



Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
Office européen
des brevets

Recent developments at the European Patent Office

Valletta, Malta, 31 May 2017

Challenges for the EPO

Consistent growth in demand for patents

Competitive international environment

Technically complex applications

Users' expectations in terms of costs and timeliness

Our strategic priorities

- + Increase quality
- + Increase efficiency
- + Increase timeliness
- + Control costs



**THE RESULTS
IN 2016**

2016 = Better performance to tackle our challenges

+8.5%

PRODUCTION

Search, examination, opposition



Production increase



60% due to productivity gains



40% due to capacity increase

2016 = 396 000 products

+40%

GRANTED PATENTS

Published patents



2016 = 96 000 patents

-25%

REDUCING OUR STOCK

Search, examination, opposition



**Stock reduction in months of work
over 2 years**

-20%

REDUCING OUR COSTS

Unit cost

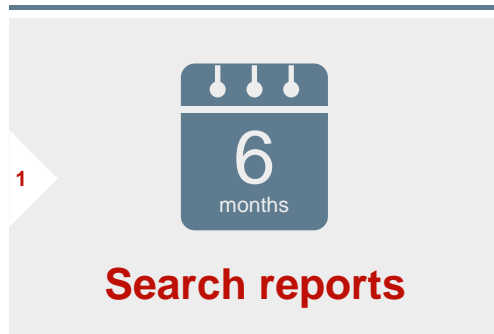


3rd consecutive year of falling unit cost

2016 = 80% of the unit cost of 2006

Early Certainty: Speeding up our work processes

Know what's ahead



We deliver search reports within 6 months of receipt.

Actual Search timeliness
5.1 months

Reliable rights on time



We are reducing examination times to just 12 months on average by 2020.

Actual Examination timeliness
23.3 months

Challenges resolved faster

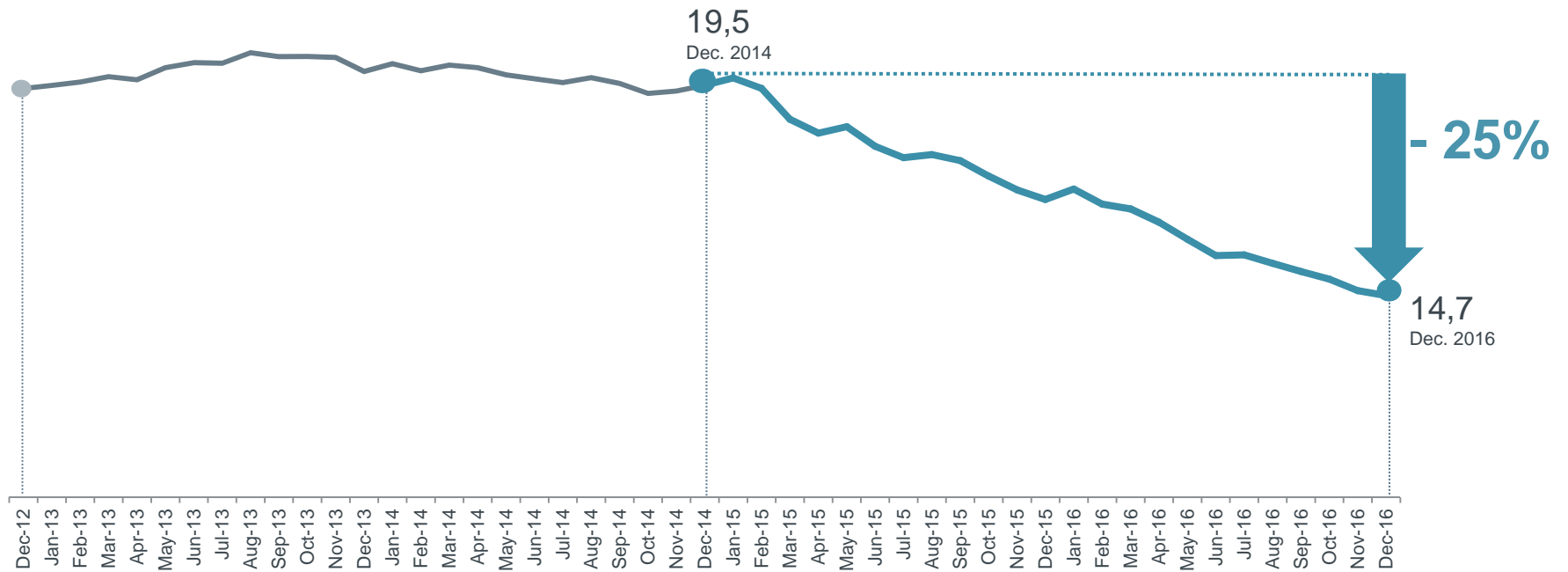


We aim to conclude oppositions to newly granted patents in just 15 months on average.

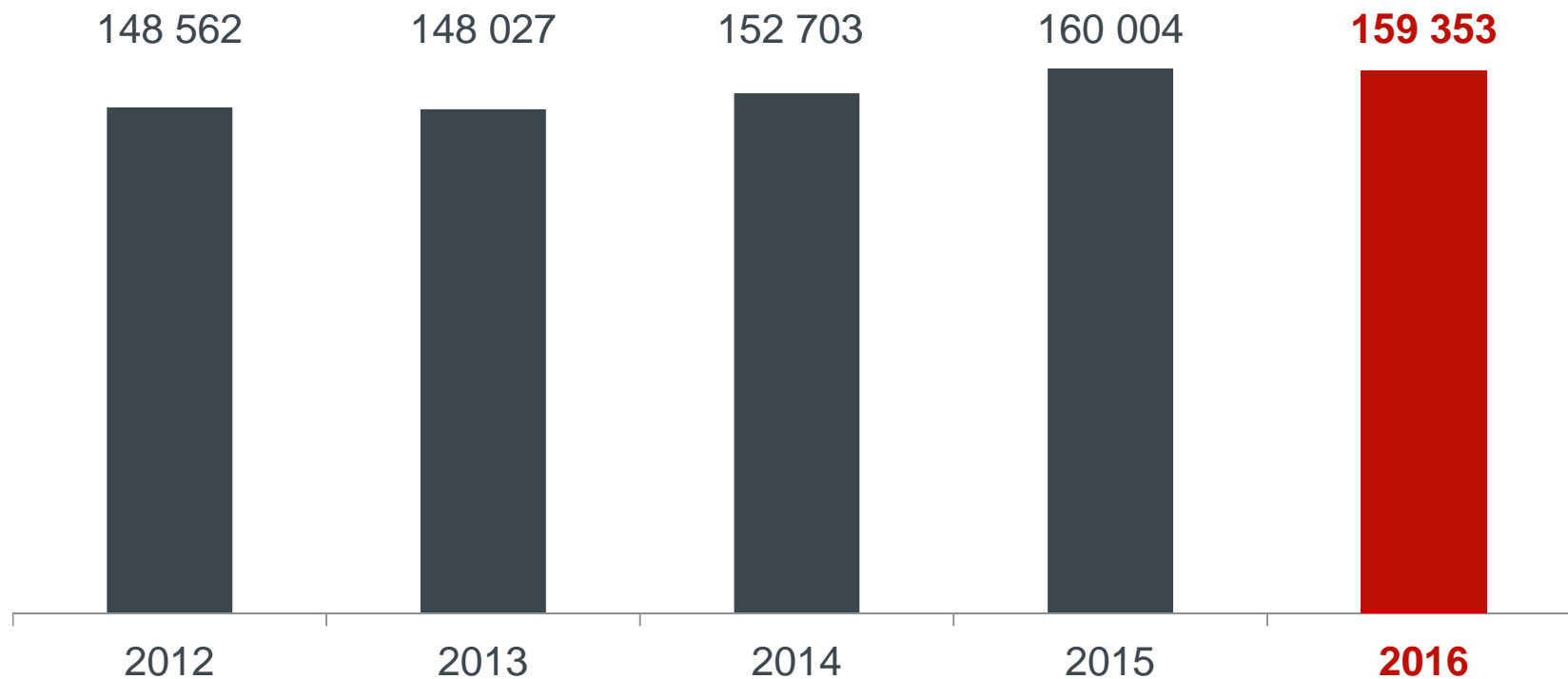
Actual duration of oppositions
24.8 months

Stock has been reduced by 25% over the last two years

Stock in months of work

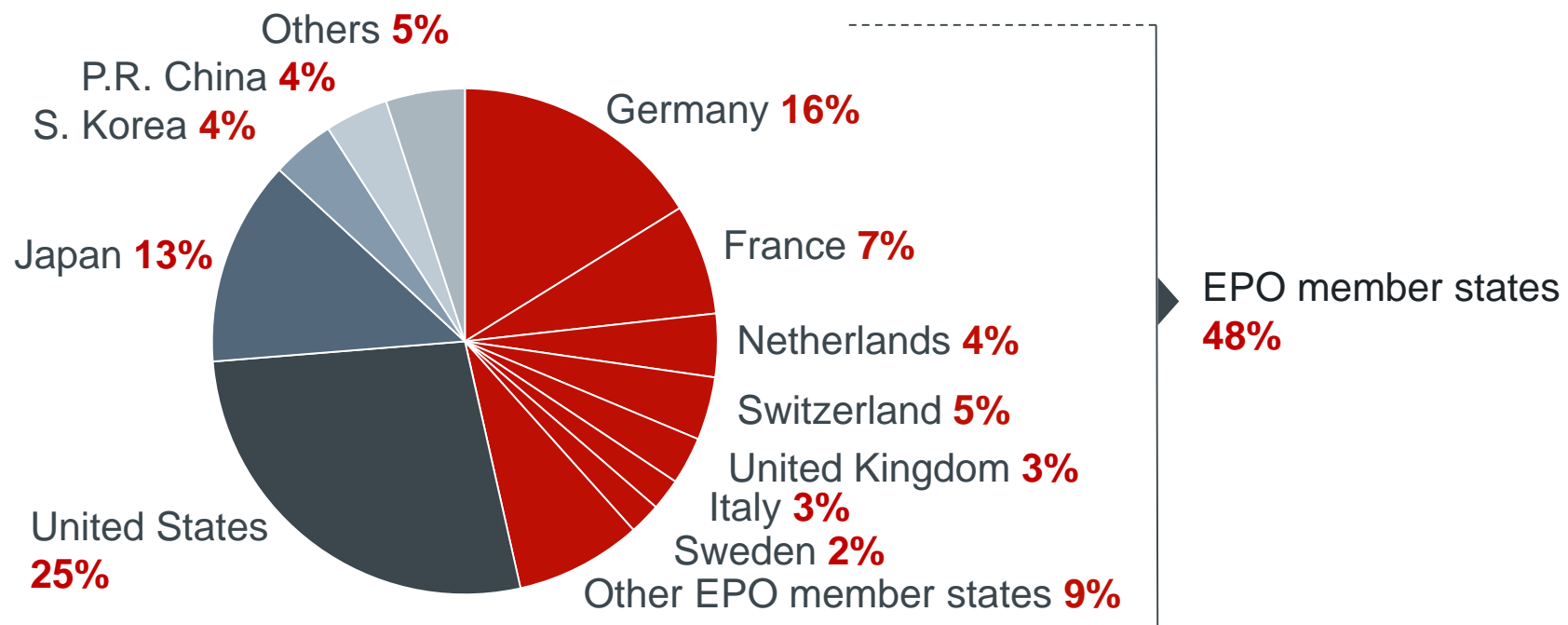


European patent applications*: stability at a high level

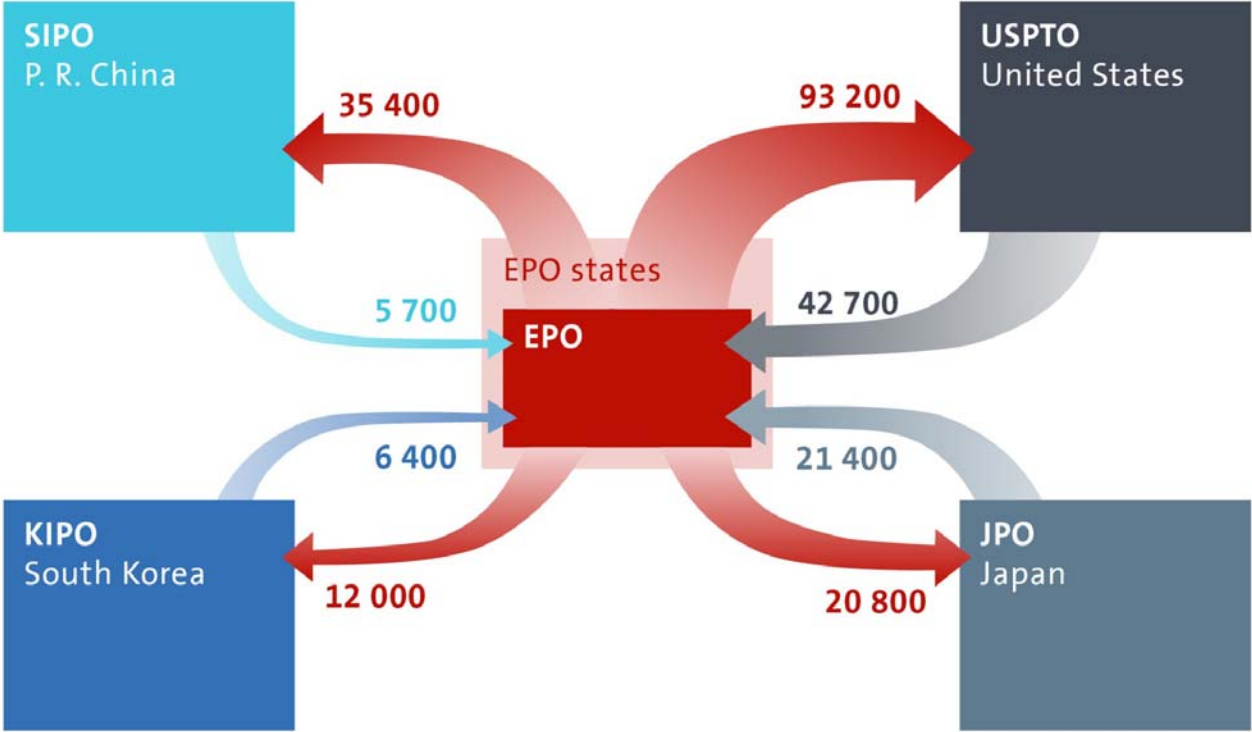


* **Applications** are the files for which applicants have decided to request a European patent from the EPO. They are a direct measure of the explicit interest of innovating firms to assert their patent rights on the European technology market. Applications refer to direct European patent applications filed at the EPO under the European Patent Convention, plus international Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) filings which entered the European regional phase (becoming a European application) in the year under review.

Origin of European patent applications in 2016

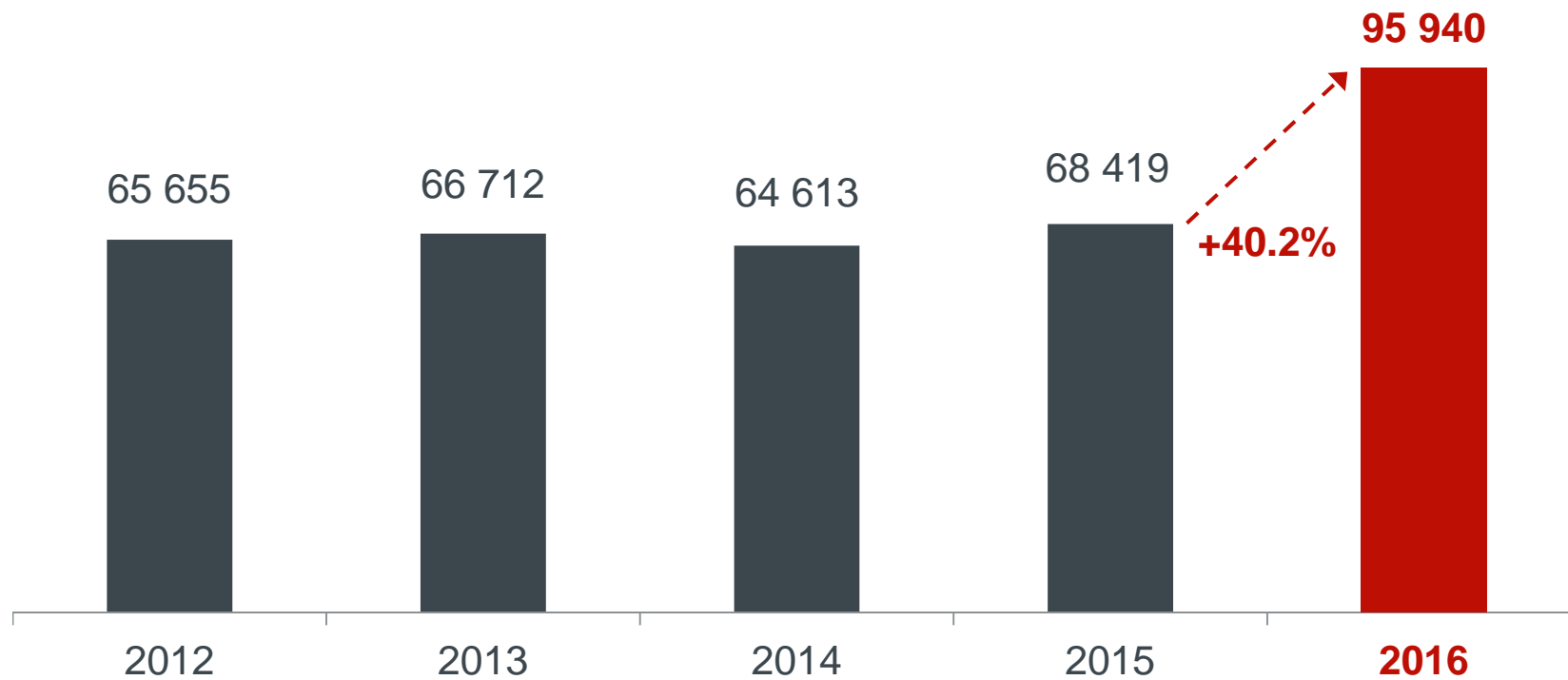


Flow of patent application between EPO and IP5



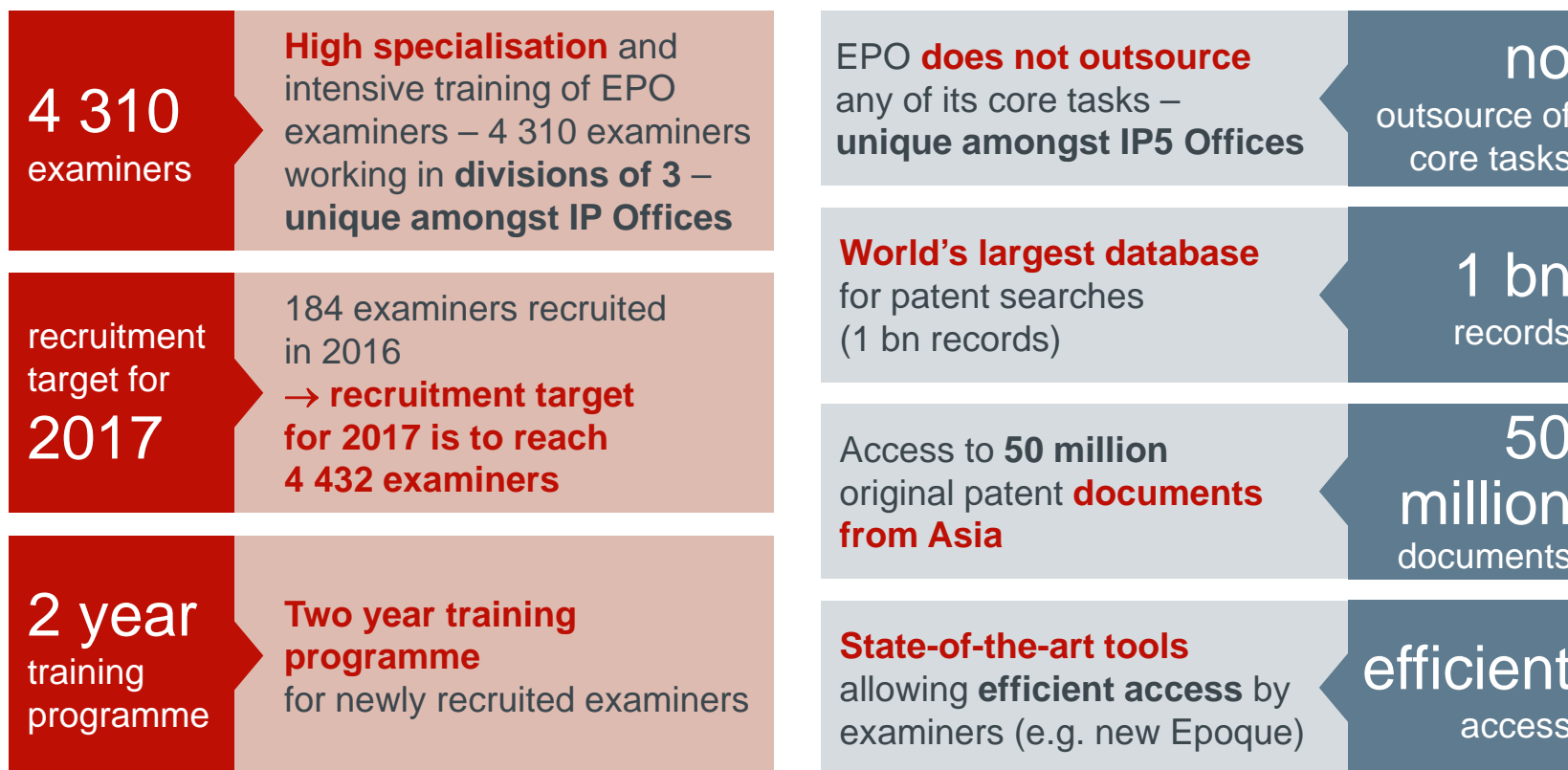
- Notes:**
- Analysis based on applications received by the five largest patent offices (IP5 offices) in 2015.
 - Source of the data: IP5 Statistics Report 2015

Granted patents: an unprecedented surge



Note: this analysis is based on granted patents published.

Quality in search and examination



The EPO's priorities in 2017

Patent granting process:

- First priority: to continue to deliver high quality / legally solid patents
- Implementation of the Quality and Efficiency Policy
- Moving towards a fully end-to-end digitalised “EPO 4.0”

International co-operation:

- To foster discussions with our partners for harmonised rules and practices in close connection with the user community
- Validation agreements

Preparation for the Unitary Patent



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Thank you for your attention