



## What if patents were adaptive?

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# Adaptive Patent

Within Reach

Transitional

Visionary

### UNCERTAINTIES

Systems, Technology

### MEGATREND (Most significant)

Borderless World – Fluid Economies

### TRENDS

Cross-Sectoral Partnerships  
Ideation, IP & Entrepreneurship  
International Collaboration  
Mobilising Innovation  
Open Data

### TECHNOLOGIES

Advanced Computing  
Artificial Intelligence  
Blockchain

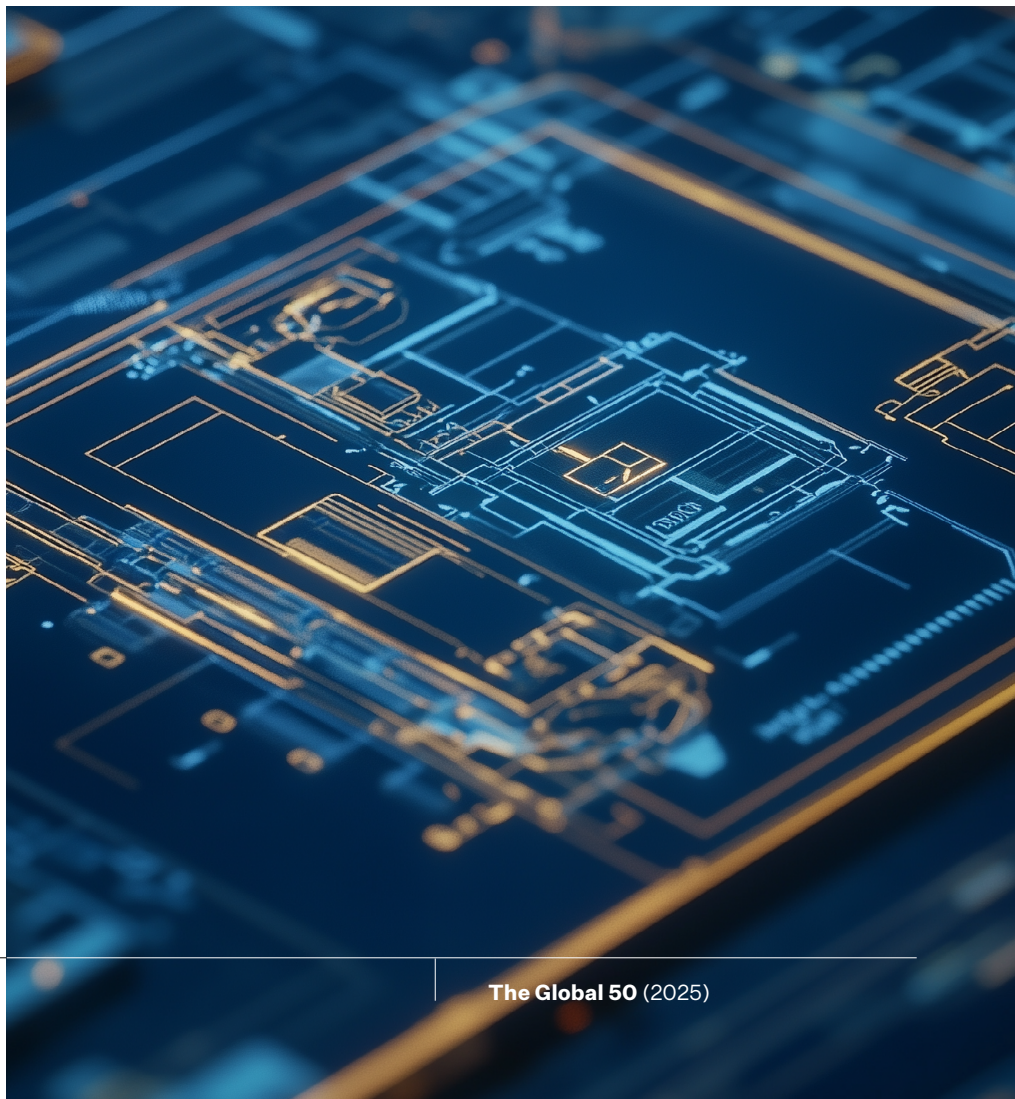
### SECTORS IMPACTED

All Sectors

### KEYWORDS

Blockchain  
Cross-Border Data  
Intellectual Property  
Patents  
Royalties

An adaptive intellectual property (IP) system that ensures equitable access to essential technologies driving social-impact-focused innovation while enhancing transparency and supporting sustainable development for societal progress.





## WHY IT MATTERS TODAY



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Approximately 97% of patents never recover their filing costs, and about 50% expire prematurely because of unpaid maintenance fees.<sup>1043</sup> Even among university technology transfer offices, less than 20% break even on their patent investments.<sup>1044</sup> As a result, patents with limited commercial success are often abandoned despite filing costs and efforts.<sup>1045</sup>

Governments are trying to accelerate the patenting process. The United Kingdom's Green Channel, launched in 2009, expedites patent applications with environmental benefits.<sup>1046</sup> Similar programmes for green technologies are also being launched in Brazil,<sup>1047</sup> Canada,<sup>1048</sup> China,<sup>1049</sup> Japan<sup>1050</sup> and the United States,<sup>1051</sup> with China extending the scheme to other sectors, including biotechnology and advanced manufacturing.<sup>1052</sup> The Dubai Intellectual Property Hub was launched in October 2024 to make it easier for creators and/or innovators to understand what is required to protect their ideas and acquire the necessary resources to do so.<sup>1053</sup>

As AI evolves, its role in inventions and as a source of innovation is complex and may challenge current patent laws.<sup>1054</sup> When used as a general-purpose technology, AI raises fundamental questions about whether existing IP systems, designed for people and organisation-led innovation, require adaptation to account for AI-driven innovation and creation.<sup>1055</sup>





## THE OPPORTUNITY



### BENEFITS

Accelerated innovation; improved global societal outcomes; more equitable distribution of IP benefits.



### RISKS

Increased complexity in IP management; cybersecurity vulnerabilities; challenges determining fair value; disruption of established industries.

An adaptive IP licensing system replaces static protections with a dynamic framework that triggers adjustments based on technological maturity, measurable public benefit and social impact priorities.<sup>1056</sup> Incorporating blockchain, advanced machine intelligence, and smart contracts,<sup>1057</sup> an adaptive patent system introduces ‘explainable IP’, enhancing transparency with interactive guidance, simplified language, and public engagement.

In addition to critical fields such as healthcare, environmental sustainability, and humanitarian aid, licensing terms adapt to country development indicators, such as the Human Development Index or progress on the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring equitable access to essential technologies.<sup>1058</sup> By preventing patent hoarding and promoting active development, this approach creates a streamlined, equitable and future-ready global patent ecosystem.

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