Intellectual Property Strategy

Intellectual property activities are a key element in supporting our company's sustainable growth. Based on this view, we promote our intellectual property strategy that forms the foundation of our business competitiveness and drives our growth strategy. We deploy our intellectual property activities around three pillars: "defensive" measures aimed at protecting our business and securing freedom to operate; "offensive" measures through the development and effective use of a strong patent portfolio with an awareness of entry barriers; and "co-creation and collaboration" with a diverse range of players, which is essential for addressing social issues such as reducing environmental impact.

Our Vision

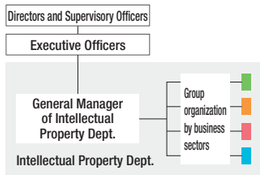
Building the foundation for business competitiveness, achieving business growth, and enhancing corporate value by proactively advancing intellectual property activities that encompass "offense" and "defense" strategies, as well as "co-creation and collaboration."

Basic Policy

1. Promote activities in line with our business strategies
2. Create global business value
3. Strive to utilize all technological development accomplishments
4. Respect rights and comply with the law

Implementation Structure Closer to the Business

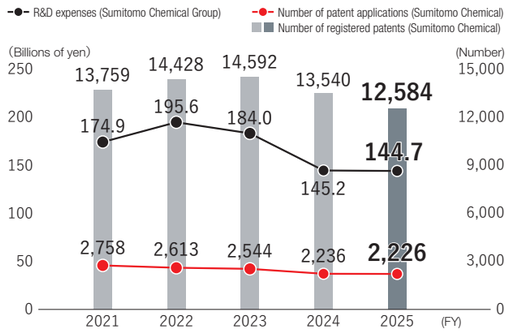
The Intellectual Property Department organizes teams tailored to each business sector. It works in coordination with intellectual property teams within business divisions and research institutes to formulate intellectual property strategies, manage patent portfolios, handle patent applications and rights acquisition, and conduct research and analysis

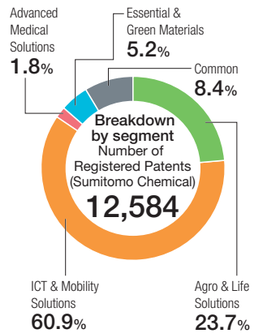


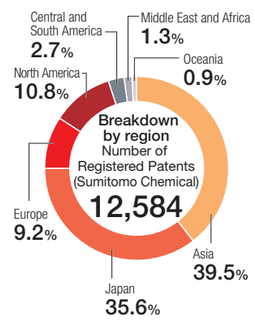
Patent Portfolio

We are strengthening our patent filings and patenting in key areas, particularly in AGL and ICTM, which we have identified as our growth drivers, while quickly and appropriately disposing of unnecessary intellectual property assets through analysis of business value and cost data to build a leaner and more robust patent portfolio.

Intellectual property-related achievements







DX Initiatives in the IP Field

We are proactively using rapidly advancing generative AI technology to enhance the efficiency of our intellectual property operations. As generative AI models and intellectual property-related tools are being released one after another, responsible persons from each department share the status of their review and coordinate with one another through the community to consider the implementation of various tools and further expand the use of generative AI. This has helped us streamline and enhance the efficiency of investigative operations and save cost through AI translation. We also quickly grasp technical and business overviews through AI analysis of patent and business information and utilize them in IP landscape.



Search
- Search set formation
- Prior art search
- Assessment of third-party patent risks through Freedom to Operate (FTO) searches
- Improvement of review and analyzability through AI summarization and extraction of issues and case studies
- Utilization in IP landscape

Application examination
- Cost savings through AI translation
- Considerations for preparing application specifications and response documents in an interactive format

Implementing an Intellectual Property Strategy Aligned with Business Strategy

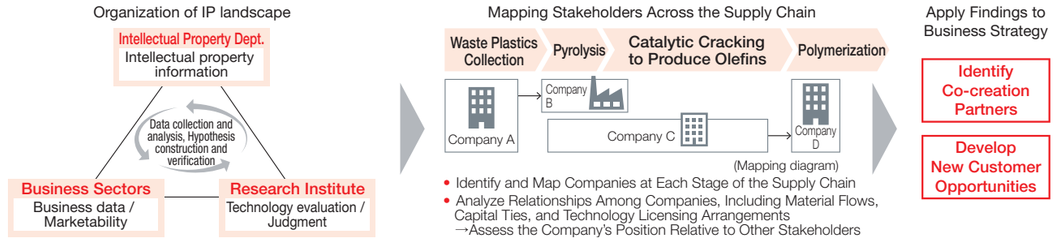
Case study

～Intellectual Property Activities in Chemical Recycling of Waste Plastics～

Aiming to become a company that leverages innovative technologies to solve society's challenges, we are engaged in business in four areas: food, ICT, healthcare, and the environment. Intellectual property activities are being promoted as an integral part of our business operations, as they form a key function supporting the business strategy.

In the environmental field, we are exploring a chemical recycling business model aimed at helping to reduce environmental impacts. In this model, oil recovered from waste plastics through thermal treatment is used as a starting material and converted into olefin through catalytic cracking, before being returned to polymerization processes. The Intellectual Property Department, business sectors and research institutes work closely together to identify core areas in which the Company has a competitive advantage, areas to be licensed to third parties, and areas for co-creation. Based on this assessment, we determine whether to disclose technologies publicly or pursue intellectual property protection, and advance patent filing and portfolio-building activities accordingly. This business involves a complex ecosystem of diverse stakeholders, making it difficult to collect information and gain an accurate understanding of the overall landscape. To address this challenge, we combine business information held by our business units with intellectual property information to analyze the supply chain as a whole, identify potential collaboration partners and competitors, and clarify the positions and relationships of relevant companies. This enables stakeholders within the Company to develop a shared view of the business landscape and supports the development and evaluation of business scenarios.

Supply Chain Analysis and Strategic Application in the Chemical Recycling Business for Waste Plastics



Special dialogue between Nobuaki Mito, the President, and Tomoki Sawai, Director, WIPO Japan Office

The Role and Importance of Intellectual Property in Companies

At "Intellectual Property and Management Symposium" organized by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), our President Nobuaki Mito had a discussion with Tomoki Sawai, Director, WIPO Japan Office, on February 17, 2026. Drawing on his experiences from his time as General Manager of Intellectual Property Department, the President himself conveyed a message regarding the importance of intellectual property for companies.



Message regarding intellectual property shared in the discussion

Understanding the importance of intellectual property and leveraging it in business management
- It is essential for a company's management to recognize the importance of intellectual property. It is also essential that everyone from research, development and business sectors, not just those from Intellectual Property Department, recognizes the importance of intellectual property and apply that understanding to their daily work.
- Management must develop strategies based on an understanding that intellectual property is becoming increasingly complex in response to changes in the business environment. It is necessary to focus limited resources on its own strengths to identify a winning formula. It is important to determine how to incorporate intellectual property strategies into business and R&D activities.
- As a rights holder, how we utilize and monetize intellectual property is a very important issue.

Intellectual property strategy for a global company
- Our overseas sales ratio exceeds 70%, and it is extremely important to know how to protect our rights overseas.
- Rather than adopting a one-size-fits-all portfolio, we must build a patent portfolio aligned with business sector-specific strategies according to conditions of market countries.

WIPO Japan Office held "Intellectual Property and Management Symposium - Special Dialogue Featuring President Mito of Sumitomo Chemical"

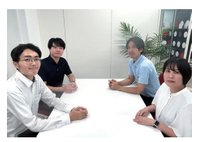
TOPICS

Informal Meeting Between the President and Young Employees from Intellectual Property Department (May 2026)

A discussion was held centered on the perspectives of young employees in the Intellectual Property Department on work and their careers.

Voice of young members

Through the roundtable discussion with the President Mito, I strongly sensed the high level of expectations for leveraging intellectual property in business. I also learned the importance of creating value through collaboration with other departments, not just within Intellectual Property Department. The President's message of "listen carefully to others" and "enjoy your work" left a strong impression on me. That kind of attitude helps broaden one's horizons. I was greatly inspired by the opportunity to speak with the President in person. The experience strengthened my motivation and gave me a fresh perspective on my work.



Young participants of Intellectual Property Department