

## Summary of IPONZ Technical Focus Group

Trade Marks

Date of Meeting: 17 March 2020

(via teleconferencing due COVID-19)

| Agenda Items | Comments  |
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| 1.           | <p><b>Minutes and action points from previous meeting</b></p> <p><i>Due teleconferencing sound issues was not able to note what was said. If possible, this section will be updated once receive IPONZ formal minutes</i></p>   |
| 2.           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Office update and practice</b></li><li>• IPONZ has been implementing fee changes and Regulatory Bill changes to the Case Management System.</li><li>• IPONZ noticed a slight increase in filings since the implementation of the TM fee changes.</li><li>• There has been an increase in search and preliminary advice since the fee changes.</li><li>• IPONZ is still undertaking further enhancement to the TM reporting letters.</li><li>• Covid-19 starting to have effect and impact on some of IPONZ activities such as travel and meetings, etc. All TM examiners have capability to work remotely. IPONZ has its core activities in place in the event of COVID-19 impacting further. IPONZ will notify if it is severely affected by COVID-19.</li><li>• Rebecca James has been permanently appointed Trade Mark Manager.</li><li>• A new team leader is to be appointed.</li><li>• Three new TM examiners have been appointed.</li><li>• Maori Advisory Committee due to meet on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020.</li></ul> |
| 3.           | <p><b>Stakeholder Engagement update</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Business Contingency plan being reviewed and will be a 'living document'.</li></ul>   |

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working on 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the Patent Office. Set down for September this year.</li> </ul>   |
| 4. | <b>Policy update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EP FTA -affected by COVID-19. However, submissions for GI's due 27 March 2020.</li> <li>Copyright Act review still under way with options paper hopefully prior to September's election.</li> </ul>  |
| 5. | <b>Update on cancellation of International Registrations and transformation requests</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IPONZ is actioning this immediately and is looking creating a status for this but may take time to create as requires a system update.</li> <li>IPONZ will not change lowering the 12 month time for a response deadline just yet, but is considering lowering it to six months, but is going to monitor before deciding.</li> </ul>   |
| 6. | <b>Proposals to discuss for regulatory reform</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proposing to have regulation to stipulate providing application number for convention application within set time frame.</li> <li>Proposing to remove the requirement to provide schedule reference for Nice Classification.</li> </ul>   |
| 7. | <b>Other Business</b><br><br>Hearings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The scheduling of hearings should now advance more quickly now that Hearings Officers have been recently appointed.</li> <li>Guidelines on length of submissions is to be released.</li> <li>Guidelines on volume of evidence is to be released.</li> <li>Guidelines on video conferencing is to be released.</li> <li>Case management system to be updated, such as scheduling of hearing dates and uploading of electronic papers for the Hearing as opposed printing off papers.</li> </ul> |

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|  | <i>There were other business matters raised, however due to teleconferencing sound issues was not able to note what was said. If possible, this section will be updated once receive IPONZ formal minutes.</i> |
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**Next Meetings:**

**Tuesday 21 July 2020 G.06**

**Tuesday 17 November 2020 G.06**