**PRESS RELEASE**

**World Intellectual Property Day**

**New EPO-EIB study: EU single market is a key catalyst for scaling clean and sustainable inventions**

* **Germany and France lead charge in pioneering clean and sustainable inventions in the EU**
* **Low-carbon energy technologies, clean mobility and alternatives to plastics are the leading fields in inventions developed in Europe**

**Munich/Luxembourg, 26 April 2024** – More than 750 000 inventions were published for clean and sustainable technologies between 1997 and 2021, accounting for almost 12% of all inventions during this period. These findings feature in the latest [EPO-EIB joint report **“Financing and commercialisation of cleantech innovation"**](http://epo.org/trends-cleantech?mtm_campaign=CleanTech&mtm_keyword=pressrelease&mtm_medium=press)**.** From 2016 to 2021, clean tech inventions surged by **33%, with almost 55 000 inventions recorded in 2021 alone**. The report also includes a comprehensive survey of Europe's cleantech innovators, highlighting their activities in the domain of clean sustainable technologies and the support they need to bring their inventions to market.

EPO President António Campinos said: “*The report is welcome reading against a backdrop of record-breaking temperatures and increasingly urgent sustainable development goals. A proliferation of clean and sustainable technologies holds the key to securing a better future. While it’s encouraging to see inventors in the EU leading the way in patenting green technologies, it’s vital that the global IP landscape continues to deepen its collaboration. The EU’s legal framework for protecting innovation was strengthened last summer when the EPO was entrusted to administer the new Unitary Patent system, providing cheaper and simpler patent protection in 17 EU member states as a single right*.”

EIB President Nadia Calviño said: *“Europe is at the forefront of cleantech innovation, and a fully functioning single market in the European Union is a catalyst for scaling this up. The EIB Group is committed to supporting Europe’s competitiveness by investing in net-zero technologies and resource efficiency.**By providing venture capital and strategic financing to cleantech innovators, we can foster the development and adoption of cutting-edge technologies that will allow for greener, fairer growth and a sustainable future.”*

**The transition to a cleaner, more sustainable economy is fuelling a race for innovation in which Europe is among the main contenders**

Between 2017 and 2021, the EPO member states contributed 27% of all high-value cleantech inventions worldwide, as measured by the number of international patent families (IPFs), with **Germany, France and the UK the top regional contributors**. Globally, Japan, the United States and China remain significant players, with China rapidly growing its clean tech sector in recent years.

Over 70% of companies patenting clean and sustainable technologies in the EU have fewer than 5 000 employees. Even though **29% of these companies currently prioritise the national market**, **61% view the EU as their key future market**. In terms of a legal framework to boost business, 43% of medium and 55% of large companies with less than 5 000 employees cite consistent regulation in the EU as their most desired form of policy support. Micro and small cleantech innovators see access to financing as their main business barrier.

**Low-carbon energy tech leading the field**

Clean and sustainable technologies encompass a diverse array of solutions, aimed at improving energy efficiency, using sustainable resources, reducing pollution and waste, and mitigating the adverse impacts of climate change. Low-carbon energy technology leads the field and clean mobility solutions rank second. Alternatives to plastics follow closely, with significant patent filings. Clean manufacturing, along with building, ICT, and climate change adaptation technologies, also show substantial patent activity, with varying growth trajectories across sectors.

**Linking investors with high-tech startups**

Last autumn the EPO launched its [Deep Tech Finder](https://datavisualisation.apps.epo.org/datav/public/dashboard-front?mtm_campaign=CleanTech&mtm_keyword=pressrelease&mtm_medium=pressend/host_epoorg.html#/explore?dataSet=1), a tool that blends the business profiles of around 9 000 investment-ready European startups with information on their patent portfolios. The Deep Tech Finder has a dozen filters for different sustainable technologies linked to about 300 such startups, making it easier for investors to find promising startups and vice-versa. The tool was recently upgraded with improved features to display startups matching query criteria, a simple download function, and refined patent status information.

**Further information:**

* Read the [full study](http://epo.org/trends-cleantech?mtm_campaign=CleanTech&mtm_keyword=pressrelease&mtm_medium=press)
* Access the [executive summary](https://link.epo.org/web/publications/studies/en-financing-and-commercialisation-of-cleantech-innovation-study-executive-summary.pdf?mtm_campaign=CleanTech&mtm_keyword=pressrelease&mtm_medium=press)
* Access the EPO’s [Deep Tech Finder](https://datavisualisation.apps.epo.org/datav/public/dashboard-front?mtm_campaign=CleanTech&mtm_keyword=pressrelease&mtm_medium=pressend/host_epoorg.html#/explore?dataSet=1)
* Check out the authors talking about the study results at the [online event](https://www.epo.org/news-events/events/bringing-cleantech-innovation-market?mtm_campaign=CleanTech&mtm_keyword=pressrelease&mtm_medium=press) hosted by the Observatory on Patents and Technology on 26 April
* Explore the [“Green tech in focus” section of our website](https://www.epo.org/en/news-events/in-focus/green-tech?mtm_campaign=CleanTech&mtm_keyword=pressrelease&mtm_medium=press)

**About the EPO**

With 6 300 staff, the [European Patent Office](https://www.epo.org/en?mtm_campaign=ccancer&mtm_keyword=pressrelease&mtm_medium=press&mtm_group=observatory) (EPO) is one of the largest public service institutions in Europe. Headquartered in Munich with offices in Berlin, Brussels, The Hague and Vienna, the EPO was founded with the aim of strengthening co-operation on patents in Europe. Through the EPO's centralised patent granting procedure, inventors are able to obtain high-quality patent protection in up to 45 countries, covering a market of some 700 million people. The EPO is also the world's leading authority in patent information and patent searching.

**About the EIB**

The [European Investment Bank](https://www.eib.org/en/) (EIB) is the long-term lending institution of the European Union owned by its Member States. It provides finance and expertise for projects that contribute to EU objectives. The EIB Group works closely with public and private-sector partners to support sustainable investment, job creation, economic growth and innovation across Europe.

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