribute to the development of the global economy, it is increasingly important to utilize intellectual property and technology to create new business.

Especially in the present situation, in which the lifecycles of commodities are becoming shorter and technological development must be carried out at a more rapid pace, it is necessary to introduce outside technology in addition to internally conducted R&D.

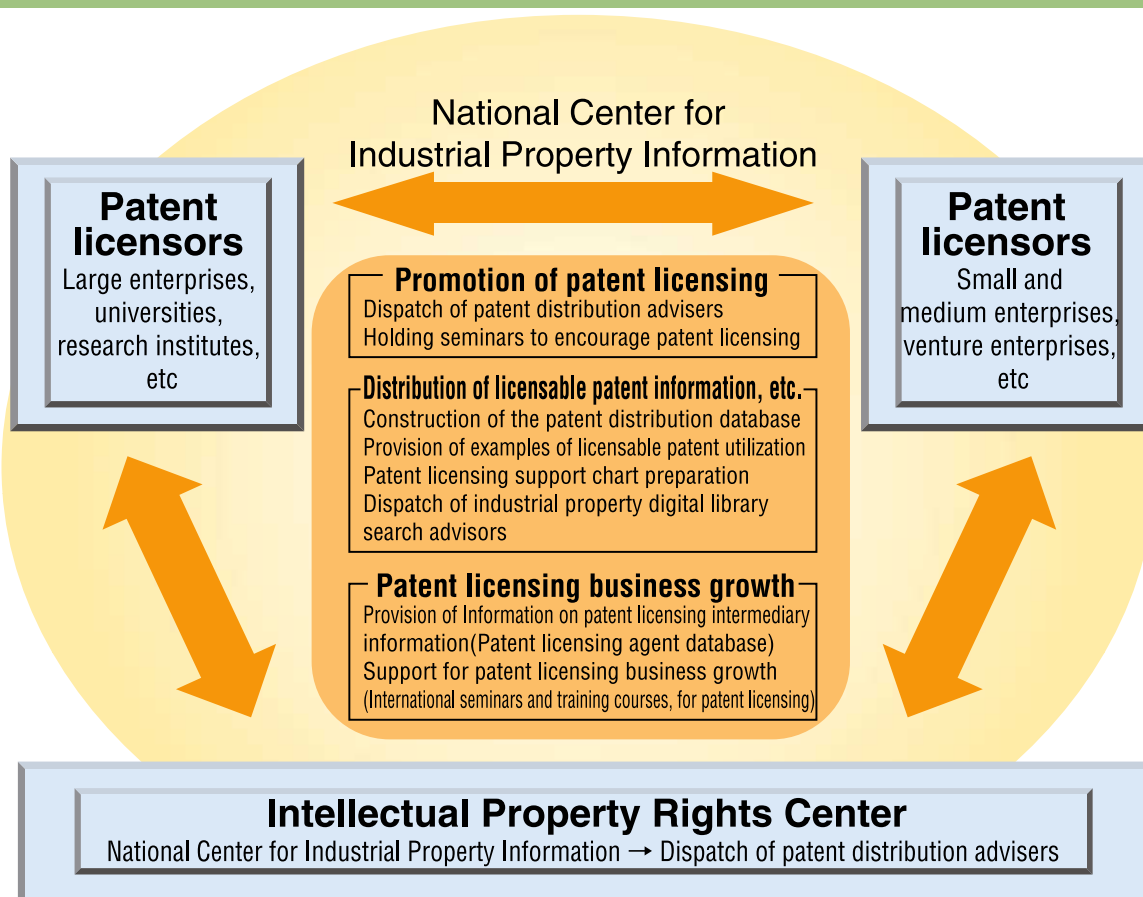
Furthermore, universities and public research institutes are being asked to transfer their research results to industry in order to activate the intellectual creation cycle.

Since 1997 the JPO has been conducting patent licensing promotion activities to develop technology transfer and establish new business through patent licensing. These activities are comprehensive efforts, including dispatch of patent distribution advisors, construction of the patent licensing database, and organization of seminars and training courses to foster the patent licensing business. The activities are intended to create a patent licensing and technology transfer market in the future.

These activities are handled by the National Center for Industrial Property Information, which became independent from the JPO. The number of patent licensing contracts concluded as a result of these activities has recently increased sharply, reaching a total of 1,420 as of the end of February 2002.

and Technology Transfer Market

Patent Licensing and Technology Transfer Market



(2) National Center for Industrial Property Information (NCIPI)

Since even before the NCIPI became as an independent administrative agency, it has been making efforts to improve equipment and services to respond to the needs of about 100,000 NCIPI visitors per year while introducing rapidly advancing information technology. It aims to address the following particular issues for further improvement of its services.

① Improvement of the performance of public access equipment

User friendly public access equipment will be introduced into the public gazette access service based on surveys of user needs, and gazette search and display software will be developed to improve the presentation of gazette information and develop its effective widespread use.

② Enhancement of accessible documents

In the service which provides documents concerning examinations, appeals & trials, documents such as technical documents will be enhanced in an effort to allow users to adequately identify the latest state of the art in Japan and overseas.

③ Prompt responses to consultations, etc.

Industrial property right consultation will be expedited in order to promote the prompt acquisition and utilization of industrial property rights in response to the rapid rate of technological innovation and commercialization.

④ Expansion of information distribution concerning licensable patents

In the patent licensing promotion service, licensable patents will be smoothly transferred from enterprise to enterprise, and from universities or research institutes to enterprises, for the purpose of developing new products and creating new business, thereby contributing to the development of small and medium enterprises and venture enterprises.

a) Promoting patent licensing through human networks, etc.

Patent licensing advisors supporting patent licensing and technology transfer will be available to provide consultation as well as to promote the widespread use of patents and technology. Furthermore, seminars encouraging patent licensing will be held at appropriate venues for the purpose of improving awareness of patent licensing promotion activities in Japan.

b) Promoting of the information distribution concerning patent licensing

The volume of available information concerning licensable patents will be increased, and ideas for utilizing licensable patents as examples will be provided. Furthermore, a patent licensing support chart based on analyzed trends of Japanese patents will be presented as a possible guide for enterprises in introducing or transferring technologies when they start new business activities. Moreover, experts specializing in searching patent information (IPDL search advisors) will be dispatched to support regional small and medium enterprises and venture enterprises, in patent introduction and technical development by means of patent information.

c) Supporting growth of the patent licensing business

The environment to encourage competent human resources to actively participate in the future patent licensing market will be improved, and opportunities to improve awareness of the patent licensing business in Japan will be

demonstrated together with the means of contacting the entrepreneurs concerned.

d) Patent licensing survey

To promote and improve awareness of patent licensing it, the present situation in Japan and overseas will be surveyed and analyzed. Furthermore, to review the present activities of NCIP evaluation and awareness of these activities in Japan will be investigated.