

NTT's Intellectual Property Strategy

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The Japanese telecom market has become very competitive with the introduction of NGN (Next Generation Network) technologies and the entry of some new carriers. For the NGN, telecom carriers are developing services not to introduce new technologies born from their R&D but to meet users' needs and create new markets. Under these competitive conditions, NTT must strengthen its business competitiveness and risk-management while formulating an intellectual property strategy linked to its business and R&D strategies and conduct strategic activities related to intellectual property.

NTT files several thousand patent applications every year and currently holds over 10,000 intellectual properties, from basic technologies for network architecture and new services to fundamental leading-edge technologies for the future. NTT Intellectual Property Center's medium-term targets are described below.

1. Create new intellectual property and rights

To increase NTT Group's business, decrease its business risk, and promote technological disclosure, we will make our recommendation to NTT Laboratories about the "scrap and build" scheme for R&D topics. To ensure the competitive advantage of Group companies in the market and promote technological disclosure by NTT, we will apply for patents and advise NTT Group companies how to handle IPR (intellectual property rights) risk. We will provide in-house training to improve awareness of the business risk of intellectual property, which will lead us to a closer relationship with R&D.

2. Protect (define) and evaluate intellectual property and rights

With NTT Group taking comprehensive and unified measures concerning IPR risk management to protect its business from IPR risk, we will organize many kinds of intellectual property meetings with NTT Group companies and share our knowledge with them. The Intellectual Property Center will take care of the risks of NTT Group's global business.

3. Make best use of intellectual property and rights

To strengthen our business competitiveness, we will utilize this strength in intellectual property and rights. For technologies that contribute indirectly to our business, we are promoting their spread through licensing. For fields that require cooperation with companies outside NTT, we are open to cooperation including the introduction of outside technologies. We will promote the introduction of products (such as B-OTDR) based on our patents to NTT Group's global business (such as the joint venture with CODELCO in Chile), which will promote technological disclosure by NTT and increase the Group's business. NTT is actively involved in standardization activities through various standards bodies (e.g., ITU-T, ISO/IEC, TTC, ARIB, and TV-Anytime) to promote the spread of technologies and business development. With 802.11, MPEG-4, VC-1, H.264, WCDMA, and G.729, we have been forming a patent group for collective licensing based on rational licensing conditions.

We not only support conventional applications for patents, but also provide advice and recommendations about NTT's development strategy and risk management, which contribute to the NTT Group's business. In addition, we aim to contribute to a better social life by promoting R&D activities.

