

## Corporate Report

a report by

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*Rominvent SA*

Rominvent SA is one of the leading firms based in Romania dealing with industrial property (IP) matters. The firm was established in 1953 to assist Romanian and foreign clients in the IP field. As a consequence, Rominvent SA is dedicated exclusively to IP and acts as a registered patent and trademark attorneys firm before the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and the Romanian State Office for Patents and Trademarks (OSIM).

Having a long tradition in the field of IP, Rominvent SA has built up a strong local and international clientele.

### Profile of Rominvent SA

Rominvent SA is an IP firm dedicated to assisting its clients in every way possible to achieve their legal goals.

In an emerging market such as Romania's, the needs of foreign clients to become thoroughly familiar with all relevant aspects of the local legislation is a top priority for the firm.

The firm has concentrated all its staff in Bucharest. Rominvent SA's in-house patent and trademark attorneys number over 20 and the permanent in-house support staff over 40.

The essential aspects of our activity are handled entirely in-house. In addition, Rominvent SA co-operates with an efficient and flexible network of high-level, specialised external collaborators: translators, searchers, photographers, experts and attorneys at law. Rominvent SA is, under all circumstances, dedicated to the complete representation of any client and to working at all times for the benefit and betterment of the client.

In everyday work, the firm is guided by the desire to keep our clients properly informed. The duty of confidentiality, both in conduct and as regards the client's legal privilege, does, of course, extend to all matters of information communicated with the client and does not end at the conclusion of the period of representation.

Over the last decade, the firm has undergone constant expansion. The firm's clients, apart from Romanian firms, include foreign companies, directly or through associates. They are from the five continents but mainly from North America, Asia and Europe.

The firm is a member of leading professional associations such as Association Internationale pour la Protection de la Propriete Intellectuelle (AIPPI), International Trademark Association (INTA), Licensing Executives Society (LES) and Anti-Counterfeiting Group (ACG).

### Range of Services

Rominvent SA is primarily involved in all aspects of IP:

- patents;
- trademarks;
- industrial designs;
- integrated circuits topographies; and
- unfair competition.

These constitute the services needed by the clients to conduct an efficient IP policy. In particular:

- auditing;
- counselling;
- protection;
- oppositions;
- searches;
- licensing, franchising, coexistence agreements;
- litigations; and
- negotiations.

The firm's areas of operation are:

- Romania;
- WIPO; and
- all other countries through our network of associates.

The services are provided in English, French and German. Rominvent is the oldest and one of the most prominent firms engaged in the practice of IP laws in Romania.



Now, we are in a position to introduce Rominvent as an experienced group with a new identity in concordance with market economy lines.

### Patent Practice

The patent department is made up of a multifaceted and highly qualified team combining a wealth of IP law experience with a vast technical knowledge in the field that ranges from biotechnology to chemical, mechanical to electrical engineering, and material science and electronics.

Our patent services include filing, prosecution and drafting of patent/design applications, patent searches and infringement, conducting appeals, oppositions and so on.

Also, our patent department has long experience in dealing with the protection of Romanian patent applications abroad, handling most of them using both national and international protection methods.

### Trademark and Geographical Indications Practice

The trademark department consists of a specialised group of attorneys and agents who are involved in drafting, filing and prosecution of applications for registration under national laws in Romania and international laws for Romanian applications abroad.

In addition, they apply the whole procedure to geographical indications. They conduct trademark availability searches, solve provisional refusals of protection under national or international laws, record licences, assignments, changes of name or address and proceed with renewals as well.

We also represent clients before the trademark opposition board of the Romanian Patent and Trademark Office.

The trademark department conducts availability searches for trademarks filed to registration and registered in Romania under national and international laws.

### Design Practice

In the field of industrial design, we have many design attorneys who are well trained in assisting

clients in drafting, filing and further prosecution of the applications. They are also able to solve provisional refusal of protection under international law and to file oppositions for design application under national law, as well as proceed with renewal.

### Integrated Circuits Topographies

Our agency also has specialists who are attested as attorneys in the field of 'integrated circuits topographies' and are able to handle the various procedures requested until the title of protection is granted. Our specialists are also able to defend the owner's rights against any infringement.

### Legal Matters

Legal counsellors from the legal department are dedicated to assisting clients in all legal issues regarding IP rights. The range of legal advisership is wide, including the drafting of contracts and documents, providing legal opinions or analyses of laws impacting IP owners. The legal counsellors represent the client in litigations before the State Office, court and/or arbitration bodies.

### IP Litigations

Rominvent SA has a long-established and acknowledged experience in matters of IP litigations. The firm has a strong and efficient relationship with the most competent Romanian attorneys at law specialising in IP. The co-operation between Rominvent SA and attorneys at law is intense and fruitful. We currently cross-opinion on specific legal points in their fields of competence. Reciprocally, they regularly ask Rominvent SA for advice in our areas of expertise.

### IP in Romania

Romania is a member of many conventions, treaties and agreements on IP, including the Paris Convention, the Washington Treaty on the PCT, the Madrid Agreement on the International Trademark Registration, the Hague Agreement on the International Design Registration and so on.

After 1990, the whole legislation specific to IP was drafted. This provides modern regulations, harmonised with the international and European provisions in the field. ■