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IP Financing Scheme Expands Beyond Patents from 1 July 2016

The IP Financing Scheme will issue up to S\$100 million worth of IP loans through local banks — DBS Bank, OCBC Bank and United Overseas Bank — in conjunction with the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore ("IPOS").

Ideal for the IP-rich healthcare sector, the Scheme is open to Singapore-incorporated IP-rich companies with few assets, and the loan may be used for general growth and expansion. IPOS has confirmed that the Scheme will be extended until 31 March 2018.

The Scheme presently allows granted patents to be used as collateral, but as of 1 July 2016, it will expand to allow IP owners to use other asset classes such as registered trademarks and copyrights as collateral.

Pilot Project for New Verification Route for MIV-1 Applications to Start on 1 July 2016

The Singapore Health Sciences Authority ("HSA") will soon commence a 6-month pilot project to assess the feasibility of a new verification route for certain minor variation applications for product licences, namely MIV-1 applications.

MIV-1 applications submitted in PRISM from 1 July to 31 December 2016, which have all of the proposed variations approved by at least one reference agency, will be eligible for this new verification route. Approval letters from these reference agencies will be required as documentary proof. A number of variations are excluded from this pilot project, such as a change in shelf life of the products, rewording of indication, amending dosing regimes, drug interactions information, and deletion of contraindications.

More information can be found in HSA's media release here.