

IPO TENTIAL

THE LATEST ASEAN
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY UPDATE



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Happy Mid-Autumn Festival

Greetings from Pintas IP Group

Pintas IP Group wishes you a joyous celebration and prosperous days ahead. Also, we are monitoring closely new directions from IP Offices in ASEAN countries.

In the interim, we are giving our best endeavors in ensuring operational continuity for your Asean IP needs through our customer service and e-services platforms, Pintas Digital Platform (eCommerce), and IP Hall Case Management System (management and monitoring module) accessible 24 hours every day.

Once again we thank you for your continued support in this uncertain time, our thoughts go out to those who have been affected by this difficult time and we pray for your good health and well-being.



Global Patent Starts Here: Accelerated Patent Grants Through Singapore

What IP owners and overseas firms need to know before filing in Singapore

With the increasing urgency of securing intellectual property rights, the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS) has introduced the SG Patents Fast programme, effective 20 May 2025. This initiative is designed to help applicants obtain faster office actions which may contribute to a shorter overall time-to-grant for patent applications filed in Singapore.

The SG Patents Fast programme replaces the earlier SG IP FAST pilot programme, which concluded in December 2024. Building on feedback from the industry, the new programme introduces simplified eligibility requirements and a more efficient application pathway—offering greater flexibility and value to both local innovators and foreign applicants using Singapore as a regional IP hub.

A Faster Route to Patent Protection – Fast 4 or Fast 8?

One of the primary advantages of the SG Patents Fast programme is its potential to significantly shorten prosecution timelines. Under this new framework, applicants can expect earlier office actions, significantly reducing the prolonged waiting times typically associated with traditional examination procedures. This accelerated timeline is especially valuable for businesses seeking to enter the market quickly, secure funding, or negotiate licensing agreements with stronger IP positioning.

Applicants can now choose between two speeds of acceleration:

- SG Patents Fast 4: Receive the first office action within 4 months of a successful application.
- SG Patents Fast 8: Receive the first office action within 8 months of a successful application.

This dual-track approach allows businesses to tailor their filing strategy based on market readiness and commercial urgency.

Official Acceleration Fees:

Request Type	SG Patents Fast 4	SG Patents Fast 8
Search & Examination (PF11)	SGD 1,800	SGD 900
Examination only (PF12)	SGD 1,200	SGD 600
Response to Examination Objections (PF13A)	SGD 150	SGD 150

(Note: These are additional to the standard filing fees for Patents Form 11 or 12.)

Strategic Filing Flexibility with No-Fee Extensions

A particularly noteworthy update is the introduction of a fee-free extension window. From 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2026, applicants can request an extension of up to 18 months to file a request for examination. This provides greater control over filing strategy while preserving your early priority date. This option is ideal for innovators still developing their technology, evaluating market readiness, or aligning with internal investment cycles – offering a rare blend of speed and flexibility.

Streamlined for PCT Applicants

For applicants entering the national phase from the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) with an International Search Report prepared by IPOS, the documentation requirements are now simplified. This is especially helpful for international applicants managing multi-jurisdictional filings and ensures faster onboarding into the SG Patents Fast scheme.

Accelerated Protection Beyond Borders

By leveraging the SG Patents Fast programme, IPOS facilitates faster patent examinations both within ASEAN through ASEAN Patent Examination Cooperation (ASPEC) and beyond via the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH), making the SG Patents Fast programme a strategic entry point for securing regional IP rights across Southeast Asia and beyond.

Why Work with Pintas IP Group?

At Pintas IP Group, we don't just file patents — we help you create business impact through IP. As a leading regional IP service provider, we support both IP owners and international law firms in navigating the SG Patents Fast process with clarity, confidence, and commercial foresight.

Our experienced team will:

- Assess patentability of your invention
- Prepare high-quality patent specifications tailored for expedited prosecution
- Advise on regional patent protection expansion using ASPEC and PPH

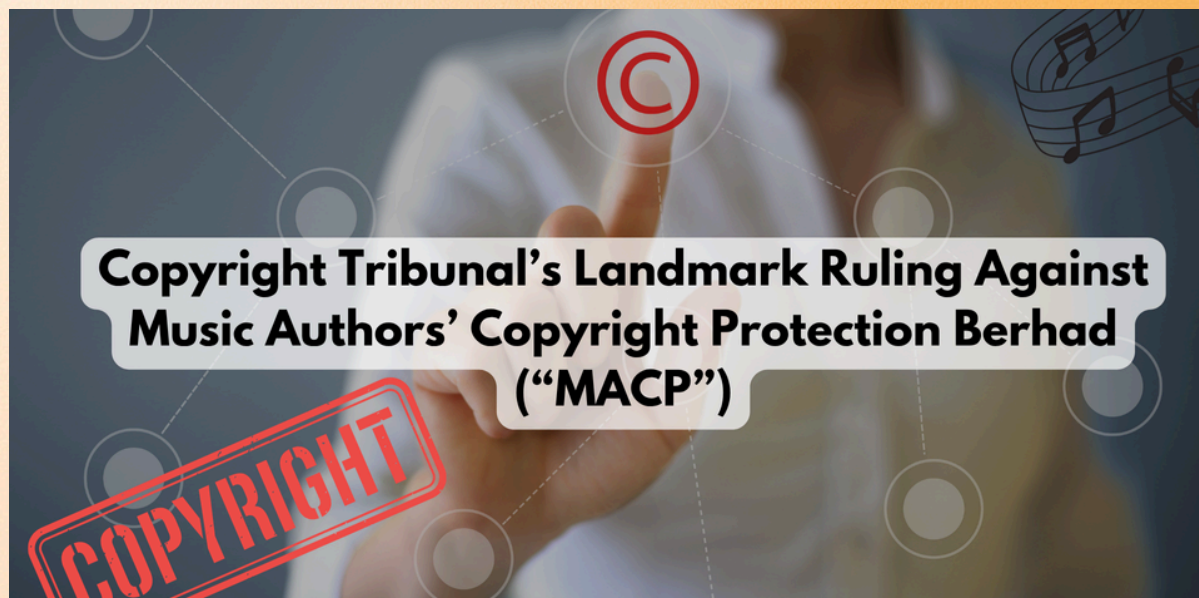


Serve as your trusted Singapore partner for local and international patent filings, providing strategic representation across multiple jurisdictions.

We understand that every patent is more than a document — it's a business asset. With the SG Patents Fast programme, there's now a smarter way to protect and commercialise it.

Move First. File Smart. Win Faster.

If speed, flexibility, and strategic value matter to your IP journey — now is the time to act. With SG Patents Fast, you can cut through delays, secure stronger rights, and position your innovation for commercial success.



Copyright Tribunal's Landmark Ruling Against Music Authors' Copyright Protection Berhad ("MACP")

Royalty Transparency in Malaysia: Copyright Tribunal's Landmark Ruling Against Music Authors' Copyright Protection Berhad ("MACP")

Abdulkarim Al Ali ("the Applicant"), the composer of the hit song "Casablanca", believed his royalty payments from Music Authors' were far too low compared to the song's success. Despite repeated emails, MACP did not provide clear answers or timely adjustments to his royalty share. Feeling stonewalled, the Applicant brought the matter before the Copyright Tribunal ("the Tribunal").

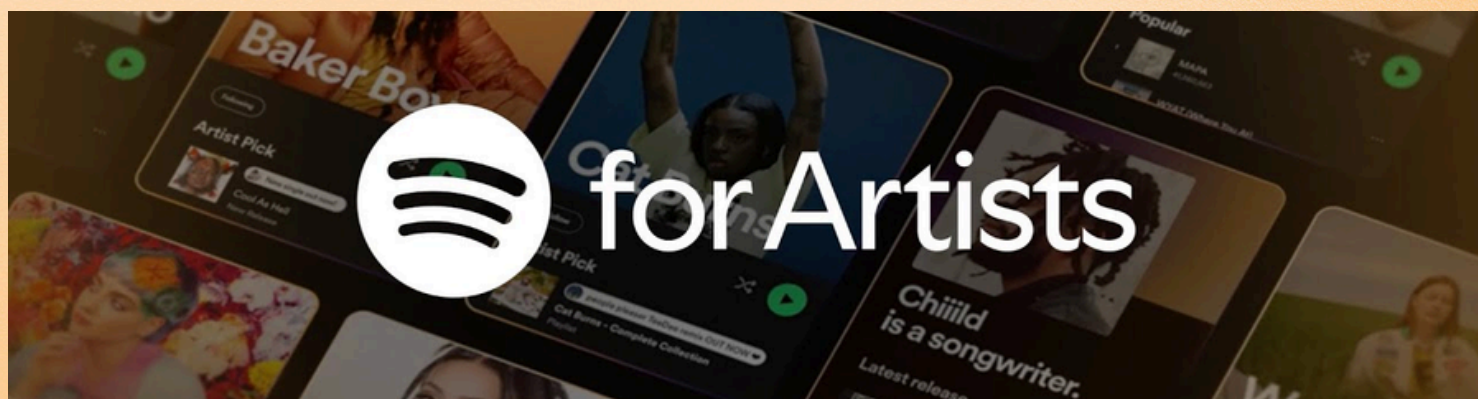
To resolve the dispute, the Tribunal carefully considered each issue raised and delivered a set of rulings that directly addressed the concerns of both parties. Instead of focusing on technicalities or procedural hurdles, the Tribunal emphasised fairness, access to justice, and transparency for creators. The following table summarises the Tribunal's key rulings and their implications for Abdulkarim and, more broadly, for all MACP members:

NO.	THE TRIBUNAL'S RULINGS
1	Jurisdiction Confirmed – The Tribunal ruled that it does have power under Section 59C of the Copyright Act to hear royalty disputes. A composer does not need MACP's consent to bring a case.
2	Bad Faith Allegation Dismissed – MACP's claim that the Applicant filed the case for tactical or improper reasons was irrelevant. The Tribunal stressed it exists as an accessible forum for all members, regardless of motives.
3	Late Evidence Allowed – Even though the Applicant submitted some evidence late, the Tribunal accepted it because it was relevant to the dispute and MACP had the chance to respond. This ensured fairness and justice .
4	Transparency Gaps Found – Although MACP has a distribution policy, the Tribunal found serious shortcomings in clarity and transparency. It ordered MACP to provide detailed royalty breakdowns , prepare a Transparency Report , and pay any outstanding royalties owed.
5	Confidentiality Not a Barrier – MACP's reliance on confidentiality rules and PDPA was rejected. The Tribunal ruled that members have a right to clear royalty information and may even request an audit if they suspect errors.

This is considered a landmark decision because it shifts the balance of power between individual creators and big organisations like MACP. In simple terms, it means that songwriters and composers don't need permission from MACP to challenge royalty payments. The Tribunal also made it clear that creators have a right to see where their money comes from and how it is calculated, with the option to demand audits if needed. For all copyright owners, this ruling sets an important precedent: you are no longer left in the dark about your royalties, and you have a direct path to hold CMOs accountable.

Cases like this show that creators and businesses don't have to stay silent when faced with unclear payments or unfair practices. At Pintas IP Group, our dedicated Intellectual Property ("IP") team has over 20 years' experience safeguarding creators' work and maximising the value of copyrights, trademarks and other IP assets.

Need detailed, tailored advice on protecting and enforcing your copyright or other IP rights? Schedule a complimentary consultation with us today and discover how we can help you protect your work and maximise its value.



Upcoming IP2Profit Case Study Webinar



2025 IP₂P IP2Profit Case Study Series

Learn How The World's Top Companies Capitalize on Patent Rights to Protect Their Sustainable Competitive Advantage

PINTAS **IPACADEMY** **TECH**

Lok Choon Hong
Director of Pintas IP

Lee Jia Ee
Director of GIP Malaysia

Tesla
IP2Profit Case Study
27 Feb 2025

Huawei
IP2Profit Case Study
28 Aug 2025

Nestle
IP2Profit Case Study
29 May 2025

Spotify
IP2Profit Case Study
27 Nov 2025

LIVE

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The **2025 IP2Profit Case Study Series** is an upcoming webinar series designed to uncover how some of the world's most innovative companies strategically use patents to protect their market position, foster innovation, and achieve sustainable competitive advantages. Hosted by **Lok Choon Hong, Director of Pintas IP Group**, and **Lee Jia Ee, Director of GIP Malaysia**, the series is aimed at intellectual property (IP) professionals, entrepreneurs, innovators, and business leaders seeking actionable insights into patent strategies that drive success.

This series will be conducted live via Zoom and feature comprehensive analyses of patent-driven success stories from globally recognized brands. Below are the key sessions scheduled:

Tesla IP2Profit Case Study

Date: February 27, 2025

Explore Tesla's innovative approach to patents and how the company uses open patents and proprietary IP to dominate the electric vehicle and clean energy markets. This session will delve into Tesla's balance between open innovation and protecting key technologies.

Nestlé IP2Profit Case Study

Date: May 29, 2025

Learn how Nestlé, a global leader in food and beverage, leverages its extensive patent portfolio to drive innovation in product development, sustainability, and packaging technologies. Discover how IP plays a central role in maintaining market leadership in a competitive industry.

Huawei IP2Profit Case Study

Date: August 28, 2025

Dive into Huawei's comprehensive IP strategy, which has enabled the company to thrive in the highly competitive telecommunications and consumer electronics sectors. This session will highlight Huawei's investments in R&D and its effective use of patents in global markets.

Spotify IP2Profit Case Study

Date: November 27, 2025

Understand how Spotify's innovative patent strategies in music streaming and content recommendation algorithms have helped it maintain a leading position in the digital entertainment industry. This session will focus on how Spotify protects its proprietary technologies while driving customer engagement.

What You'll Learn:

Patent Monetization: Strategies for transforming patents into revenue-generating assets.

Competitive Positioning: Insights into how companies use patents to protect and extend their market leadership.

Innovation Strategies: Best practices for aligning R&D efforts with intellectual property protection.

Global IP Management: Tips for navigating international IP systems and safeguarding technologies in global markets.

This webinar series promises to deliver actionable knowledge and real-world case studies, making it a must-attend for anyone involved in innovation, business strategy, or intellectual property management. Don't miss this opportunity to learn directly from industry experts—register now by scanning the QR code on the poster!

Register Here:



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