

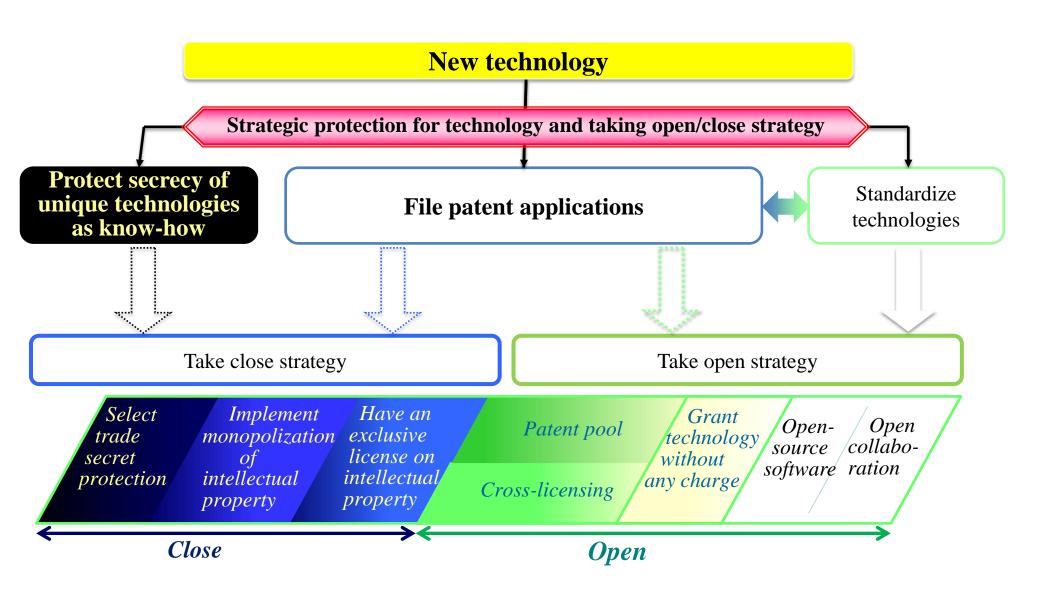
Support for Protecting Trade Secret and Establishing IP Strategy

October 2015

Toshinao Yamazaki
Policy Planning and Research Division
Japan Patent Office

Open-Close Strategy

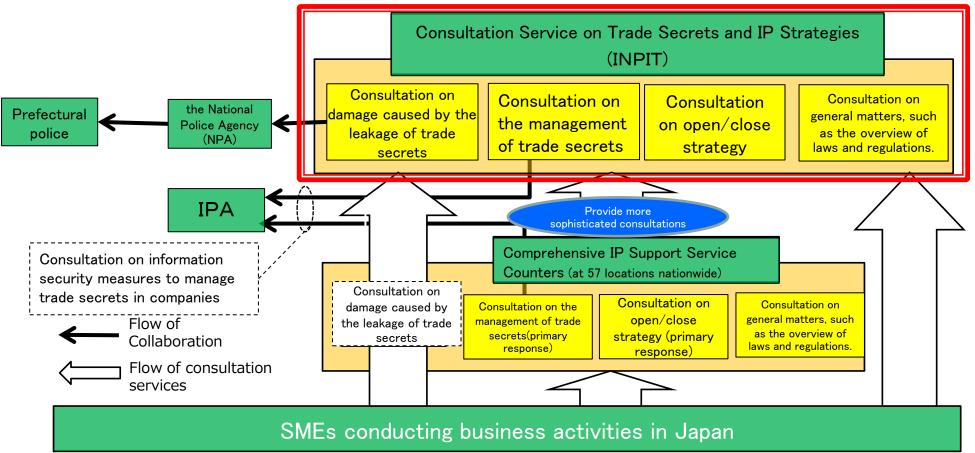




Framework to Conduct Consultations for SMEs by IP Specialists



➤ On 2 February 2015, "Consultation Service on Trade Secrets and IP Strategies" was launched at the National Center for Industrial Property Information and Training (INPIT). In cooperation with the "Comprehensive IP Support Service Counters" located throughout the 47 prefectures in Japan, the JPO established its support framework to provide consultation services for SMEs.



Consultation on open/close strategy:

Consultation on the management:

of trade secrets

: Consultations about whether patent rights should be acquired for their products or/and whether secrecy of unique technologies should be protected,

including the issues of what kind of technologies should be open or remain closed.

Consultation services for the ways and systems to manage trade secrets, including information security

Consultations on Trade Secrets at INPIT



<Consultations at INPIT>

Total number of consultations on trade secrets at the INPIT

- Consultation Service on Trade Secrets and IP Strategies (From 2 February to 31 August, 2015): 133 cases

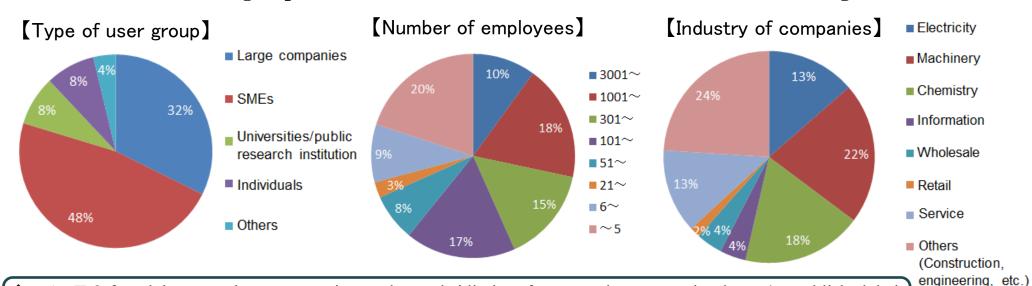
Reference: The number of consultations on trade secrets in fiscal year 2014 at other Service Counters

- Support Service Counter for Overseas Development: 78 cases
- Comprehensive IP Support Service Counters: 2,033 cases

<Collaboration with other agencies at the Consultations at the Consultation Service on Trade Secrets and IP Strategies >

- Cases in cooperation with the National Police Agency (NPA): None
- Cases in cooperation with the Information-Technology Promotion Agency, Japan (IPA): 3 cases

■ Breakdown of user groups at the Consultation Service on Trade Secrets and IP Strategies

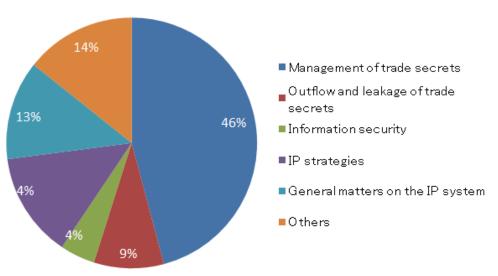


The JPO found that some large companies, such as subsidiaries of construction companies, haven't established their own frameworks to deal with intellectual property strategies, although they are large companies.

Consultations at the Consultation Service on Trade Secrets and IP Strategies



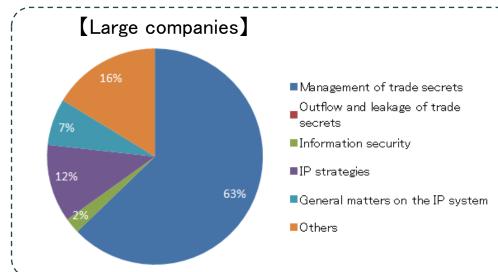
■ Outline of consultations

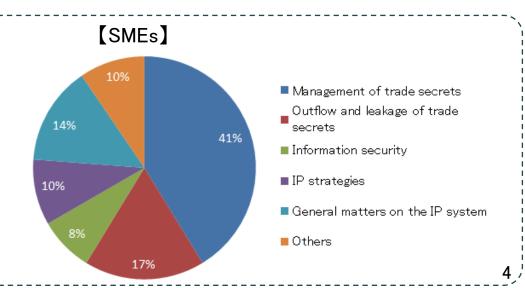


◆ In most cases, SMEs consult about damage caused by the outflow and leakage of trade secrets, while large companies do not consult on damage, but instead, consult on specific ways to manage trade secrets in order to be able to deal with problems in advance.

* "General matters on the IP system" includes consultations on the legal revisions to the Unfair Competition Prevention Act and the patent system in general.

Consultations by user group





Seminars by Intellectual Property Strategy Advisers



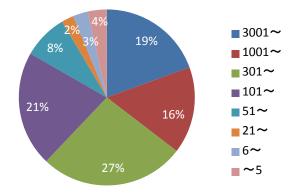
Seminars by intellectual property strategy advisers are being held at more than 20 locations throughout Japan.

"Seminar on Trade Secrets and Intellectual Property Strategies in Fiscal Year 2015:

For sufficiently protecting and effectively using unique technologies of your companies"

Apr.	17	Fri	Tokyo		3	Thu	Kagoshima	
May	15	Fri	Aichi	Sep.	9	Wed	Mie	
	22	Fri	Tokyo		10	Thu	Shizuoka	
	25	Mon	Osaka		16	Wed	Osaka	¢
Jun.	2	Tue	Kumamoto		29	Tue	Aichi	
	10	Wed	Hyogo		1	Thu	Saitama	((
	11	Thu	Kyoto		7	Wed	Kumamoto	
	24	Thu	Kanagawa	Oct.	8	Thu	Fukuoka	
Jul.	2	Thu	Hokkaido	Oct.	15	Thu	Yamanashi	
	8	Wed	Gunma		29	Thu	Shimane	·
	9	Thu	Toyama		27	Wed	Tokyo	9 /
	16	Thu	Aomori	Nov.	5	Thu	Tokushima) (
	23	Thu	Tokyo	INOV.	20	Fri	Osaka	
	30	Thu	Miyagi	Dec.	18	Fri	Tokyo	\rightarrow /
Aug.	6	Thu	Chiba	Jan.	22	Fri	Fukuoka	
				Feb.	19	Fri	Tokyo	
					\ /			

Number of participants at seminars throughout Japan: 712 (in fiscal year 2014)



Type of seminar participants

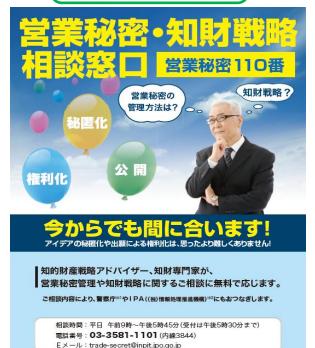
Scale of companies (Number of employees)

^{*} Seminar tours are conducted on a request basis by companies.

Enhancing Activities for Promoting and Raising Awareness 特許On IP Issues – Website, Posters, Pamphlets, and e-learning

In order to promote understanding on the importance of trade secrets and IP strategies, which are closely related to various business issues at SMEs and venture companies, the JPO is working on enhancing activities for promoting information on and raise awareness on this importance. They include enhancing the contents of the website for trade secrets and IP strategies, as well as developing and providing contents for e-learning (still in the planning stage).

Posters/ Pamphlets



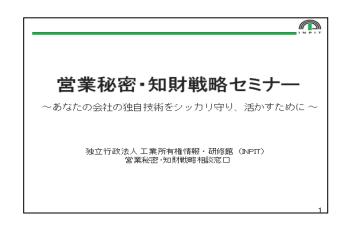
Distribute about 60,000 pamphlets and 700 posters at the Comprehensive IP Support Service Counters and chambers of commerce and industry throughout Japan.



Upload information about the Consultation Service on Trade Secrets and IP Strategies, seminars, and reference materials.

e-learning (still in the planning stage)





Develop and provide e-learning contents to promote understanding on the importance of trade secrets and IP strategies.