



Intellectual Property Licensing Agreements in Investment in UK

Andrew Ruxrungtham *

Department of Business and Law, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia

DESCRIPTION

The importance of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in the global economy has increased rapidly in recent decades, particularly in the context of investment strategies in the UK. Intellectual property rights have historical roots stretching back centuries, with the earliest iteration appearing in the form of patent law to protect inventors from unauthorized copying of their inventions. The Statute of Monopolies in England in 1624 marked a pivotal moment, laying the foundations of modern patent law by establishing principles that prioritized innovation while balancing public access to knowledge. This far-reaching act paved the way for a formalized IPR system that would continue to evolve over the centuries.

With the advent of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th and 19th centuries, the need for a legal structure to protect innovative ideas became increasingly important. The United Kingdom responded by developing a comprehensive body of law governing patents, copyright and trademarks. The Patents Act 1907 and the Copyright Act 1911 were notable pieces of legislation that sought to bring these rights into the country's legal framework. The establishment of the UK Intellectual Property Office (IPO) in 2005 further simplified these protections, underscoring the government's commitment to fostering an environment conducive to innovation and investment. The globalization of markets in the late 20th and early 21st centuries has catalyzed the relevance of intellectual property rights in international investment decisions. The UK, as a major financial centre, has seen a surge of foreign investment driven by the potential of patent protection and the ability to enforce copyright. The implementation of the UK licensing framework has significantly facilitated investors' ability to monetize their intellectual property, further integrating intellectual property into the fabric of economic growth.

A number of notable researchers have made significant contributions to the field of intellectual property and its integration into investment strategies in the UK. One such figure is Sir Hugh Laddie, a prominent intellectual property lawyer who has advocated for clearer and more effective legal

structures in the areas of copyright and patents. His influential legal writings and decisions have helped shape contemporary understandings of intellectual property rights in the UK, particularly in dealing with the complexities of international law. Another important figure is Sir Robin Jacob, a former judge of the UK Court of Appeal and one of the leading authorities on intellectual property law. His decisions, notably *Bharat Electronics v. BPL Ltd.*, were instrumental in defining the scope of technology patents and the concept of fair use, bringing clarity that benefits both investors and innovators.

The positive implications of IPR licensing agreements for investment in the UK cannot be overstated. Firstly, these agreements encourage innovation by ensuring that inventors are paid for their creations. By providing a legal framework that protects investments in research and development, IPR fosters a culture of innovation. Investors are more likely to fund innovative projects when they can be assured that their investment will not be cooperated by unauthorized use. Secondly, IPR licensing agreements enhance the UK's attractiveness as a destination for foreign direct investment. By demonstrating a strong legal framework for protecting intellectual property, the UK has established itself as an investment-friendly environment. This is particularly relevant in sectors such as biotechnology, technology and pharmaceuticals, where investment depends on strong patent protection.

On the contrary, the IPR licensing framework has a number of disadvantages. One of the main criticisms relates to the risk of stifling competition and innovation. Overly strict IPR laws can lead to monopolistic practices, where large companies exploit their intellectual property to keep out smaller entities and new entrants. This can limit innovation and differentiation, leading to stagnation in some areas of technology. In addition, the complex nature of these agreements often leads to legal complications that can deter investment. French the costs of obtaining and maintaining patents and the risk of litigation can be prohibitive, particularly for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) that do not have the resources to meet these challenges.

Correspondence to: Andrew Ruxrungtham, Department of Business and Law, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia, E-mail: andrew@ruxrungtham.com

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