INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP) CONTRACTS

We help businesses draft and negotiate commercial agreements relating to IP

Assignment agreements:

- Required to transfer IP rights.

Confidentiality agreements (CDA, NDA etc.):

- Always useful, sometimes critical.

Know how licences:

- Transfer of knowledge.

Patent licences:

- Use of inventions.

Trade mark licences:

- Benefitting from branding.

• Design licences:

- Products that fit someone else's mould.

Software licences and development

Use of off-the-shelf or bespoke software.

• Software as a Service (SaaS)

- Software use, but via a website.

Semiconductor technology licences

- Chips and chip technology.

· Contract research services

 Conducting research for a customer, generating new IP and using existing technology.

• Evaluation agreement

- Try before you buy/collaborate.

Joint development and commercialisation

 Working together to first develop a product or service, and then one or both parties exploiting the new technology.

Product dossier licences (e.g. for medicines marketing authorisations):

- Data and copyright, with regulatory rights thrown into the mix.

Broad technology licences:

- Licence covering multiple types of IP

Manufacturing and distribution agreements:

- Use of manufacturing technology to make proprietary products for customers
- Giving distributors rights to use product and branding IP for distribution activities.

Franchise agreements:

 Use of branding and possibly technology, combined with services and other support.

Funding agreements:

- Spending money and stating what the recipient must do with the output.

• Collaboration agreements:

- Inputs, working together, outputs, commercial exploitation.
- Private businesses and universities.

Material transfer agreements:

- Send someone things to play with.

Data transfer agreement:

- Send someone data to play with.

• Data licence/access terms

Commercial or research access to a dataset.

• Consumer law compliant terms

Selling to consumers in a way that is legal.

IP THEMES TO CONSIDER

- 1. How much will be paid for transferring or using the IP, and when exactly? Are you worried the technology will be shelved?
 - 2. Who will own new IP? Will you have access to what you need (whether you own or licence the IP)?
 - 3. Who is going to progress IP applications through to registration, and who will pay for that?
- 4. Who is going to maintain registered IP, and who will pay for that?
- 5. What happens if the IP or its use infringes someone else's IP?
- 6. What happens if someone attacks the IP (e.g. claims it's not valid)?
- 7. What if products made using the IP don't work or contain defects? Who is identified on the product?
- 8. How long does the arrangement last and how do you get out of it?
 - 9. Do you still need to use what you are giving away?
 - 10. What liability is fair to you take on?

HOW CAN HLS HELP?

Special arrangements and packages for early-stage businesses and UK ventures.

Consultancy arrangement for IP attorney firms (under our name or yours)

Seasonal and overflow support for in-house legal teams.

Managing IP projects (including instructing IP attorneys) if you don't have the time!

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