

TAIWAN PATENTING TRENDS 2005 -2007

THREE YEAR ANALYSIS OF
TAIWAN PATENTS 2005-2007



THOMSON REUTERS

SUMMARY

An analysis of patenting activity in Taiwan for the three years between 2005 and 2007 was conducted using the *Derwent World Patents Index*® (DWPISM) database featured in *Thomson Innovation*SM, the new standard in IP research and analysis provided by Thomson Reuters¹.

Key findings are:

- The number of patents published over the period remains stable at around 20,000 patents per year
- Around 60%-70% of inventions patented in Taiwan originate from countries outside Taiwan
- Principal foreign filings are from Japan, USA and Korea
- The top patenting organization over the period is the Industrial Technology Research Institute
- Of the top 20 patenting organizations, eight are from Taiwan, seven Japanese, two US and two Korean
- Top patented technology for the period is semiconductor devices followed by electric digital data processing and optical logic elements
- Of the top 10 patented technologies, nine are related to electronics, particularly computing

COUNTING BY NUMBERS

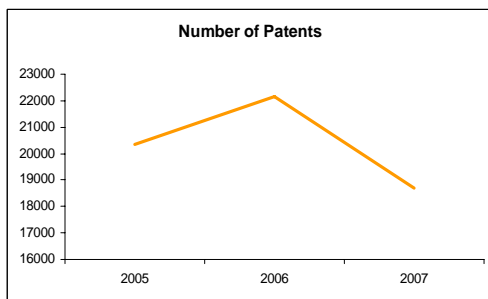


Fig 1: Number of Taiwan patent filings 2005-2007

A total of more than 60,000 invention patents were granted in Taiwan between 2005 and 2007. Patenting activity averaged around 20,000 patents per year ranging from over 22,000 in 2006 to just over 18,500 last year.

FOREIGN FILINGS IN TAIWAN

Although Taiwan is not a member of any patent convention, it has adopted the 12 month priority system found in the Paris Convention.

Taiwan nationals may use mainland China's membership in the Convention to claim priority in foreign countries.

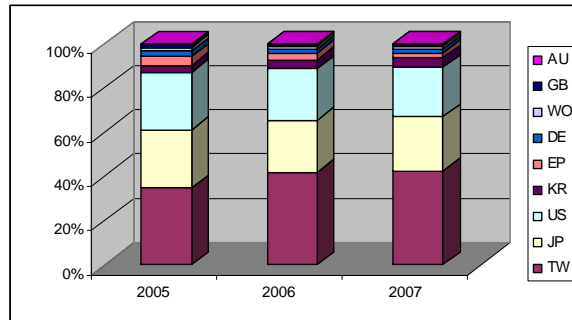


Fig 2: Percentage of Taiwan patent filings by country, 2005-2007

Foreigners may apply for a Taiwan patent on a reciprocity basis. Filings for Taiwan patents by foreigners may be tracked by examining the priority information which shows, where a priority country other than Taiwan is listed, where the invention originates from.

In this way, we see that around 60% to 70% of invention patents granted in Taiwan for the period originate outside Taiwan.

Of these, the majority originate from Japan followed by USA, Korea and Europe

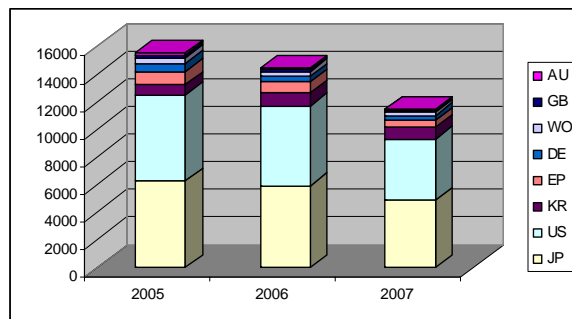


Fig 3: Number of Taiwan patent filings from other countries

¹ DWPI covers Taiwan examined patent applications (Old Law) from 1993 – 01.08.2004, unexamined patent applications (New Law) from 200553 and granted (New Law) patents from 01.08.2004 to date. Analysis was conducted on complete years of Taiwan granted (New Law) patents from 2005-2007.

PATENTING ORGANIZATIONS

Two of the top three slots for the most prolific patenting organizations for the period are headed by Taiwan concerns – the Industrial Technology Research Institute and the Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company, both based in Hsinchu.

Of the top 20 patenting organizations, eight are from Taiwan, seven Japanese, two US and two Korean. Amongst companies from Taiwan, Hon Hai Precision Ind. Co. Ltd. and AU Optronics Corp appear to be rapidly increasing innovation activities whilst Via Technologies Inc appears relatively stable.

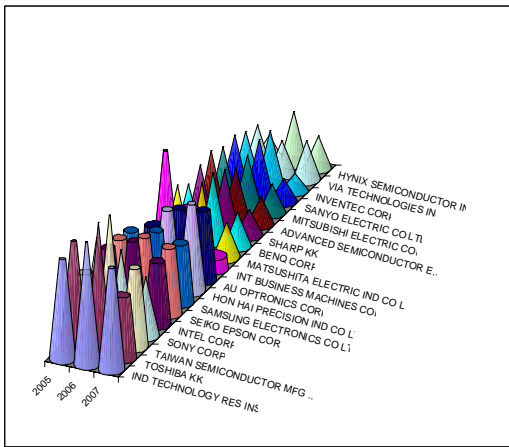


Fig 4: Taiwan organizations head the list of most prolific patentees. Eight of the top 20 patenting organizations are from Taiwan, two of which exhibit rapidly increasing innovation activity

PATENTED TECHNOLOGIES

The top patented technology for the period is semiconductor devices followed by electric digital data processing and optical logic elements.

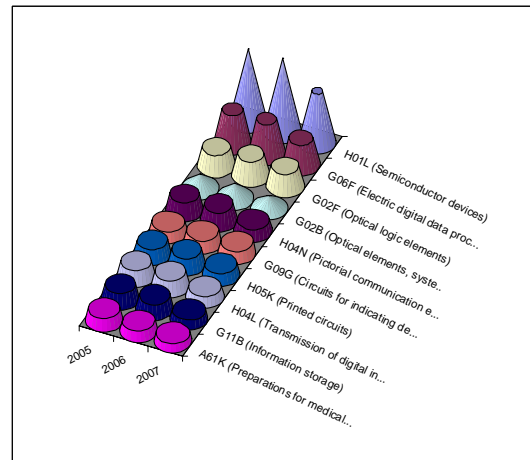


Fig 5: Technologies covered by granted patents in Taiwan

Patents in the area of semiconductor devices account for a third of all inventions granted patents in Taiwan for the period. Of the top 10 patented technologies, nine are related to electronics in general and computing in particular.

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