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EUROPEAN PATENT PROSECUTION

In today's economy, intellectual property is playing an increasingly important role in valuing enterprises. In many industries, intellectual property is the most valuable asset companies possess, outweighing traditional assets such as plants, equipment and real estate. Unlike tangible assets, however, intellectual property is basically a legal instrument, the protection of which should be a fundamental part of virtually any company's corporate strategy. Of the various intellectual property rights available, patents have traditionally been the most valuable asset, especially to technology-intensive enterprises. Jones Day is one of the few global law firms that provide legal advice on a worldwide basis in connection with the prosecution and protection of intellectual property rights, including patents. The clients of the Firm are afforded access to an experienced team of patent attorneys and

lawyers dedicated to, among other things, the application for and prosecution of patents globally.

In Europe, patents are filed and prosecuted by an experienced team of Jones Day patent attorneys and intellectual property lawyers in our office in Munich, home to the European Patent Office, the German Patent and Trademark Office, and the German Federal Patent Court. Our patent attorneys are experienced in all patent-related activities, including the filing of patent applications, patent prosecution and the representation of clients in opposition and invalidation appeal proceedings. The scientific experience of Jones Day patent attorneys covers a broad spectrum of fields, from biology, biotechnology, chemistry and pharmacy to physics, mechanics, electrical engineering and software. Consequently, Jones Day's patent

attorneys advise enterprises in virtually every science- and technology-oriented industry.

The patent attorneys in Munich are an integrated part of the Firm's Intellectual Property Practice and work closely with the intellectual property lawyers in Munich and the other European offices of Jones Day, as well as their counterparts in the United States and Asia. They provide global and multidisciplinary services to a wide range of national and multinational enterprises, ranging from advising on strategic decisions concerning the filing of intellectual property rights in various jurisdictions to the exploitation thereof, including their licensing and enforcement in patent infringement suits. The service provided by the Munich intellectual property team also includes freedom-to-operate/product-clearing opinions to safeguard the introduction of new products or processes into the market. Due to Jones Day's globally integrated structure, the Firm is capable of providing such opinions for both US and European jurisdictions.

The following is a more detailed list of legal services provided by the intellectual property lawyers and patent attorneys of Jones Day in connection with the protection and exploitation of scientific and technological innovations by our clients:

- Strategic counseling and portfolio management regarding patents/utility models.

- Filing and prosecuting patent applications before the European Patent Office and the German Patent and Trademark Office.
- Opposition and appeal proceedings before the European Patent Office and the German Patent and Trademark Office.
- Infringement proceedings involving patents and/or utility models.
- Nullity proceedings (patents) before the German Federal Patent Court and the German Federal Supreme Court.
- Registration of utility models before the German Patent and Trademark Office.
- Cancellation proceedings (utility models).
- Infringement, validity and freedom-to-operate/product-clearing opinions.
- License agreements and collaboration agreements.
- Due diligence.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information regarding our Intellectual Property Practice, please contact your principal Firm representative or the lawyer listed in this publication. General email messages may be sent using our "Contact Us" form, which can be found at www.jonesday.com.

LAWYER CONTACTS

FRANKFURT

49.69.9726.3939

Dr. Dorothee Weber-Bruls

dweber@jonesday.com

MUNICH

49.89.20.60.42.200

Dr. Martin Weber

mweber@jonesday.com

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