



Proposed WIPO Digital Timestamping Service

Presentation to Member States

Geneva
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Background

Digital Timestamping

- In line with WIPO's response to digital transformation
- Data management for innovation actors is important especially when innovation is increasingly being driven by data in a digitized world
- One of possible services WIPO could provide in support of innovation and creative activities

What is Digital Timestamping?

- Electronic signed certifications that **prove the existence of a digital file at a specific date and time**
- Trusted timestamping means that you can say with a high level of certainty that the date and time on the **timestamp is accurate and hasn't been tampered with**
- The certification of existence and possession of a digital file is **provided by a trusted TimeStamping Authority (TSA)**

WIPO Digital Timestamping Service

Key Points

- WIPO aims to become a provider of an online Digital Timestamping Service to innovators and other actors **in support of innovation and creativity**
- WIPO's service would be a **fee charging service** allowing it to recover the cost of the service
- WIPO will issue a certificate of existence/possession of a digital file but **will not receive or store the original file** or data.
- **The original file remains with the user of the service** locally on their computers. WIPO neither receives the original file, nor has any information about the content.
- **WIPO will not ascertain or arbitrate the ownership of the original work**, only certify the existence/possession of the digital work at a specific point in time

Why WIPO?

- Remaining true to its mandate, WIPO could assist innovators and creators globally in coping with their own digital transformation in the era of digital data-driven innovation
- WIPO could supplement existing timestamping services in the market, particularly covering those countries where no such service is available
- WIPO is uniquely positioned to provide trusted expertise and capability in delivering Global IP services, which could be leveraged to assist innovators and creators in managing their original works (digital files or data)

Initial Investigation of Market Demands

- There are gaps in the market that WIPO can address by providing digital timestamping services to cover countries where such a service is not available
- WIPO should run its own timestamping services as a trusted TimeStamping Authority (TSA)
- Technical feasibility is confirmed as long as the WIPO TSA infrastructure complies with accepted international standards

Target Use Cases

- Management of trade secrets and other undisclosed files/data (source codes, research data)



Owners of Trade Secrets

- Management of preparatory works before IP filing (patents, designs and trademarks) in case for a future need of defense



WIPO | PCT
WIPO | MADRID
WIPO | HAGUE

- Management of IP-related legal documents (licenses, non-disclosure agreement)



Other actors

WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

Technologies to be used

- As a TSA, WIPO would use secure standards-compliant systems and technology, called **Public Key Infrastructure (PKI)**, to ensure a high level of confidentiality and integrity
- **WIPO must meet requirements set out in industry standards** such as IETF RFC 3161 among others, and be independently audited in order to operate as a TSA

Value Chain for Digital Timestamping



Resources and Timelines

- Initial investment for a pilot project of WIPO Digital Timestamping service in 20/21 is about 1.3M Swiss francs
- WIPO aims to establish the business and technical infrastructure in 2020 for the launch of the initial service
- The initial investment cost would be recovered within 2 to 5 years from the launch



Thank You

Additional information can be found in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document