

Digital innovations

High-growth technology business forum

Tuesday, 7 July 2026



epo.org/en/learning/events/bs12-2026

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17.00-18.00 hrs CEST main event

18.00-19.00 hrs CEST optional meet-the-speakers session

17.00 Introduction

Thomas Bereuter

Innovation Networks Manager, European Patent Academy, EPO

Dana Colarulli

Executive Director, Licensing Executives Society International (LESI)

17.05 Digital innovations forum

Case study presenter:

Pierre Berthet-Rayne

CTO and co-founder, Caranx Medical, Nice, France

CTO, Carvolix, Nice, France

Expert panel chair:

Martin Wilming, European / Swiss patent attorney, Hepp Wenger Ryffel AG, Wil, Switzerland

European expert panel representative:

Sebastian Goebel, European / German patent attorney, Boesherz Goebel, Meerbusch, Germany

Asia-Pacific expert panel representative:

Richard Yong Wang, Attorney at law / patent attorney, Panawell, Beijing, China

North American expert panel representative:

Todd A. Noah, Attorney at law / patent attorney, Dergosits & Noah, San Francisco, USA

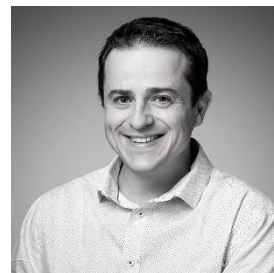
18.00 Meet the speakers (optional)

Case-study presenter biography

Pierre Berthet-Rayne

CTO and co-founder, Caranx Medical
CTO, Carvolix

Nice, France



Pierre received a Master's degree in electronics and control from Polytech Montpellier (France) in 2009 and a MRes in Medical Robotics and Image Guided Intervention with distinction from Imperial College London (UK) in 2015. He pursued his PhD at the Hamlyn Centre for Robotic Surgery on the development of an endoscopic robot called the i²Snake.

Pierre has experience in both research and industry. He was a Postdoc in the Robotics and vision in Medicine Lab at King's College London and a visiting scholar in the computational robotics research group (UNC Chapel Hill, USA) and in the model-based design lab (UA Tucson, USA). Pierre also worked for two years as an embedded software engineer.

His research interests include surgical robots, tendon-driven robots, snake-like robots, and human-robot collaboration.

Live case study description

Caranx Medical is a French medtech startup developing AI-driven robotic solutions for transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) — a minimally invasive cardiac procedure where precise valve positioning is critical and largely dependent on operator experience. Today, only about 20% of patients who could benefit from TAVI actually have access to it, in part because the procedure demands a level of specialist expertise that remains scarce globally. Caranx's TaviPilot platform addresses this gap by combining real-time AI guidance software with a robotic system capable of autonomous valve deployment, effectively transferring expert-level procedural knowledge into a machine-assisted workflow.

The platform sits at the intersection of AI algorithms, graphical guidance interfaces, and autonomous physical actuation — precisely the combination that tests the boundaries of patent law across jurisdictions. The medtech context, with its additional regulatory and legal constraints, makes this a particularly stringent — and instructive — test case for the strategic questions this seminar sets out to explore.

Dana Colarulli**Executive Director, Licensing Executives Society International (LESI)**

Washington, USA

Dana Colarulli is an attorney and senior government affairs professional with more than two decades of experience working on legal technology policy and intellectual property issues in and with the private sector, the executive branch of the US government, and the US Congress.

**Thomas Bereuter****Innovation Networks Manager, European Patent Academy, EPO**

Munich, Germany

Thomas Bereuter is a Certified Licensing Professional (CLP) with over 25 years' experience in the international commercialisation of early-stage technologies. He has founded and supported numerous high-tech start-ups and university spin-offs, and was instrumental in the business incubation and technology transfer movement in Austria during the early 2000s.

**Martin Wilming – Expert panel chair****European / Swiss patent attorney
Partner at Hepp Wenger Ryffel AG**

Wil, Switzerland

Martin Wilming is a Swiss and European patent attorney with a PhD in bioorganic chemistry. He is a member of the epi's European Patent Practice Committee and of the Standing Advisory Committee / WPR before the EPO. Martin is also one of the founding fathers of I³PM, the International Institute for IP Management.



Sebastian Goebel

European panel representative

European / German patent attorney, European patent litigator (UPC)

Partner at Boesherz Goebel

Meerbusch, Germany

Sebastian Goebel is a founding partner of Bösherz Goebel and has been active in the field of intellectual property since 2013. He holds degrees in electrical and information engineering as well as laser and photonics. His technical specialization includes the protection of AI technologies and software — one of the most dynamic and legally challenging areas of modern patent law.



Todd A. Noah

North American expert panel representative

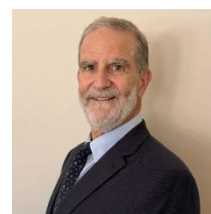
Attorney at law, patent attorney

Partner at Dergosits & Noah

San Francisco, USA

Todd A. Noah possesses more than 30 years of legal experience and focuses his practice at Dergosits & Noah LLP on patent portfolio development and management, intellectual property litigation and client counselling. Mr. Noah is based in San Francisco, CA, and advises clients in a wide range of industries.

Todd received a Bachelor of Science in Bio-Chemical Engineering from Rutgers University in 1985 and his Juris Doctor degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1988. He is admitted to practice in California, New York, and New Jersey, and is registered to practice before the USPTO.



Richard Yong Wang

Asia-Pacific expert panel representative

Attorney at law, patent attorney

Partner at Panawell

Beijing, China

Richard received his bachelor's degree in 1991 from the department of computer science of East China Normal University and his master's degree from the Institute of Computing Technology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1994. He was qualified as a patent attorney in 1994 and attorney-at-law in 1995. In 2005, he received a degree of master of laws from Renmin University of China. Richard's practices include computer hardware, computer software, communication technology, semiconductor devices and manufacturing process, automatic control and household electrical appliances, etc.

