

## CONIEN

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## PERSONAL WOROS

Federal President of the Republic of Austria

## ALEXANDER VAN DER BELLEN

The Austrian Patent Office has been in existence for 120 years. There probably has not been any other situation in the post-war period that is comparable to the coronavirus pandemic we are currently facing.

If I can take away anything from this difficult time, then it is two points in particular: the spirit of solidarity and the sheer inventive brilliance in our country. The cohesion of everyone living in Austria is overwhelming. We look at one another and show specific consideration for those who are particularly vulnerable. Everyone is contributing - in their own way to Austria coming out of the crisis stronger.

Thousands of scientists and inventors are also putting all their creativity and inventiveness to use. I am thinking of valves for ventilators created using 3D printers, just to give one small example. I hope that this Austrian inventive genius will continue beyond the crisis for all of us, including the Patent Office.

Today the Patent Office presents itself as the innovative heart of our modern public sector. Not dusty and outdated. Instead, a good friend of creative, innovative people. Please keep it up.

## Congratulations on "120 years of the Austrian Patent Office" and best wishes for the future!

## PERSONAL WORDS

Federal Minister

## LEONORE GEWESSLER

You are the minister of innovation what is your dream?
I dream of a climate-neutral Austria. And we are determined that by 2040 , this will no longer be a dream; it will be the reality. The programme for the coming years is an ambitious one. Scientists tell us we have ten years to pave the way. We live in an age when the appetite for innovation is much in demand, including in Austria. It is about working together to shape the transition to renewable energy, to increase environmentally friendly mobility and to preserve the natural world for our children. We already have solutions for a lot of things, and we have to start from scratch with others - technical and social innovation is required.

## What has yet to be invented, do you think?

Science and research make a very comprehensive contribution to our social development and this diversity must be encouraged. Whether it is effective drugs to combat the coronavirus or new and sustainable battery technology, all these inventions have a significant impact on our daily lives.

## What did you think when you discovered that your responsibilities also included the patent system?

It aroused my curiosity. It often takes a lot of work to bring a good idea to fruition, but it's well worth it. And I am glad that my department can now help with this.


## PERSONAL WORDS

## Patent Office President

 Mariana Karepova:For our annual report, we had set ourselves the topic of "dreams" long before the coronavirus emerged, becoming a pandemic and a nightmare for so many people in so many countries. Now, at the end of April, as I write this, our lives are dominated by quarantine and isolation. And I ask myself: does our theme and cover still fit in with people's attitude towards life? The country has been slowed down - in some places even brought to a complete stop. But the torpor will not last long. Life with the pandemic is changing, and people themselves are changing it. Balconies are becoming concert stages. From the physical distance, a digital and social closeness is developing. And every day at 6.00 p.m., people applaud and take

is a crucial ingredient if you want to create something. 2019 was a good year for the courageous. They took almost 11,000 innovations - patents, trademarks, dreams - to the Patent Office. In our annual report, we can only tell you a few of these 11,000 stories. Stories of people who have been willing to try something new and have done so successfully. Of course, you will also find figures in our annual report: those from your state, as well as Austrian inventions throughout the world. And you will find out who became a "patent emperor"* in 2019.

We hope you will remain as courageous in 2020 as ever before, despite the current circumstances. We look forward to being your partner for many years to come.

## Enjoy the read!



## HASHTAG OF THE YEAR


\#Al is the top hashtag of the year on Twitter, according to the "Innovation Report by Talent Garden Vienna". Which is hardly surprising, as Artificial Intelligence is the topic on everyone's lips right now. Quite literally in our case, such as at the 2019 Alpbach Forum: Al mixed the cocktail that we served to our guests at the opening of the Technology Symposium.
The catchy music visitors were enjoying in the Alpine ambience at the forum was also down to AI, which had been told guests' preferences in advance. (Everyone enjoyed the music, but when it came to the drink, all the guests were agreed: people still do a better job)

Al is increasingly behind ever more inventions - and Austria is no exception.
The rise in patent numbers in this respect provides the conclusive proof. Austrian patent applications related to Artificial Intelligence more than tripled in the period from 2011 to 2017; a development similar to that in the USA, the country with the most AI patent applications:

Guests at our Al party wondered whether humans would soon become superfluous to requirements? "This fear is unfounded," says Al expert Sepp Hochreiter in Alpbach. When asked what Al will never be able to do, he replied: "It's not likely that Artificial Intelligence will ever be able to master profoundly human emotions such as feeling and showing empathy."

 We all still think of it as utopian, something that is almost unthinkable: Artificial Intelligence (AI) in charge of our wheels. Driverless cars are already part of everyday life for our patent examiners, however.

Although the USA has taken the lead in technologies related to autonomous driving, Austria can still be proud of its contribution. According to a European Patent Office study, Austria is ranked seventh compared to the other countries in the EU.

We see many great inventions, but two patents in particular stand out. One is the charging station from the Styrian start-up Volterio, which you only have to drive up to for electricity to start being supplied to the vehicle, making both driving and charging autonomous.

The other is an invention from ZKW. Following on from car headlights that automatically swap between full and dipped beam, as dictated by oncoming traffic, the Lower Austrian-based company is currently developing light systems that conjure up the entire pedestrian crossing on the road, complete with stop lines. This is how Al indicates that it is letting someone cross the road. After all, you can't look the car in the eyes.


## I know what you are dreaming about

Do you prefer the mountains or the beach? Fine entrecôte or a meal from the camping stove? Dr Christoph Guger from g.tec can make your unspoken preferences and dreams come to life. This is made possible by his patented brain-computer interface, which monitors, analyses and evaluates brain activity very closely. "In some tests, participants don't even want to know the end result," he says. Understandable. "Because if the photo of your own mother ranks way ahead of the one of your partner, it's not exactly conducive to good conversation at the breakfast table," jokes Guger.


It may sound like a gimmick, but it does have a serious background. By using the computer-brain interface, stroke patients can move their fingers again, control prostheses identifying the sentences you are thinking," says Guger. But as he explains, it only works with an implant. It does not work with the electrode hood.

The brain-computer interface can safely say: you had that forest dream again. Guger does not believe that it will ever be possible to download dreams from the cloud to dream them, but the prospect of a dreamless night is not too far-fetched, in his opinion. "The suppression of depressive thoughts always seems to work well," says Guger.

To discover that the technology can not only "read" but also "write", as well as what all this has to do with the gaming industry, go to www.patentamt.at/en/i-know-what-you-are-dreaming-about


## 

We all know about "Black Friday". The term comes from the United States and heralds the start of the annual Christmas shopping season in the USA. On the Friday after Thanksgiving, countless Americans are lured to the malls by special offers and promotions. This sales promotion campaign has now arrived in Europe too and has become something of an event for retailers.

In 2013, a Hong Kong-based company took advantage of this and registered Black Friday as a national word mark in Germany. This was followed shortly afterwards by a deluge of warnings designed to prevent retailers using the term "Black Friday" in their advertising if they did not have a licensing agreement. In 2017, the same company also registered an international Black Friday trademark, extending the protection claim to include Austria as well. Uncertainty grew among retailers. According to media reports, the Austrian Retail Association found this unacceptable and in 2018, filed its own trademark application for the word and design mark with the Austrian Patent Office. A fullblown contest - trademark versus trademark - began. The battle raged through the media and in the courts, where it came to an end surprisingly quickly the courts declared the trademark unworthy of protection. An initial success and important sign for all retailers wanting to use "Black Friday" in their advertising.

Read the full story on our website: www.patentamt.at/en/black-friday




## I

 W have produced a true innovation. You want to talk about it, but you don't want to be copied. A dilemma. Below are a few tips on how to protect your idea:
## Please don't talk about it without protection and do not publicise it

Don't tell just anyone about your innovation

## Sample

agreements can be found under www.ipag.at until you've filed it.

Conclude a confidentiality agreement prior to discussions with partners, suppliers, investors and others
In the event of cooperative efforts: keep reliable records on who developed which part and lay down all rights to the invention in a contract. Do not present your innovation to the media and do not make it known to the public before it is protected If things have to move quickly:

PRIO, the provisional patent application www.patentamt.at/en/prio-application
FAST TRACK trademarks
www.patentamt.at/en/fasttracktrademark

Get up to $€ 10,000$ in support with the Patent Voucher www.patentamt.at/en/ patentvoucher

## First protect, then go public -this always applies! Your innovation is ...

Technical $\rightarrow$ a patent should be considered.
Creative $\rightarrow$ then trademark protection is right for you.
A multi-dimensional form or a model
$\rightarrow$ then design and trademark protection should be considered.
Something completely different $\rightarrow$ copyrights protect literature,
software, works of music, visual arts and films from imitation.

## WE ARE HAPPY TO ADVISE YOU!

Together with you, we can to take a look at your intellectual property.
0153424 | info@patentamt.a | www.patentamt.at/en/discoverIP
 global sense - thus it may not yet be publically known.

## WE NEED FROM YOU:

Application for a patent
Title of the invention
Description of your invention
Owner of the invention (name, address)

Patent claims
Summary of the invention
Date and signature

## NOT ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY

 BUT STILL HELPFUL:Drawings
best online

What exactly do you want to protect in your invention? Which combination of features characterises the invention?

Your invention in a few sentences that get right to the core.

## Need to present your invention very soon? SECURE PRIORITY!

Take a look at provisional patent registration: www.patentamt.at/en/prio-application

QUESTIONS? We're here for you.
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## CANIHAVEMX <br> OMPUTER PROTECIVDF

The main question is: does the computer program have a technical impact? Here are a few examples:
$\rightarrow$ Does my software control machines or robots?
$\rightarrow$ Are memory efficiency or resource requirements improved by my software?
$\rightarrow$ Does it encrypt or compress image, audio or video data?
$\rightarrow$ Does my software read sensors and does it analyse this data?


Unfortunately, a patent is not possible. WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Document the work.
Software is subject to copyright law.
Upload to the Blockchain
data certification service on mein.wko.at

## TIPS FOR COOPERATIVE PROJECTS:

1. Use confidentiality agreements.
2. Keep accurate records on who holds the copyright to which part of the software.

## TRADEMARK GOOD, ALWAYS GOOD

## Always good and important:

The trademark protection for the logo also works for software. Possibly also design protection for new user interfaces with unique characteristics.

QUESTIONS? We're here for you.
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## A trademark can be easily and quickly registered. <br> Before doing so, ask yourself the following questions:

## Self-Check:

Does the trademark describe my products and services? (e.g. "shoe" for shoes)


Yes $\square$ No

Do I use national emblems in the trademark? (e.g. federal eagle of Austria, national flags, EU logo)


Do I use information about the origin although the product has a different origin? (e.g. Tyrolean smoked ham for a product from Vienna)


Was a question answered with "yes Then it is possible that your trademark may not be registered and thus also not protected,

## Other things to check:

What trademarks do my competitors use?
Are they similar to my trademark?

Among other things,
a trademark must not be purely descriptive and must not consist largely of national emblems or contain misleading details on the place of origin.

Albert Patent Bot can check trademarks for you: www.patentamt.at/ en/albert

You can do the research yourself: seeip.patentamt.at www.tmdn.org

Or the pros at the Patent Office do the research for you: www.patentamt.at/ en/precheck

QUESTIONS? We're here for you.
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To start with a trademark, a logo, a signation... the rest is fast and easy.

## We need from you:

Trademark representationOwner of the trademark (name and address)Type of trademarkSectors in which you use the trademark

Search for compatible products and services easily using our register.
www.patentamt.at/nizzaklassen

We offer you:
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FAST TRACK TRADEMARK -
max. 10 work days

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Before you register your trademark it is good to know whether it is unique and distinguishable. That is important because you want to distinguish yourself from the market and avoid conflict with older trademarks. You can do your own research*, or you can have us do it.


[^0]

TRADEMARK IN AUSTRIA

| STANDARD |
| :---: | :---: |
| APPLIGATION |



Before you apply for a patent it is important to know if it is new. You can do your own research*, or you can have us do it.

|  | SEARCH WITH OR WITHOUT A RESEARCH ASSESSMENT | $\begin{aligned} & \text { FOCUS } \\ & \text { RESEARCH } \end{aligned}$ | PATENT SCAN | PRE CHECK <br> INVENTION NOTICE |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| For whom? | Mostly for experts | Everyone | Students writing their thesis | Technology transfer offices of universities \& technical colleges |
| What does it cost? | Starting at € 238 | Starting at € 1,080 | Free | €450 |
| What is the maximum time it will take? | 4 months | 6 weeks | 2 months | 2 months |
| Reseach on the state of technology | V |  |  |  |
| Research on the field of technology |  |  |  |  |
| Evaluation of patentability | Only with an expert assessment |  |  |  |
| Evaluation of claims regarding originality and inventiveness | Only with an expert assessment |  |  |  |
| Personal consulting |  |  |  |  |

## online Bonus

* done at at.espacenet.com


[^1]


The process invented by Fachhochschule Burgenland GmbH provides an efficient way to generate electrical energy from waste heat. And they hold the patent for it.


## 93

invention applications from Carinthia.

Carinthia-based Schwing GmbH is an international competence centre for steel and machine components. The company uses patents to protect its developments from mimics. Another top patent applicant in Carinthia is Springer Maschinenfabrik GmbH. The company develops innovative solutions for the wood-processing industry.


## 264

invention applications from Lower Austria.

## 866

trademark applications from Lower Austria.

Trademark hot spot: Mödling Invention hot spot: Amstetten

## The ZKW Group GmbH

specialises in innovative lighting systems for vehicles and tops the list for patent applications in Lower Austria.

The company also leads the rankings for trademark applications in Lower Austria.


## 115

invention applications from Salzburg.

Invention hot spot: in and around Salzburg

Trademark hot spot: Salzburg (city)

## ADRESYS - Adaptive Regelsysteme

 develops intelligent protection systems for testing in high and medium-voltage electrical installations. It is one of the top patent applicants in Salzburg.The repertoire of the Salzburg-based company Biogena Naturprodukte GmbH \& Co KG not only includes food supplements, but also numerous proprietary rights.


## 146

invention applications from Tyrol.

## Invention

 hot spot: Innsbruck (state)
## 479

trademark applications from Tyrol.

Tyrolit - Schleifmittelwerke Swarovski K.G. is a leading manufacturer of bonded grinding, cutting, drilling and dressing tools as well as machines for the construction industry - and is top of the Tyrol rankings in 2019.
INNIO Jenbacher GmbH \& Co. OG is also at the forefront. The company manufactures innovative industrial gas engines and power generation systems.


Privilege 44/3239
Alois Haidacher's velocipede sleigh from 1894

## Jungösterreich

 Zeitschriftenverlag GmbH \& Co KG publishes numerous educational media titles that are frequently found in schools, and also appears in the trademark rankings for Tyrol.
## 189 <br> invention applications from Vorarlberg. <br> 149 <br> trademark applications from Vorarlberg. <br> Trademark hot spot \& Invention hot spot: <br> Bregenz

In Vorarlberg, Julius Blum GmbH has filed the most patent applications.
The company specialises in the production and distribution of furniture fittings.
Head Technology GmbH is also not standing still when it comes to sportrelated patents and leads the rankings for trademarks in Vorarlberg in 2019.


## 436

invention applications from Vienna.
1,852
trademark applications from Vienna.

Trademark hot spot \& Invention hot spot:
Vienna (city)

Vienna is not only the state capital, it is also a hot spot for trademarks in Austria. No federal state has as many trademark applications as Vienna. In 2019, most European patent applications filed by Austrians came from Vienna.

From mobility management to transportation technology: innovation is taken very seriously at Siemens Mobility GmbH - once again the Vienna-based company filed numerous patent applications in 2019. Plasser \& Theurer is not only the global market leader for track maintenance and track laying machines, but is also top of the rankings in Vienna.

## Österreichische Lotterien

 GmbH, the Austrian Lotteries Organisation, does not jeopardise its trademarks. In 2019 they once again filed an application for protection with the Patent Office.Privilege 43/4265 Wolf Eder's tram car from 1893


## WH ARE THE 4.    (\%) : $\because$ <br> We are <br> 

## experts

in innovation, patents, trademarks, designs, artificial intelligence, mechanical engineering, biotec and any other technical field you can imagine.



## TOP 3

GOODS AND SERVICES CATEGORIES

- Advertising; management $11 \%$
e.g. agencies and distributors


## Entertainment 11\%

e.g. radio stations and event agencies

Cesearch services; development of computer hardware and software 6\%
e.g. pharmaceutical companies and telecommunications providers

## DESIGNS

6,261 trademark applications at the Austrian Patent Office.

## 5,172

trademark registrations

## 98,957 valid

 trademarks at the Austrian Patent Office.
## 629

Trademark-Services

## The patent voucher is the perfect way to start protecting your inventions! It covers $80 \%$ of the costs associated with a patent application and Patent Office experts will help you through the most important steps in the patent process. <br>  <br>  <br>  now to find out more!




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## austrian patent office

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[^0]:    * Ask Albert Patent Bot at www.patentamt.at/en/albert or search trough our online register at seeip.patentamt.at

[^1]:    Online
    $B$
    $E$
    Bonus $\epsilon$

