

# IEEE-SA & Via Licensing Collaboration

**Fostering Joint Licensing Programs** 

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#### The News

- Collaboration agreement announced December 2008
  - IEEE-SA: Leading independent standards body
    - Over 900 published standards
    - Over 500 standards in development
  - Via Licensing: Leading patent pool administrator
    - Wholly owned subsidiary of Dolby Laboratories
      - More than 40 years of IP licensing experience
    - MPEG 2/4 Advanced Audio Coding, MPEG-4 SLS, MPEG Surround, MHP, 802.11, tru2way/OCAP, Digital Radio Mondial, NFC, UHF RFID, TV-Anytime
- Patent pool fostering and development
  - Early identification of candidate standards
  - Assist IP holders to create pool licensing programs



## Why is this significant?

- Ground-breaking relationship
  - First of its kind collaboration
  - Coordinated efforts accelerate time-to-license
  - Promotes fast adoption of the standard

Pooling fulfills RAND obligations



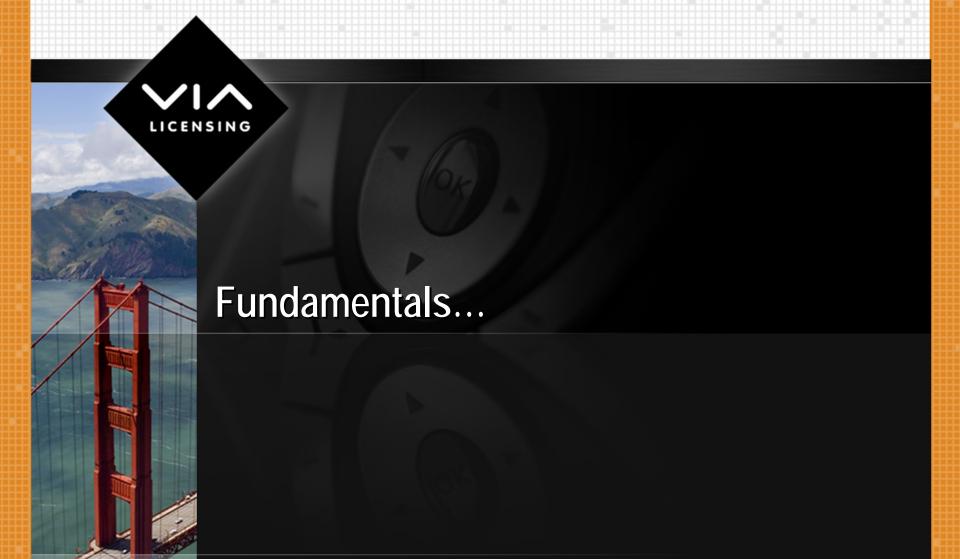


#### Standards, Products, & Patent Thickets

- Example: Telephone invented in 1876
  - Approximately 65 original essential handset patents
  - Modern devices could have more patent categories
  - Multiple bi-lateral agreements are not efficient



**UMTS** CDMA **GSM** 3G **RF Amplifier RF Transceiver Firewire** USB **GPRS** Bluetooth 802.16 802.11 **RFID NFC GPS Power Management Battery Displays Switches** Antenna O/S Gaming **Input Methods Video Processing** Audio Processing **Image Processing** Data Storage





#### **Top 10 Common Myths**

- 1. Patent pools are really trolls with better PR
- 2. I'll lose my defensive patent posture
- 3. Participation exposes me to higher litigation risk
- 4. Pool formation stifles innovation
- 5. Pooling devalues my IP
- 6. Pools are anti-competitive
- 7. Pools are only for large IP holders
- 8. All the "best" pools are already filled
- 9. Pool licensing relies on "Voodoo" IP practices
- 10. Nearly anyone can create and run a patent pool



# What is a Patent Pool?

Granting of certain IP rights to an administrator by the owners of essential patents.

Open access to a collection of essential patents under RAND terms.





#### **Patent Essentiality**

- Necessarily and unavoidably infringed by the practice of the standard
  - A patent is essential when the device necessarily, directly, literally, infringes one independent claim of the patent.
    - Necessarily
      - The device must support the claimed functionality
      - Functionality need not be present in all modes of operation
    - Directly
      - All elements of the claim are required
      - No contributory infringement
    - Literally
      - The claim "reads on" a device without resorting to determining equivalents under the "Doctrine of Equivalents"
- Determined by independent, expert evaluator



Role of the Administrator...

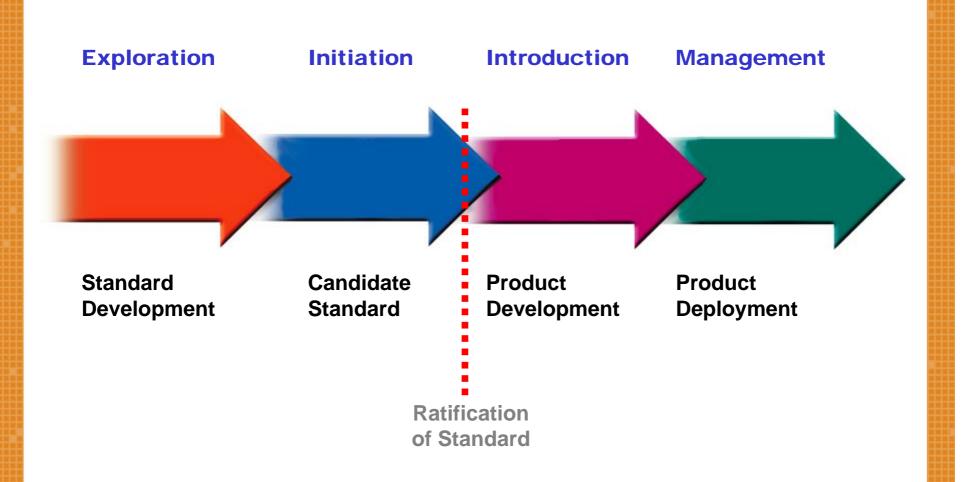


# **Meeting Strict DoJ and FTC Guidelines**

Pro-competitive	Anti-competitive
Integrates complementary technologies	Market or customer allocation
Clears blocking positions	Fixes prices
Reduces transaction costs	Excludes competition
Avoids costly infringement litigation	Discourages R&D
Promotes technology adoption	Reduces innovation



## **Standards & Pool Development**





# **Resultant Licensing Agreements**

- Commercialization agreement
  - Between licensors and administrator
- Patent license agreement
  - Between administrator and licensees





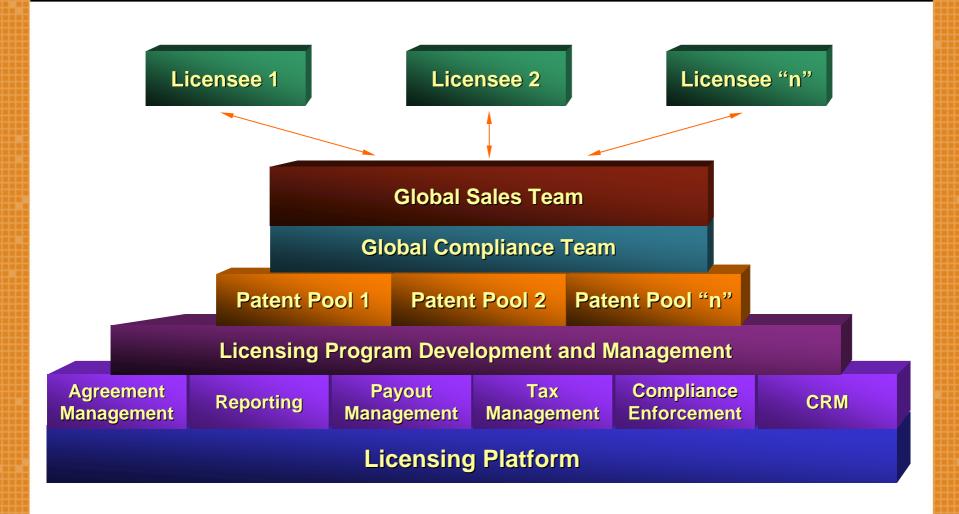
#### **Licensing Phase**

- Identify companies needing a license
  - Explain
  - Execute
  - Enforce
- Ensure a level playing field
  - Standard Patent License Agreement
  - Identical terms offered to all licensees
    - All licensees know they are getting the same deal as their competitors
- Enforce the terms of the license
  - Compliance
  - Payments





# **Licensing Services Infrastructure**







#### **IP Owners Chart the Course**

- Via facilitates pool formation
  - Antitrust counsel guidance, meeting facilitation, etc.
- Commercial terms jointly set by IP owners
  - Administrative fees & matters
  - Revenue sharing
  - License scope
  - Audit rights
  - Reporting
  - Grantbacks

IEEE is not involved in setting business terms





#### **Earmarks of a Winning Pool**

- Includes "pure" licensors and licensor/licensees
- Everyone compromises
- Long-term focus
- Evolves over time to meet market changes
- Royalty rates are consistent
  - New members/patents do not increase royalties
  - New members obligated to contribute all essential patents





## **Cornerstones of a Licensing Program**

- As much of a "one-stop-shop" as possible
- Sound antitrust advice
- Knowledgeable and independent patent evaluation
- Simple, clear, effective licensing terms
- Experienced licensing administrator





#### **Patent Pools Serve the Market**

- "All-inclusive" rates
  - Provides cost stability and reduces uncertainty for licensees
  - Helps limit the extractable fees from non-participants
  - Lowers transaction costs for licensees and licensors
  - Simplifies reporting
- Levels the playing field
  - Consistent application of IP licensing
  - Reasonable and non-discriminatory (RAND in action)
- Enables markets through independent IP access
  - Licensees do not need to deal with competitors
- Helps avoid patent thickets



# Thank you.

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