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IP Scope is now in its second year...

Thanks to all the support of family, friends and clients I have been able to start and maintain a new business in the midst of a recession. Experts tell me that if I have survived this far then there is a very good chance of continuing well into the future. Let's hope they are correct!

I have had some fascinating projects to work on during my first year from quite a wide range of topics, including imaging, materials science and of course the printed electronics arena which is of particular interest to me. The latter has been an area where I have acted as an associate consultant for Cambridge Intellectual Property Ltd. to expand their business and over the course of the year I have given two webinars on the subject of using patent data to provide intelligence on a company's technical and strategic direction. Examples were given from a case study of the Plastic Logic patent portfolio.

I've experimented with social media and quite like the use of twitter as a business tool for gathering current information on many topics. I use it myself and have an [IP Scope twitter](#) account for sharing information on recent patents, new technologies and new products or inventions.

Give me a call if you want to explore any ways I can help with your IP needs and I hope you enjoy the rest of this newsletter.

Understanding Patents Part 1

There are several questions that repeatedly pop up when people are asking me about the patenting process and advantages of having a patent portfolio. In this article I will address the question of what rights a granted patent gives to the owner (the assignee). The most common misconception is that a patent gives the owner a right to practice his/her invention. In fact, it is not uncommon for an inventor to be granted a patent and not have the right to practice the invention.

The patent merely grants the right to stop or exclude others from practicing the invention. At the same time, the patented invention may have subject matter that falls within the exclusive rights of someone else's broader patent. In such an instance, the broader patent is said to dominate.

Such a situation commonly occurs when the second patented invention represents an improved version of an earlier issued, more basic patent. The owner of the earlier dominating patent may be free to practice the basic invention (but may not be free to practice the improved version of the second patent). The owner of the second patent may not be free to practice either invention without permission of the owner of the first patent. These situations are quite common and can lead to the development of patent license agreements between companies such that both companies are able to use each other's inventions and mutually benefit.

Phil's Patent Picks - now on WordPress

You may remember that I regularly post articles describing current patent applications that are particularly related to printed or plastic electronics. Originally I just included these on my website but have now decided to run them as a separate [blog](#). Here is an extract from the latest post on *Phil's Patent Picks*.

Carbon Nanotube patent granted for Canatu Ltd.

Canatu Ltd (Finland) has been in the news recently after receiving an investment of €4.7 M to fund its production development. I was particularly interested to see whether they had been granted any patents from their portfolio of applications on carbon nanotubes and what new applications have emerged.

Background on Canatu:

Founded in 2004, Canatu is a spin-off from the Helsinki University of Technology (now Aalto University). Canatu's business is the production and sales of a new class of versatile nanomaterial based films and components.

Canatu has developed a novel form of carbon, namely NanoBuds™, and a new way to directly produce high value components on any substrate from this material by Direct Dry Printing™. These components improve the performance and reduce the cost of optical and electrical devices and diminish their environmental footprint. Canatu is currently developing its flexible thin film NanoBud™ components and production processes to supply display, touch, photovoltaic, tracking and haptic customers in the optics, energy and electronics sectors.

Granted Patent:

The NanoBud™ technology (a molecule having a fullerene molecule covalently bonded to the side of a carbon nanotube) is described in the granted patent EP1948562B1.

This patent was granted with the main claim reading:

Claim 1. A fullerene functionalized carbon nanotube, comprising one or more fullerenes and/or fullerene based molecules bonded to the carbon nanotube, **characterised in that** the bond between said fullerenes and/or fullerene based molecules and said carbon nanotube is covalent and is formed on the outer surface wall and/or inner surface wall of said carbon nanotube.

Further details are claimed around the size of the fullerene and how it is covalently bonded. The CNT can be a single, double or multi-walled nanotube and can be formulated as a solid, liquid, gas or paste, deposited or synthesized on a surface.

There is also claimed a method for its manufacture and for devices using it. (Read the full article [here](#)).

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