

ITMAM Reports

Report No. 5



Intellectual Property in Saudi Arabia

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Intellectual Property Overview

What Is Intellectual Property?

The term “intellectual property (IP)” refers to the intangible creations of the human mind, such as copyrights, patents, and trademarks, which - unlike material property - can be easily stolen or falsely attributed to someone else rather than their rightful owner.

Hence, the Intellectual Property Law was enacted to protect these rights and ensure their attribution to their rightful owners, thereby encouraging the emergence of talent and the regulation of IP rights.

Safeguarding intellectual property is achieved through a framework of legal rights, such as patents, copyrights, and trademarks, which empower individuals to obtain recognition for their innovations, inventions, or financial gains. By balancing the interests of innovators and the general public, the Intellectual Property Law aims to create an environment that fosters creativity and innovation.

In this regard, the Intellectual Property Law aims to encourage the creation of a wide range of intellectual products. To that end, the Law grants individuals and companies ownership rights to the information and intellectual products they create usually for a limited period of time, thus contributing to the creation of an economic incentive for their creation in light of the possibility granted to owners to access all required information and intellectual products, driving innovation and contributing to the technological progress of countries.

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Current Status, Domains and Types of Intellectual Property in KSA

1939

The legislation of IP rights in KSA dates back to 1939, when the first Intellectual Property Law on Trademarks was adopted. Since then, policymakers have been working tirelessly to expand and promote the national Intellectual Property Law.

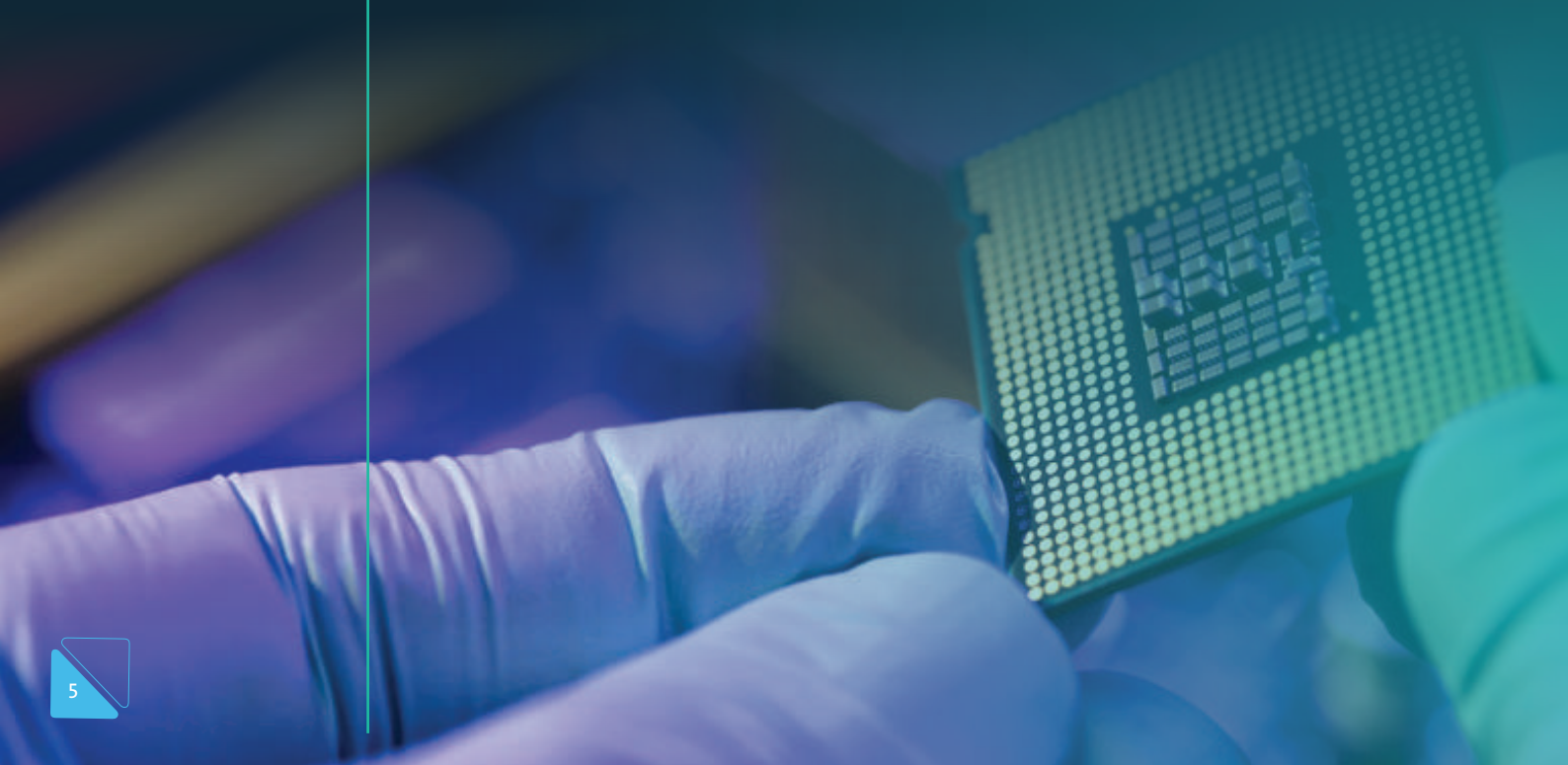
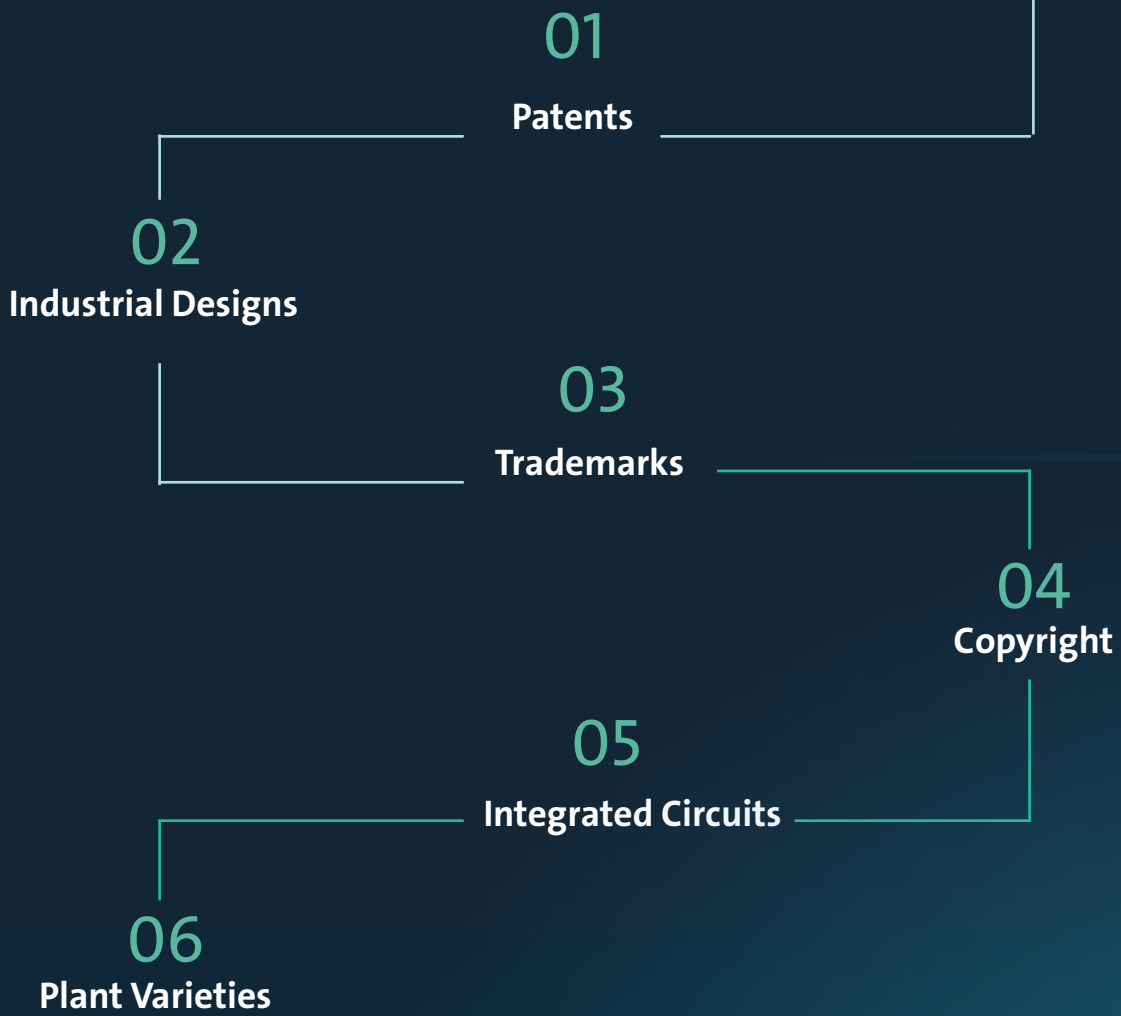
1982

In 1982, KSA joined the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), and has since started to sign a number of international treaties in this regard.



In recognition of the strategic importance of intellectual property in enabling KSA to achieve its ambitions, and of the pivotal role that IP rights play in fostering corporate growth, competitiveness, and national economic performance, the Government established the **Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP)** to serve as the sole IP competent authority in KSA, driving progress towards building a culture of innovation and creativity. To that end, SAIP - and other government authorities - exert great efforts to create an attractive climate for investment and foster a more diversified and competitive national economy, thus raising awareness of IP rights and promoting corporate growth altogether.

Types of Intellectual Property Rights



01. Patents

A patent is an exclusive right granted for an invention. In general, a patent grants its owner the right to decide on how or whether others can use the invention. In return, the patent owner makes technical information about the invention available to the public through the published patent document.

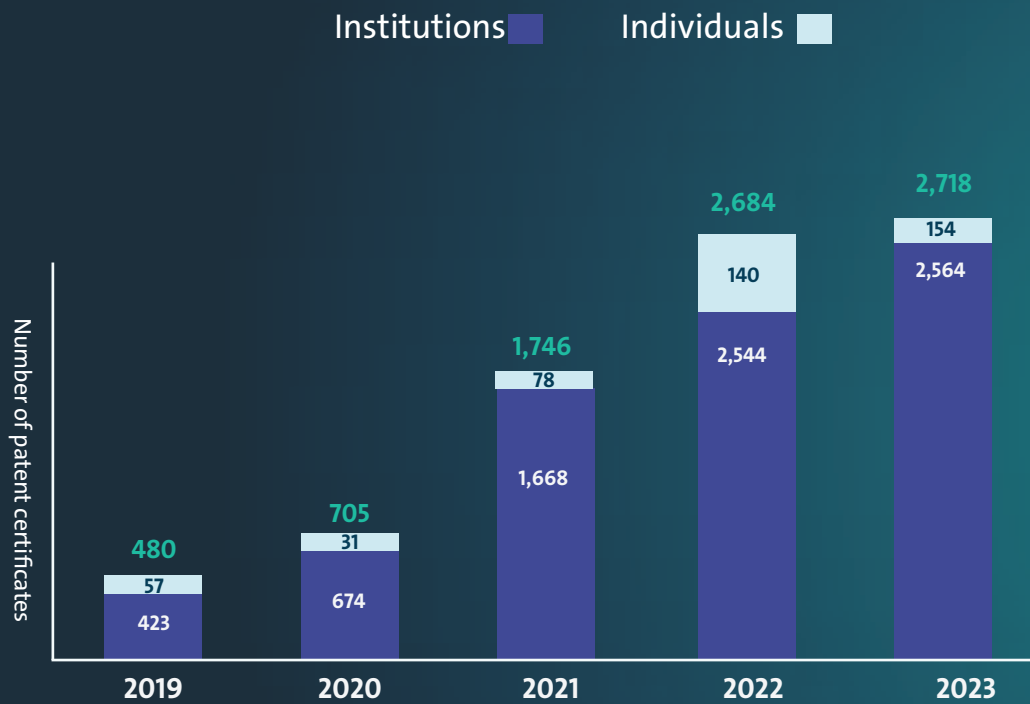
Total number of patent applications filed with the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property in 2023



Number of Patent Applications Filed in KSA



Number of Patent Certificates Issued in KSA



Domains Covered in Patent Documents Issued in 2023



25.42%

Chemistry and
Mineralogy (C)



21.49%

Fixed Constructions (E)



14.68%

Operations and
Transportation (B)



13.21%

Human Needs (A)



11.70%

Physics (G)



8.35%

Mechanical Engineering (F)
Lighting and Heating (F)



4.89%

Electricity (H)




0.26%

Textile Papers (D)

List of Top 5 Entities Classified by Number of Patent Documents Issued

2,546

Total number of patents issued for the entity category

أرامكو السعودية
saudi aramco  20.94%

HALLIBURTON 7.02%

جامعة
الملك سعود
King Saud University  2.50%

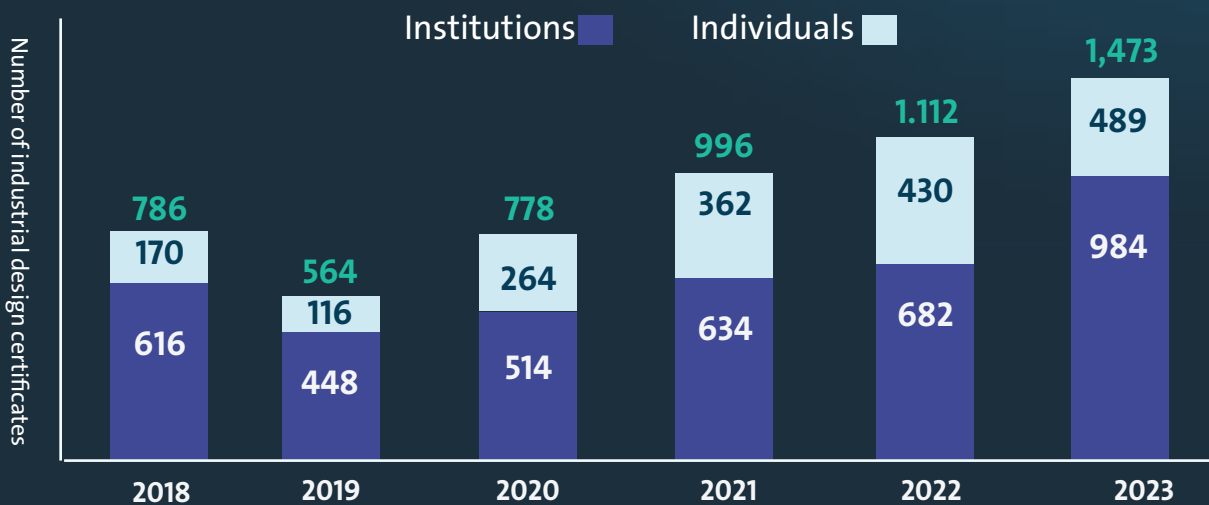
سابك
sabic 2.46%

Baker Hughes  2.42%

02. Industrial Designs

Industrial designs include innovative creations that take shape in the decorative or aesthetic appearance of an object. The design can consist of three-dimensional elements, such as the shape or surface of the piece, or two-dimensional elements, such as graphics, lines, or colors.

Number of Industrial Designs Issued in KSA



Domains Covered in Industrial Design Certificates Issued in KSA



5.29%

Jewelry



4.55%

Electrical Power
Distribution and
Control Equipment



3.26%

Cars, Buses, and Trucks



3.19%

Wall Clocks and Wrist
Watches



2.58%

Building Materials



2.31%

Shaving, Grooming, and
Beauty Tools



78.82%

Other

List of Top 5 Institutions Classified by Number of Industrial Design Certificates Issued



984

Total number of certificates issued for the enterprise category

6.20%



6.20%

Cartier

3.96%

Ferrari

3.86%



3.46%

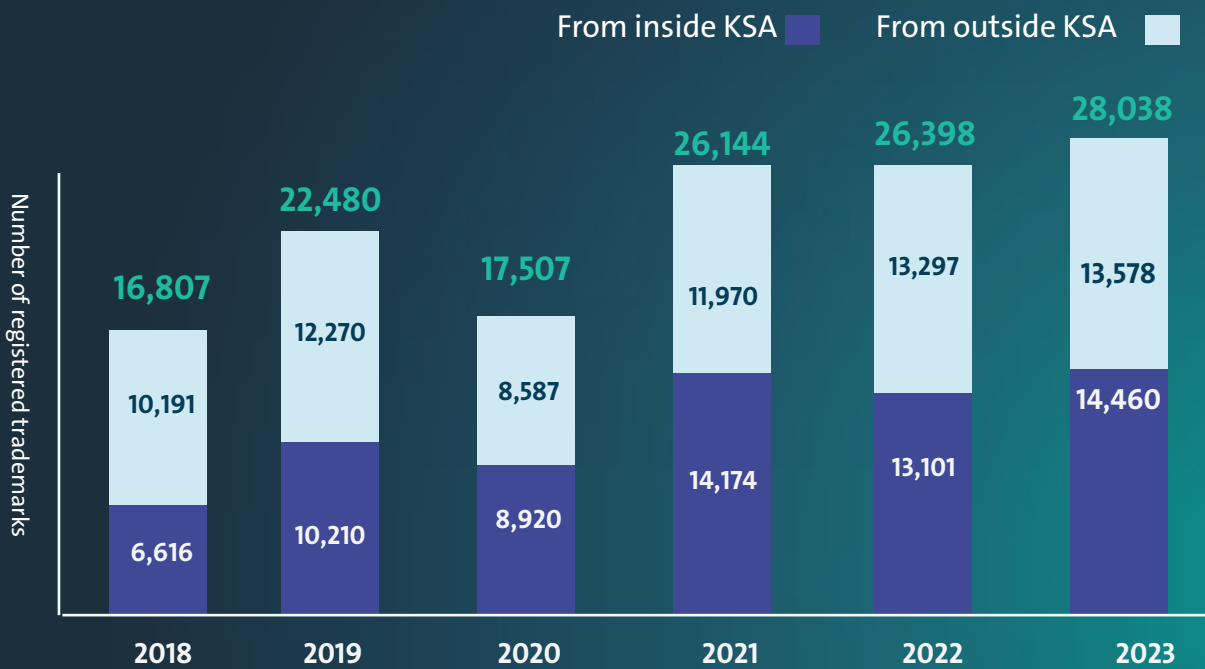
hansgrohe

03. Trademarks

Trademarks are creations that come in the form of names, words, signatures, letters, symbols, numbers, titles, and seals, as well as designs, graphics, images, distinctive engravings, graphic elements, shapes, colors, combinations of colors, sign, or any group of signs that are used or intended to be used to distinguish the goods or services of a facility.



Number of registered trademarks



List of Key Trademark Owners in 2023

14,460

Total number of registered trademarks for applicants from within KSA



74

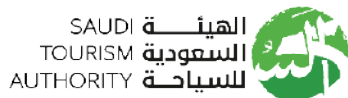


63



NEOM نيوم

49



46



44



42

Other

14,142



Types and Domains of Registered Trademarks According to GCC Trademarks Law

Registered Trademarks by Type

18,205

Verbal graphic
trademark

8,324

Verbal
trademark

1,505

Graphic
trademark

4

Sound
trademark

Registered Trademarks by Domain

28,011

Verbal
trademarks

18

Non-commercial
trademarks

5

Collective
trademarks

1

Professional
trademarks

3

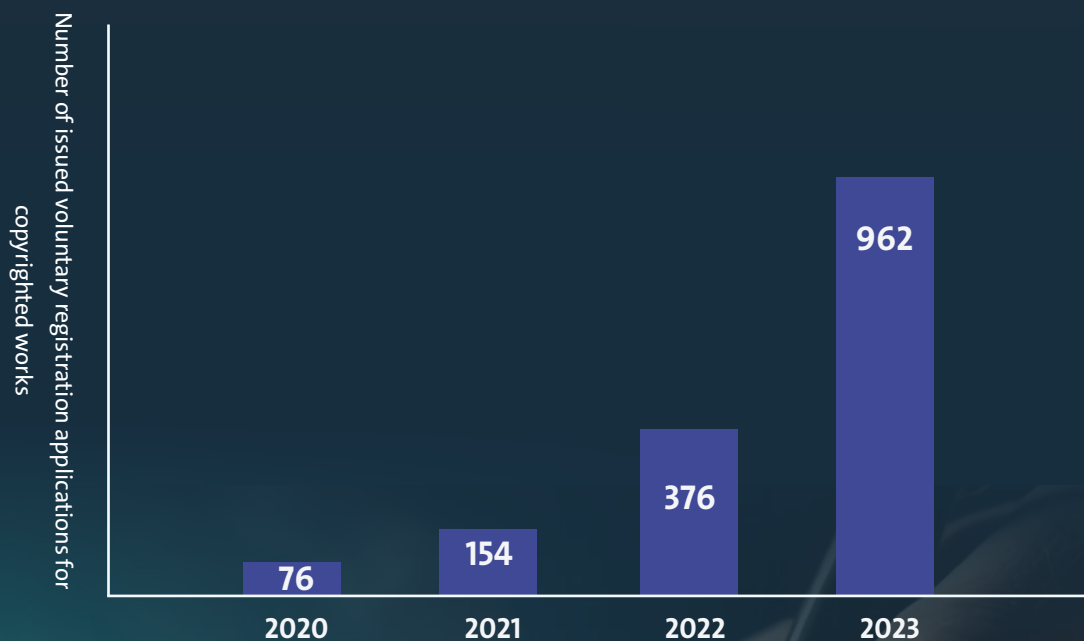
Control
trademarks



04. Copyrights

Copyrights fall under the creative IP domains, and grant the author or creator the right to use and exploit the work, preventing others from using and benefiting therefrom without their consent. In this regard, all literary and material copyrights are fully reserved for the creators.

Optional Registration Certificates of Issued Copyright Works



Copyright Certificate Works Issued in 2023

60.50%

Written works

17.88%

Computer software and applications

15.90%

Artistic works and applied arts

3.22%

Architectural works

2.39%

Photographic works

0.11%

Schematic works

0.32%

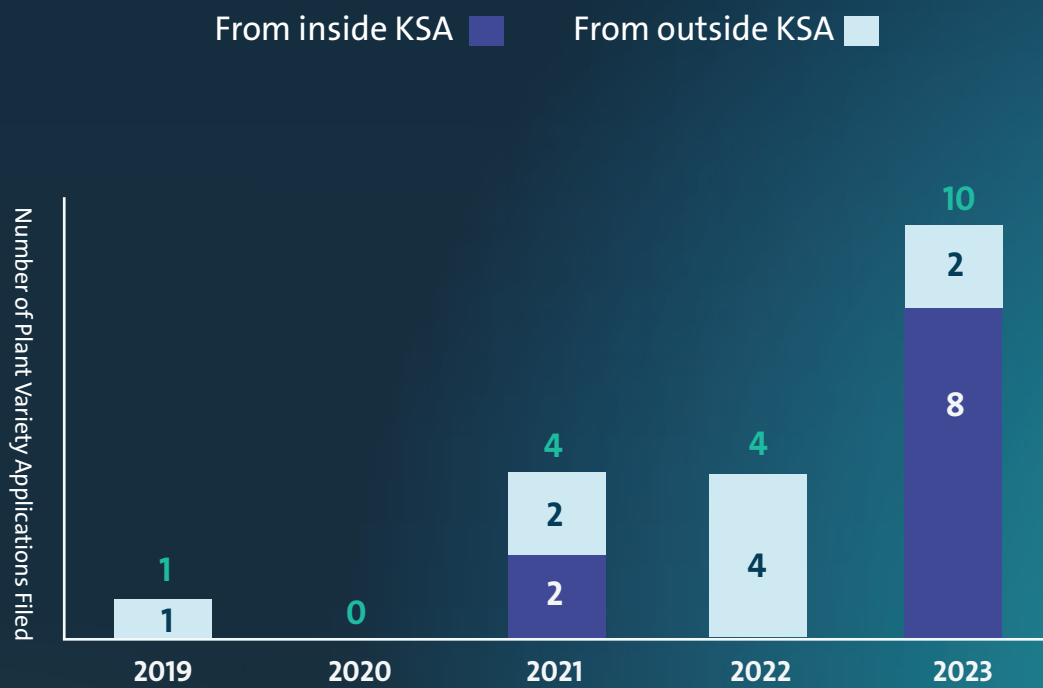
Topographic sculptural works

* According to the 2023 Statistical Report on Intellectual Property Information

05. Plant Varieties

It is a botanical group that belongs to one botanical taxon, and is classified as one of the lowest known grades. It is determined by the expression of traits and characteristics that result from a single genotype or a particular set of genotypes.

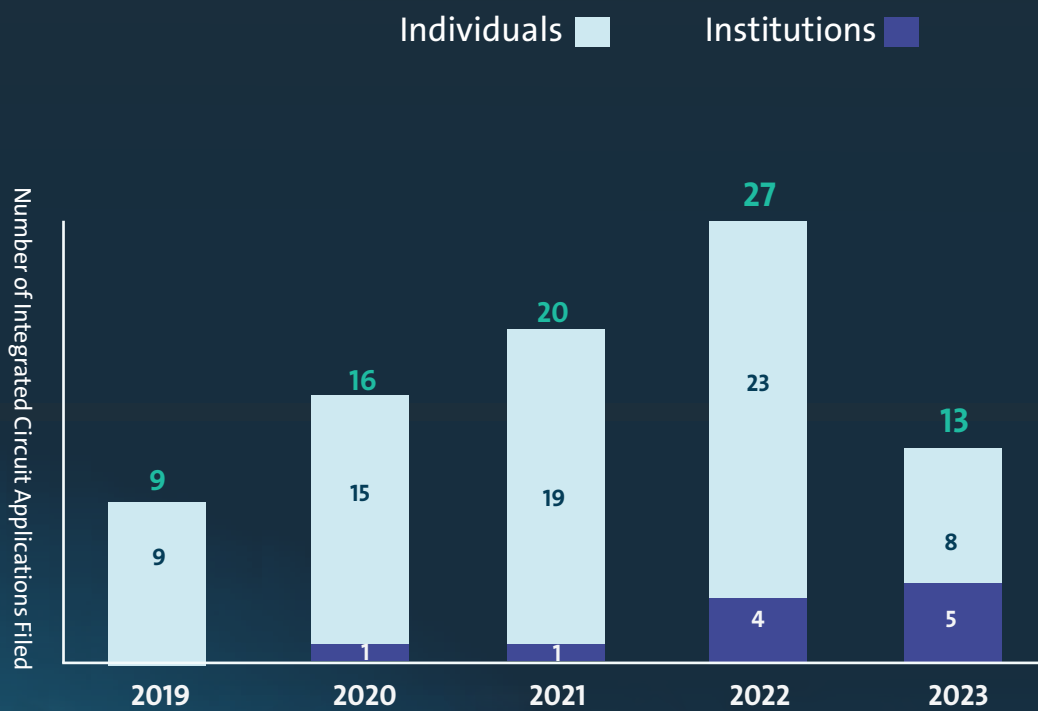
Number of Plant Varieties Filed



06. Integrated Circuits

An integrated circuit (IC) is a miniaturized and innovative electronic circuit designed to perform a specific electronic function. These circuits are commonly employed in electronic devices, where their components and interconnections, or some of them, form an integrated structure within a cohesive piece of material. The components are designed together according to a three-dimensional arrangement for manufacturing purposes.

Number of Integrated Circuit Applications Filed



KSA's Groundbreaking Efforts in Intellectual Property

National Intellectual Property Strategy

The National Intellectual Property Strategy aims to build an intellectual property ecosystem that fosters an innovation and creativity-based economy, by developing an intellectual property value chain that stimulates innovation and creativity competitiveness and supports economic growth so as to ensure that KSA becomes a leader in intellectual property. To ensure the flourishing of innovation and stimulate creativity, the National Intellectual Property Strategy has been built upon four fundamental pillars: IP Generation, IP Administration, Commercial Investment, and IP Respect. In order to fulfill these pillars, efforts will be made to enhance collaboration and integration among national entities as a fundamental partner in supporting innovation, creativity, and investment growth at the global level. This will be achieved through the objectives of the National Intellectual Property Strategy, which bolster the Kingdom's ability to generate intellectual property assets of economic and social value.

National Intellectual Property Strategy Objectives

01

Developing creative individuals based on imagination and challenge

02

Developing establishments based on intellectual property

03

Achieving a society based on respect for creative efforts

National Intellectual Property Rights Exchange Platform (ATM)

The National Intellectual Property Rights Exchange Platform (ATM) aims to foster creativity and innovation in light of the growth of new technologies and creative industries by digitizing the trading of intellectual property assets, allowing the provision of a safe space for creators and innovators for asset trading or acquisition purposes, thus enhancing investment in and benefiting from IP rights and domains transparently and reliably.

Intellectual Property Prosecution

The Public Prosecution Council approved the establishment of the Intellectual Property Prosecution, aimed at governing criminal activities, improving the quality of parliamentary judicial services, as well as protecting innovations, patents, trademarks, industrial and scientific creations, and intellectual and copyright activities, and establishing a comprehensive framework for IP legal protection.



Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property Regulation

Established in 2018, the **Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP)** is the official entity in charge of regulating, supporting, developing, nurturing, protecting, enforcing and advancing IP domains in KSA in accordance with international best practices. To that end, SAIP's mission is to promote local innovation and to improve the competitiveness of the national economy by supporting local businesses in their strategic use of IP rights.

Serving as an independent entity with a global perspective, SAIP seeks to consolidate its foundations as a leading intellectual property center in MENA, and is in charge of proposing new IP rights rules and regulations so as to ensure national legislation alignment with the rapidly evolving global technological landscape.

Key SAIP Tasks and Duties

01

License the activities related to the SAIP field of work

02

Design and implement the National Intellectual Property Strategy

03

Raise awareness about the importance of intellectual property, and protect its rights



KSA's Groundbreaking Efforts in Intellectual Property

Consulting Clinics

01

Consulting clinics provide guidance and advice to companies, small and medium enterprises, entrepreneurs, and individuals desiring to establish innovation-based projects with the aim to contribute to the intellectual property rights registration, use and utilization. The number of counseling sessions has so far reached 758, targeting 1,193 beneficiaries.

IP Support Centers

02

A national network aimed at enabling innovators to obtain technical information in the fields of intellectual property, and facilitating their access to related services to encourage the investment of their innovative potential and the development, protection, and management of their intellectual property rights.

IP Academy

03

The IP Academy provides a diversified suite of specialized and qualitative programs, including summer institutes, a joint Master's program, and an IP trainer program.

IP Respect Officer Initiative

04

This Initiative aims to promote respect for intellectual property rights by supporting, training and qualifying a specialist from each entity, in addition to concluding an ongoing partnership between SAIP and other relevant entities.

Intellectual Property Respect Council Initiative

05

This Initiative aims at enhancing communication with the private sector, as well as discussing existing challenges, problems, and opportunities to improve SAIP's supporting services by holding periodic meetings with each sector.

Media Campaigns

06

In order to enhance understanding and awareness of intellectual property, SAIP organizes a set of awareness-raising campaigns through radio channels and social media platforms. For instance, SAIP organized a media campaign, entitled “The Unveiled Truth” (“Al-Le’ba Makshoofa”), aimed at promoting a community culture on the importance of maximizing intellectual property and respecting the IP rights of creators.

References



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