



Intellectual Property in the Age of Industry 4.0

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Biography

James Turner, Director at Turner Little (<https://www.turnerlittle.com>), has a proven track record in helping clients maximize their assets in creative and bespoke ways. He is directly responsible for sales and marketing, with considerable specialist knowledge of UK and offshore banking.

James doesn't just have drive in the world of business. In his spare time, he has a passion for fast cars and boats.

Based in the UK, Turner Little has a wealth of experience offering professional services to its clients, as professional Company Registration Agents, Registered Bank Intermediaries, Business Consultants and Trust providers.

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Paper type Opinion

Abstract

Intellectual Property is the new asset class, yet its importance is rarely accounted for – this is because we most often equate value with money. For many businesses Intellectual Property can consist of many different areas, from logos and corporate identity through to products, services and processes which differentiates the business from its competitors. Despite its importance, it is not always easy to evaluate Intellectual Property worth, but as the author of this article explains, it is 'important' enough to create a plan to protect it.

Introduction

The growth of the digital era and industry 4.0 have fuelled the growth of intangible rather than physical assets, with Intellectual Property representing one of the largest asset classes that a company can hold and can include patents, trademarks, brands, databases, software and trade secrets.

Intellectual Property is important, but rarely accounted for, this is because we most often equate value with money. However, it is not always easy to evaluate its financial worth, but it's important to create a plan to protect it.

Businesses need to understand the source of the value and the brand of their businesses. From a commercial standpoint, Intellectual Property needs to be protected in order for companies to maintain their unique market position, but it can also have financial benefits – as it can be used as collateral for loans or company valuation in the event of a merger or acquisition.

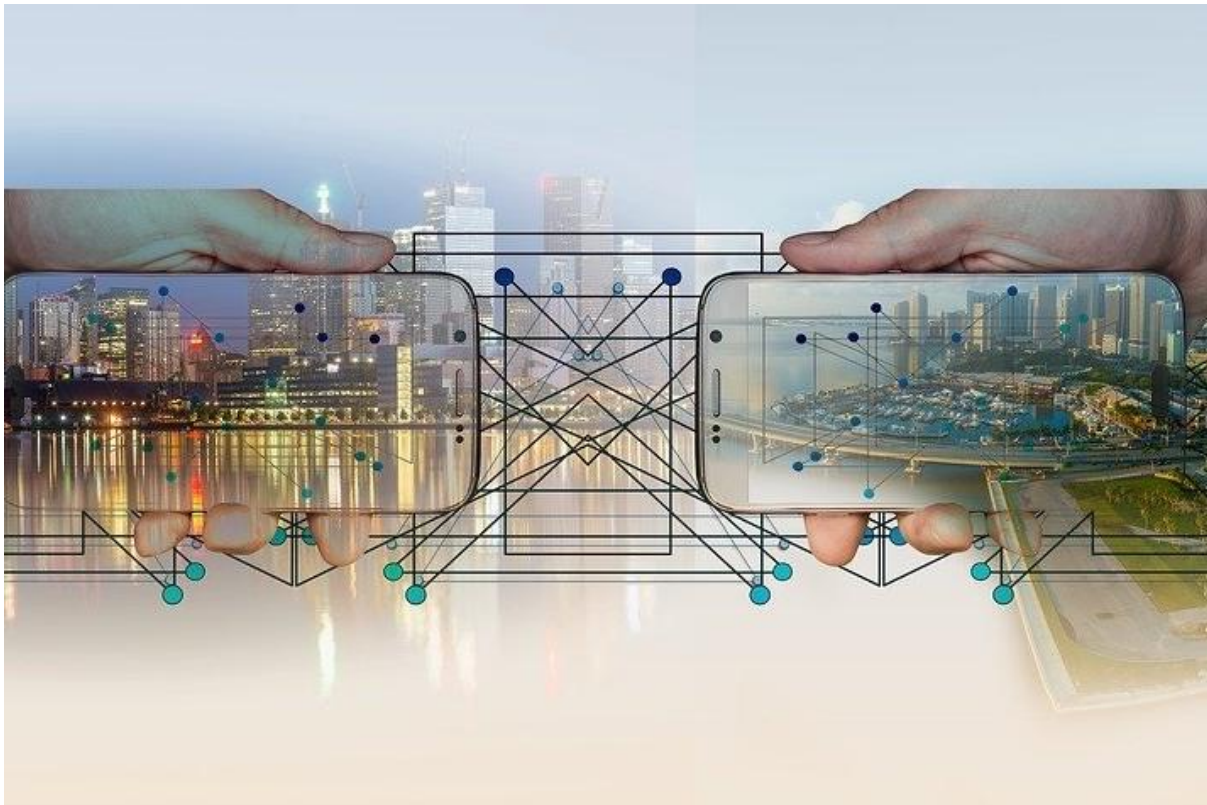


Analysis

Industry 4.0

As industry 4.0 takes hold, we expect there to be a sharp increase in concerns surrounding the protection and ownership of Intellectual Property rights. Designing the right business structure is an important consideration when protecting a company's Intellectual Property from theft, misappropriation, infringement or even potential creditors.

For example, companies can limit liability through the use of holding and operating companies, which enables owners to centralize the company's assets. Offshore companies can also be leveraged in the creation of these structures and can offer additional flexibility.



In conclusion

Innovation and the creation of Intellectual Property is at the core of many companies' success or failure. At Turner Little, we specialize in creating bespoke solutions and structures for individuals and businesses of all sizes.

Whether you are a small business owner or own a large plc, it is important to ensure that your Intellectual Property is secure, so you can focus on building a successful business.