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Prepared in partnership with:  
**INVENTA INTERNATIONAL**

**INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

# Coronavirus Digest no. 4 Patents and other intellectual property rights

The world is desperately seeking a vaccine and treatments against COVID-19 and the answer will also be found in intellectual property. For this reason, PLMJ and Inventa International have joined forces to prepare a Digest on these issues that is continuously updated. Readers of this Digest will have complete and up-to-date information on the crossover between the area of intellectual property and the challenges of COVID-19, especially regarding patents and utility models, as well as all the information on the path to obtaining a vaccine.

## 1. Patents

Moderna reveals that it may not hold the patent rights for the vaccine against Covid-19, because it was not the first to file the patents. This came after the US National Institute of Health claimed co-ownership of the rights to this vaccine. Read more [here](#).

Social networking publications make false claims about the Pirbright Institute, a British research institute dedicated to the study of infectious diseases in farm animals, stating that it holds a patent for the vaccine against Covid-19. Read more [here](#).

## 2. Vaccine for Covid-19

Russia has registered the first vaccine against Covid-19. Registration is conditional and the vaccine will continue to undergo clinical trials involving thousands of people. This vaccine will start to be distributed on 1 January 2021. For more information, see: [here](#).

Switzerland acquired 4.5 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine from Moderna. This ensures that Switzerland has prior access to the vaccine developed by the biotechnology company, if it succeeds. This agreement will enable some 2.25 million people to be vaccinated in Switzerland. Read more [here](#).

The vaccine from Pfizer, a US company, and BioNTech, a German company, causes an immune response in Phase 1 and 2 tests. According to a study published in Nature magazine, volunteers registered a “robust” immune response after receiving the vaccine. Read more [here](#) and [here](#).

Anvisa, the National Health Surveillance Agency, released an official note today to say that, to date, the Russian laboratory responsible for vaccine development has not submitted any request for authorisation for research or registration of immunisation. Read more [here](#).

**"Switzerland acquired 4.5 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine from Moderna. This ensures that Switzerland has prior access to the vaccine developed by the biotechnology company, if it succeeds."**

In the race to discover a Coronavirus vaccine, there is a great rush to patent any discovery and this has the potential to prevent access to the world's most sought-after vaccine. Read more [here](#).

Through the partnership with the US Government for the Covid-19 vaccine, Moderna has raised almost a billion dollars in research aid. Read more [here](#).

China has granted its first patent for the Covid-19 vaccine. The vaccine was developed by Chen Wei of the Academy of Military Medical Sciences and the Chinese company CanSino Biologics. The patent application was submitted on 18 March and approved on 11 August. Read more [here](#).

Portugal will be entitled to 6.9 million vaccines to fight Covid-19, as part of the 300 million vaccine batch reserved by the European Union from AstraZeneca/Oxford University. In the case of individual doses, these will be sufficient for two thirds of the Portuguese population, and they may arrive as early as December. Read more [here](#).

The tests needed to obtain regulatory approval for Russia's Covid-19 vaccine will involve an additional 40,000 people and will be overseen by a foreign research group. Read more [here](#).

Australia guarantees access to a promising vaccine against Covid-19 and will be able to provide free doses to its entire population of 25 million people. The vaccine is being developed by AstraZeneca, a pharmaceutical company, and Oxford University. Read more [here](#).

### 3. Drugs for the treatment of Covid-19

Researchers develop artificial intelligence software capable of creating alternative prescriptions for drugs protected by trade secrets that can help in the treatment of Covid-19. To avoid the scarcity of these drugs, this software makes it possible to find more accessible ways to produce them. Read more [here](#).

Gilead, an American pharmaceutical company, is accused of acting in a way that does not prioritise public health. Allegedly, the company is the owner of the drug similar to Remdesivir, which is thought to have helped reduce hospitalised cases of the virus, but it is even more effective. However, the company refuses to sell this drug and is only selling Remdesivir for more profit. Read more [here](#).

**"Scientists at the University of California in San Francisco have developed a new approach to contain the spread of the virus."**

Gilead has registered an application for a new drug for the treatment of Covid-19. With the name of Veklury, this medicine consists of Remdesivir, which, until now, has only been used in hospitals in case of emergency for the treatment of the virus. Read more [here](#).

While the world awaits the Covid-19 vaccine, scientists at the University of California in San Francisco have developed a new approach to contain the spread of the virus. Through an aerosol formation called AeroNabs, molecules can be self-administered with a nasal spray that, used once a day, that can provide powerful protection against Covid-19. Read more [here](#).

### 4. Intellectual Property Institutes

During the pandemic, registration of intellectual property rights has increased in Indonesia compared to last year. Read more [here](#).

While Mexico's economy is being badly affected by Covid-19, the US-Mexico-Canada agreement (USMCA), and in particular, new intellectual property laws, may raise long-term expectations in the industrial and pharmaceutical sectors. Read more [here](#).

Pascal Faure, CEO of the French Patent Office, says the impact of Covid-19 is comparable to a financial crisis. In France, patent applications fell by between 2% and 3%, the same figures as in the 2008 financial crisis. Read the interview [here](#).

### 5. Inventions relating to Covid-19

While the Coronavirus pandemic is affecting local businesses, some companies in Singapore have been able to create smart solutions to practical problems, from masks inspired by diving masks to fans that can be controlled over the Internet. See [here](#) 10 inventions born out of the pandemic.

**"The brewery that owns the "Corona" brand has taken action against about 100 registered brand applications since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic."**

Moroccan boy of 11 kept himself busy during the Covid-19 quarantine by creating a mask and smart protective glasses. Muhammad Bilal Hamouti is passionate about robotics and spends his free time creating innovative projects. Read more [here](#).

Baidu, a Chinese company, used its experience in artificial intelligence to support front-line efforts in pandemic prevention and control. One of the results was an AI-based temperature measurement system that quickly monitors people's temperature. Read more [here](#).

## 6. Trademarks

The brewery that owns the "Corona" brand has taken action against about 100 registered brand applications since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Frederico Icaza, AB InBev's IP director, says there has been a significant increase in trademark enforcement activity as the company tries to protect the Mexican brand from potential infringement. Read more [here](#).

With the Covid-19 pandemic, many rights holders are facing unprecedented financial difficulties, making them more cost-conscious. Read [here](#) some tips co-published by Inventa to minimise trademark portfolio costs in Sao Tome and Príncipe. ■

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