

Technology Market Scan

INTERNATIONAL

Cybersquatting cases rise to record levels

Cybersquatting is on the rise, according to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), which published statistics last week on case filings under its international Internet domain name dispute settlement system. The WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Centre in 2007 recorded 2,156 complaints filed under the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (UDRP), 18 per cent more than in 2006 and 48 per cent more than in 2005. The number of cases for the first time surpassed the record established in the year 2000, immediately after the introduction of the UDRP, and for the first time exceeded 2,000 cases.

WIPO Deputy Director General Francis Gurry said the rise in cases after years of declining numbers raises concerns about the possible introduction of new Top Level Domains (such as .com) announced by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) for late 2008.

"The potentially useful purposes of any new domains would be frustrated if these get filled predominantly with automated pay-per-click content," said Gurry. This is not just an issue of protecting the rights of trademark holders, but also an issue of the reliability of the addressing system of the Internet in matching interested parties with authentic subjects." Gurry said.

Gurry named domain name "tasting" and privacy or proxy registration services as major problems for trademark owners and case handlers. ICANN already has reacted with regard to tasting - a practice that allowed short term registrations of names for free - by passing rules requiring tasters to pay the ICANN fee in the future. Tasting was interesting for, among others, so-called parking websites that benefit from pay-per-click advertisements posted on these sites.

Torsten Bettinger, panellist for WIPO's arbitration centre and author of a recently published handbook on domain

name law, said: "We see a lot of so-called 'parking websites' that allow to profit from the click-through traffic. I think it accounts for the main part of the growth in case numbers."

While in the past grabbers intended to sell the domain names to trademark owners in the first place, the new business model has been to make money from click-rates. Not only domain 'parkers' themselves, but also service providers who offer the parking services should be held liable, said Bettinger, who represents a German company in a complaint before the German Court of Justice.

Bettinger agreed that additional cybersquatting cases can be expected when new TLDs are introduced by ICANN. Careful preparations against possible grabbing and cybersquatting and a no-rush approach therefore are to be recommended to ICANN, Bettinger said, adding that there already has been improvement in anti-cybersquatting policies with newly introduced TLDs like .asia.

Despite WIPO concerns about grabbing of addresses in new TLDs, the majority of cases concern .com addresses, which make up nearly three quarters (73.6 per cent) of all cases. The total number of disputed .com domains is 2,424, up from 2,139 in 2006. Second in the ranking is .net with 287 in 2007 (up from 203 in 2006). The .info domain, one of the new domain names, ranks third with dispute filings up from 78 to 245. New domains may not be as interesting for the parking model because of lower traffic, Bettinger suggested.

Case filings from the country code TLDs (ccTLDs, like .ch for Switzerland) that use WIPO for dispute settlement have risen from 201 (2006) to 251 (2007) with .fr-addresses leading the statistics accounting for 75 disputed names, up from fourth place in 2006 (with only 20 disputed names). Disputes related to Spanish and Swiss ccTLDs rank second and third.

The top five sectors for complaints were biotechnology and pharmaceuticals, banking and finance, Internet and information technology, retail, and entertainment, WIPO said. Pharmaceutical

manufacturers remained the top filers due to numerous variations of protected names registered for websites offering or linking to online sales of medicines, it said.

What also looks pretty stable is the country of origin of the complaints and country of residence of complainants - with the USA leading both lists by far. Altogether, WIPO decided 12,334 UDRP-based cases between December 1999 and December 2007. Also by far the majority of decisions of WIPO expert panels result in the transfers of the disputed domains. Of the three-quarters of cases decided by the panels - one quarter is settled without panel decision - 85 per cent ordered a transfer.

Yet there are also critical voices asking for a review of the UDRP to allow more effective counteraction against reverse domain-name hijacking. According to these critics, there are a number of UDRP filings that do deliver any proof for bad-faith registration and even bank on false statements hoping that the case respondent will not answer and they can win the domain. While some cases of reverse domain name hijacking can be retrieved via WIPO's extended online legal index page for UDRP case there are no recordings for 2007.

WIPO is one of three active UDRP providers accredited with ICANN, the private sector-led governance body for the domain market. The US-based National Arbitration Forum (NAF) a month ago also spoke of rising case filings. It recorded 1,805 cases in 2007. The Asian Domain Name Dispute Resolution Center recorded only 34 filings in 2007. A new competitor in arbitration service is the Czech Arbitration Court (CAC), based in Prague, which has been accepted by the ICANN as of January this year as UDRP provider.

<http://www.ip-watch.org>

ASIA-PACIFIC

Database of telecentres

The Asia-Pacific region is currently home to thousands of telecentres, which provide many communities with

their first chance to go online or learn about computer basics. These centres help to improve the lives of many, for instance, by enabling farmers and rural entrepreneurs learn about market trends, business opportunities, and how to market their products.

In order to foster development of these centres, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has launched a Telecentre Online Database. The database, covering more than 12,000 telecentres in 16 countries, aims to support research and the exchange of information among people working in the field of telecentre development.

The database gives researchers a platform for taking stock of telecentre projects in the region. All information can be accessed by typing in key words, advanced searches based on specific criteria or by browsing a specific country or a selected telecentre project. The online database also provides statistical data related to telecentre projects in the region, including the number of telecentres per country and per geographic area.

The Telecentre Online Database is an output of a joint project carried out by the five regional commissions of the UN. The project aims to empower poor and disadvantaged communities - and women in particular - through transforming selected telecentres into knowledge hubs of a global knowledge network. These hubs will make it possible for community members to develop, organize, share and disseminate knowledge.

The Telecentre Online Database can be accessed at: <http://www.unescap.org/icstd/applications/cec>

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BANGLADESH

Pharma firms take to contract manufacturing

Domestic pharmaceutical companies, including Square Pharmaceuticals and Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, have slowly made inroads into the lucrative business of contract manufacturing of bulk drugs and formulations for global clients. At least four top companies are eyeing exports of about \$ 10 million this year through contract manufacturing deals with European pharma majors.

Low labour and power costs, depreciation of the US dollar against most currencies and comparative advantages for Bangladesh under the WTO's agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights have inspired many global pharma giants to set up their contract manufacturing base in the country, industry experts said.

Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, a leading pharma company, has signed agreements with two UK-based companies to manufacture their brands of cardiac, diabetic and hormone products. The company is also negotiating contract manufacturing deals with a German and a Dutch company.

The UK's Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) is one of the toughest registration processes for pharmaceutical products in the world.

Square Pharmaceuticals Ltd., the market-leader in Bangladesh, executed contract manufacturing deals worth \$ 1.5 million with two British companies last year. It was the first company to receive the MHRA accreditation in May 2007. "We are negotiating with some European countries and are hopeful we will get some new contracts after completion of the inspection procedures," Parvez Hashim, Executive Director, Square Pharmaceuticals said.

Hashim, however, declined to disclose the names of the British companies Square had received work orders from given the price sensitiveness. "The order size may not be big, what is more significant is the fact that by bagging

contract manufacturing deals, Bangladesh is now in the map of the main-line pharmaceutical industries," he said. The company exported products worth \$ 2.75 million in the previous fiscal but projects exports to more than double this year.

Another fast growing company Incepta Pharmaceuticals has also got manufacturing contracts from a German company and has initiated negotiations with two other German firms. "We will supply diabetic and hypertension products to the German company and we are hopeful that our annual export through contract manufacturing will cross \$ 2 million in 2008," Abdul Muktedir, Managing Director, Incepta Pharmaceuticals said. The company has received accreditation from The European Medicines Agency (EMA) that helps it get manufacturing contracts from European countries. It already has a GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices) Certificate of Europe.

<http://www.thedailystar.net>

CHINA

Software revenue up in early 2008

China's software sector generated 92.3 billion yuan of business revenue in the first two months of 2008, an increase of 28.7 per cent over the same period last year, according to official figures. The growth rate was 7.1 percentage points higher compared with the same period in 2007.

Specifically, the revenue of software products surged 25.5 per cent to 33.2 billion yuan. The income of software and technology services hit 16 billion yuan, up 38.3 per cent. The revenue generated from integrated circuit design jumped 22.2 per cent to 3 billion yuan.

<http://english.people.com.cn>

INDIA

MNCs share of cancer drug patent claims

358 of 413 drug patent applications for the disease in India are from top multi-

nationals. The recent legal reverses suffered by multinational majors Novartis and Roche over patents for cancer medicine could be the tip of a huge iceberg.

A city-based policy research group has found that multinational drug firms have filed over 350 patent applications for drugs used in cancer treatment.

An analysis of pharma patent applications pending with the patent office by the group, which did not wish to be identified, has put the number of cancer drug patent applications at 413. Of these, 358 came from top multinationals like Novartis, Aventis, Bristol Myers Squibb, Pfizer, Boehringer, Roche and Abbot.

The rush for patents on cancer medicine can be explained by the potential of the Rs 1,200 crore Indian market. With nearly 2.5 million patients, cancer is one of the ten leading causes of death in India. Data sources from the National Cancer Registry Programme show that over 700,000 new cases and 300,000 deaths occur annually due to cancer.

However, not all 413 applications will pass muster with the patent office, a patent expert warned. India does not give patents on drugs patented elsewhere before 1995.

The patent expert said only two drugs in the list of applications were granted patent in the USA after 1995. Most applications, people involved in the research said, are for derivatives or minor modifications of medicines that are not eligible for patents.

“Our analysis shows that most of these applications do not qualify for patents in India. Therefore, the patent examiners need to be very careful while scrutinising them,” the researcher who leads the study said.

The concerns of the researchers gain more significance in the backdrop of the Delhi High Court’s interim order allowing Cipla to market its anti-cancer drug, Erlontib, though Roche was granted a patent for it. Tarceva is the first and only cancer medicine to get a product patent (the patent that denies the entry of low-cost copycat versions of the medicine) in India.

The other cancer medicine, Glivec, from Novartis, was denied a patent in the country because the patent office felt that the medicine was an improvement of a known substance and hence non-patentable.

Novartis has appealed against the patent denial to the Intellectual Property Appellate Board (IPAB). The high-profile patent war has been considered a test case in pre-grant opposition of patent applications.

<http://www.business-standard.com>

Varsities may soon own patent rights

The Union government is likely to enact a law to create uniform legal framework for government-funded research and give universities and research institutions ownership and patent rights for their innovations. The matter is before the Cabinet and will shortly be moved to Parliament for approval, according to a source close to the development.

The move was initiated by National Knowledge Commission (NKC) Chairman Sam Pitroda as an incentive to encourage innovation, collaboration, licensing and commercialization in Indian institutes.

The law will be on the lines of the 1980 Bayh-Dole Act of America, which played a part in multiplying the number of patents filed by and granted to universities, the number of universities involved in patenting and licensing of inventions and in the number of new companies that were set up on the basis of new inventions licensed by universities.

Before the Bayh-Dole Act was enacted, America’s federal agencies owned about 28,000 patents, out of which only 5 per cent were licensed to industry for development of commercial products.

The proposed legislation will also help universities and research institutions file patents in their own name and forge commercialization processes with the industry. It may also allow the balance of any royalties or income earned after payment of expenses, to be ploughed

back into institutes for scientific research and education.

“Giving ownership rights to universities and linking such ownership with the patent system and the market, will make research a much more attractive option,” said a professor working with NKC.

According to the proposal, the government could have ‘march-in rights’ to protect certain public good(s) or matters pertaining to national security. The government could also be given the right to own an invention where the party decides not to retain title or fails to file the requisite patent application.

<http://www.business-standard.com>

REPUBLIC OF KOREA Convergence of IT and key industry sectors

The government said that it plans to invest 70.6 billion won (US\$ 71.2 million) this year to help the convergence of key industries with the information technology (IT) sector. The money, which will be spent on 31 different projects, will cover automobiles, ship-building, construction, medical and national defense, the Ministry of Knowledge Economy said.

“The decision follows the latest global trend to incorporate IT into various industrial fields including cars, ships and planes,” said a ministry official. He added, that in many cases the successful convergence of IT with these sectors could determine the overall competitiveness of the finished products and allow for a wider range of goods to be made that can create new demand.

One of the projects that will get research and development (R&D) support in the coming months is the so-called automotive software architecture that controls the rapidly growing number of electronic components that are built into cars. Such developments, if they become international standards, could help boost annual sales for local carmakers by 150 billion won. Others like attaching radio frequency identification (RFID) tags on ship parts could help cut back on construction costs and boost exports by US\$ 2 billion.

The Ministry said because the applications for IT-industrial convergence are limitless, it will establish a technical committee that can help draw a Korea-specific road map to enhance overall competitiveness in various fields.

<http://www.korea.net>

R&D spending to reach 5% of GDP

The Republic of Korea's research and development (R&D) spending will reach 5 per cent of the gross domestic product in 2012, with an emphasis on building up the country's basic science capabilities, the government said. The figure is a noticeable increase from the 3.49 per cent of the GDP spent on R&D last year, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology said. This year, Seoul plans to spend 10.8 trillion won (US\$ 10.6 billion) on science and technology development, with the total expected to reach 16.2 trillion in 2012.

The Ministry also said in a policy report to President Lee Myung-bak in Daejeon, located 160 kilometers south of Seoul, that half of the total R&D spending earmarked for 2012 is to be spent on basic science research. This year, only 25 per cent of the total will go into basic research.

The Republic of Korea is good at adaptation and practical application of technologies but lags in basic research fields compared to countries like the United States and Japan. This handicap has caused the country to rely on borrowed technology, which some claim has prevented the country from emerging as a technological leader.

The Ministry added funds are to be spent on building up research-oriented universities and offering greater incentives to laboratories that produce promising results. A total of 620 billion won (US\$ 610 million) is to be spent until 2012 so South Korean research universities can be built to compete with world leaders. The Ministry also said it plans to pay closer attention to linking R&D with training of experts and initiate moves that will give the civilian sector greater responsibility in the distribution of research funds.

In addition, policymakers said the government will cover 70 per cent of the personnel expenses for employees of state-run laboratories, an increase from the current 38 per cent, and set aside 200 billion won by 2013 to give pensions to people working in the science and technology field.

<http://www.korea.net>

ETRI begins T-DMB export

The T-DMB technology developed by the Electronic and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI) has been exported to other countries. ETRI said that it has decided to export 150,000 units of T-DMB system and devices, worth KRW 16.5 billion, to DMB Nusantara through its research firm, DMBro. DMB Nusantara is the state-owned holding company for the T-DMB service. Currently, it has four regional affiliates in four areas including Jakarta and Bandung.

The export will enable DMBro to get 20 per cent of ownership in DMB Nusantara and ETRI will receive a monthly fee for the use of the T-DMB operating system.

Last year, ETRI already organized a task force team with Viet Nam's Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology according to their agreement for cooperation. Currently, discussions are on at the working level to commercialize the T-DMB technology in Viet Nam. Also, it has submitted the technical advisory research report to Hong Kong's communications commission, requested by the Hong Kong government.

The research institute also plans to hold the roadshow for T-DMB in Cairo, Egypt, in the next month, as the Egyptian government expressed its interest in the T-DMB technology. In addition, Asia Space, a Malaysian communications service provider, also requested the support for the T-DMB technology to ETRI, in order to be prepared for the Beijing Olympics.

<http://english.etnews.co.kr>

THE PHILIPPINES

SMBs to spend US\$ 3 billion on ICT

Small and midsize businesses (SMBs) in the Philippines are expected to spend more than US\$ 3 billion on information communications technology (ICT) this year, up 12 per cent over 2007. According to a new study released Friday by Access Markets International Partners (AMI-Partners), this growth is driven by a boom in the country's overall economy and an increase in the number of small businesses (SBs) with up to 99 employees.

Some 99 per cent of all businesses in the Philippines are SMBs, which the research house describes as companies with up to 999 employees, and they are "significant contributors to technology spent" in the country, AMI-Partners' research analyst Ruth Garin, said in a press statement.

The bulk of this year's spending will be on telecommunications, said Singapore-based Garin, while spending on IT computing such as PCs, servers and printers, will make up over 25 per cent of the total ICT spend.

A majority of the SMBs' telecom spend in the next few years will be on traditional telephony, as Filipino businesses associate traditional telephony with reliability, according to AMI-Partners. Nonetheless, Internet Protocol (IP) telephony has started to make inroads into the local SMB market, Garin noted, but did not provide figures on how much had been invested in this technology.

In addition, Filipino SMBs are projected to spend over US\$ 800 million on computing by the end of 2008. Most of this expenditure will be on desktops, which these companies rank as their first priority in terms of investment. Garin added that SBs are expected to acquire more notebooks to cater to the growing number of mobile workers, and medium businesses will spend more on servers.

Security and storage applications will enjoy the fastest growth, at over 20 per cent, among SMBs in the Philippines in 2008, according to the AMI-Partners study. "The growing volume of e-mail

and use of digital media will be the top drivers for adopting or enhancing storage infrastructure,” explained Garin. “Security threats and the growing on-line population of the country will [boost] growth in security software spending.”

<http://www.zdnetasia.com>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION Nanotechnology goals

Russia's share of the global nanotechnology market is expected to reach 3 per cent in 2015, First Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov told the Federation Council today. He added that the sales of Russia's nanotechnology products would amount to some RUB 900bn (approximately US\$ 38.25 billion). Ivanov noted that roughly RUB 180bn (approximately US\$ 7.65bn) would be allocated for nanotechnology development, while VTB and Russian Venture Company's programmes provided additional opportunities to make nanotechnology products more profitable. He also said that the priority areas of nanotechnology development had been chosen.

<http://www.rbcnews.com>

SRI LANKA Knowledge economy

Sri Lanka needs transparent telecom regulation and lower costs to encourage the information technology business and become a 'knowledge economy', says a new World Bank study. Transparent and consistent regulation is important to encourage private investment in the IT sector which is important for the development of the industry, knowledge transfer and future economic growth, it says.

“The Telecommunications Regulatory Commission should be given greater independence and authority for its regulation, as well as complete transparency and public participation in its procedures,” says the study. It said the telecommunications market structure and regulator should be transformed into a more liberalized, technology-neutral model with few restrictions on cross ownership of multiple networks and services.

There should be no predetermined limitation on the number of licences or the type of services to be offered in the international services market. A liberal licensing regime to permit maximum entry will be instrumental to the growth and development of Sri Lanka's information infrastructure, said the study. It also said, “The commission should not report to a government official and it should not be staffed by ex-employees from the erstwhile incumbent.”

It recommended the creation of an enabling legal framework, saying the absence of laws and regulations leads to protracted legal situations, and that Sri Lanka “desperately needs” to establish a modern competition policy, and “resolve ambiguities surrounding the relationship between the commission and the government.”

Former TRC Director General Rohan Samarajiva and a director of LIRNEasia, a think tank, described the telecom licensing system as “opaque” and concurred that a more transparent regulation was needed.

The World Bank study said it will be increasingly important for Sri Lanka to reformulate the current regulatory regime for the TRC to remain independent from government. “In a country like Sri Lanka, which is being increasingly recognized as a destination for offshoring activities by foreign investors, the assurance of transparency and consistency from the telecom regulator will be important to build investors' confidence for future investments.”

Increased competition will lead to lower telecom prices that will allow the emerging BPO industry to flourish, the study said. “In turn, this will lead to increased job opportunities, economic growth and increased standards of living.” Foreign investors are deterred by the country's high telephone costs, it said.

<http://www.lankabusinessonline.com>

THAILAND ICT market set to strengthen growth

Thailand's information and communication technologies (ICT) market is

expected to be worth about Bt 608 billion this year, a growth of 13.1 per cent over last year's figure of Bt 537 billion, the Thailand ICT Outlook for 2008, a survey conducted by the National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre (Nectec), said.

The research team has classified the market into two categories: ICT and IT. Each category comprises four sub-market segments, of which the first three segments in both categories are computer hardware, software and computer services. According to the survey, the hardware market is valued at Bt 73 billion, the computer software market at Bt 67 billion and the computer services market at Bt 26 billion.

Meanwhile, the fourth segment for both categories is different - communications for the ICT market and data-communication equipment for the IT market. The communications market is expected to be worth Bt 441 billion, while the data-communication equipment market is valued at Bt 67 billion.

While the total ICT market is expected to grow 13.1 per cent this year, the IT market is expected to grow 14.4 per cent, rising to Bt 234 billion from Bt 204 billion last year. This growth rate is higher than the IT market's growth which was 6.3 per cent (compared to 2006 figures).

The computer services market is expected to post the highest growth rate at 26.9 per cent, and the computer software market is expected to grow at 17.6 per cent. These are followed by the data-communication equipment market and the computer hardware market at 15.9 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively.

The software and computer services markets have continued to grow over the last two years. The software market earned Bt 57 billion last year compared to Bt 50 billion in 2006. Meanwhile, the computer services segment posted a revenue of Bt 20 billion last year over Bt 17 billion in 2006.

“Software, computer services, and data-communication equipment markets are the three segments that are expected to report higher growth this year,” the report said.

The software market is expected to grow at 17.6 per cent, a growth rate which is higher than last year's 14.2 per cent.

The computer services market is expected to grow at 26.9 per cent, a significant rise from last year's growth rate of 17 per cent. The computer services market consists of system integration, network services, software, data and hardware maintenance services, data centre and disaster recovery centre, IT-related training, IT consulting and IT outsourcing. The top three computer services in terms of growth rate are IT outsourcing at 39.8 per cent, IT consulting at 30.7 per cent, and data centre and disaster recovery centre at 30.5 per cent.

The data-communication equipment market is expected to grow at 15.9 per cent, increasing from 6.8 per cent last year. "Only the computer hardware market is expected to have decreased growth this year. It is expected to grow at 6.8 per cent while last year it grew at 9.8 per cent," the report said.

Within the software market, enterprise software earned Bt 59 billion, growing at 16.2 per cent; mobile applications drew Bt 2.7 billion, growing at 36.1 per cent; and embedded software posted Bt 2,688 million, a growth of 39 per cent. Other segments in the software category - system and infrastructure software, middleware and applications such as customer relationship management and accounting systems - grossed Bt 2,240 million, a growth rate of 13.6 per cent.

The report also said that the factors driving growth in software include demand from the new government, the e-government scheme, wider software adoption from small and medium enterprises and the growth of cellphone users.

<http://nationmultimedia.com>

VIET NAM Expansion of biotech industry

Viet Nam's new biotechnology plan, approved recently by Deputy Prime Minister Nguyen Thien Nhan, aims to

develop the industry to compete with those of other Southeast Asian nations by 2020. The "General Plan for Developing and Applying Biotechnology in Viet Nam until 2020" is part of the country's efforts to develop biotechnology into a profitable high-end industry that can contribute to economic growth.

The strategy focuses on developing and applying biotechnology to agriculture, forestry, fishery, food processing, food hygiene, medicine and pharmaceuticals, health and the environment. Under the plan, the government will establish biotech businesses and create favourable markets for the products by 2010.

Scientific research and biotech development centres that meet the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) standards will be set up from 2011 to 2015. The plan also contains a two-stage human resources training proposal. For the first stage, from 2006 to 2010, the government plans to have more than 8,000 scientific graduates and postgraduates. In the second stage, from 2011 to 2015, the government expects to train more than 12,000.

<http://www.thanhniennews.com>

NORTH AMERICA

USA Emissions trading

After two days of conference sessions, exhibitor presentations via "Side Events" and interaction on the trade show floor, Carbon Forum America came to a close at the Moscone Center in San Francisco where the event took place on February 26-27, 2008. The event was jointly organized by the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA) and the Chicago-based show organizer Koelnmesse, Inc. More than 1,400 companies, consultants and other delegates, including 80 exhibitors, felt the buzz of this first-time event which surpassed all expectations, making it the largest carbon trade fair and conference ever held on US soil.

"This forum really generated an amazing spark of energy by bringing together

existing global market players with new entrants from the USA. There was a real buzz of enthusiasm about a market that is poised to take off in the USA," said Dirk Forrister, Managing Director of Natsource. Similar comments were heard from Evan Ard, Director of Marketing & Communication at Evolution Markets: "Carbon Forum America has instantly become the biggest and most relevant event in the carbon market in North America. There is a fast-growing interest in the USA and this event provided a great opportunity to present ourselves. The location choice is excellent and the organization was great. We also appreciated that attendees not only consisted of the Carbon community, but we saw Cleantech market players which provided some new opportunities for us." Added Bill Brownell, Partner Resources, Regulatory and Environmental Law at Hunton & Williams: "Carbon Forum America supplied a wealth of current information on legal, policy and regulatory factors influencing the developing carbon markets in the USA. The forum also gathered an impressive array of individuals from the USA, Europe and Asia shaping the carbon markets here and abroad."

This massive interest in the future of the cap and trade system in the USA is closely linked to expectations created by California's exploration of State-level trading of greenhouse gas emissions allowances. In addition, interest was fuelled by the RGGI alliance of the north-east states proposing a trading system and the many Bills before Congress. 39 US states are now involved in the US Climate Registry.

Carbon Forum America (CFA) is the first Industry Trade Show and Conference for the emerging CO₂ US market. CFA is a sister event of Carbon Expo in Cologne, Germany and Carbon Forum Asia in Singapore and is jointly organized by Koelnmesse Inc. and the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA).

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