# PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A TASK TO STUDY BLOCKCHAIN APPLICATIONS IN THE FIELD OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

*Document prepared by the Delegation of the Russian Federation*

## BACKGROUND

1. Blockchain is a digital public registry protected from unauthorized access. The distributed database stores information about all transactions of the system participants in the form of a «block chain» (blockchain).
2. Participants see only those transactions that are related to them, and the cryptographic protection system guarantees the reliability and consistency of the data.
3. The main advantage associated with blockchain is the possibility to speed up verification processes, reduce costs of data or transactions purification and risks through open control.
4. Any changes of the data in the chain of blocks are possible only if the network participants confirm legitimacy of the transaction in accordance with the general rules. This allows for the use of blockchain as a documentary evidence, confirming the transfer of digital assets or storing information as well as confirming the compliance of processes with regulations.
5. Blockchain is considered to be a technology that can transform existing business processes and principles of interaction with regulators. Global interest in its implementation is growing and pilot projects have been launched primarily by banks, fintech companies,retailers, industrial and transport enterprises and state organizations.
6. Many technology companies and service providers collaborate with syndicates, for example, Enterprise Ethereum Alliance and Hyperledger Projects, which are jointly developing innovative solutions for post-trade processing, tracking goods in the supply chain and recording transactions for audit.
7. Recently, the number of issued patents for inventions related to blockchain technology has increased (285 applications were submitted to Rospatent during the first quarter of 2018).
8. A number of industrial property offices have already started exploring the possibilities of the technology. A number of events and conferences have been organized to familiarize the community of inventors and patent attorneys with the advantages of this technology, as well as stimulating inventive activity. For example,
9. Rospatent organized the following activities:
   * + - Hackathon for blockchain solutions for business - <https://it-events.com/events/11656>;
       - International Conference «Digital transformation: Intellectual Property and blockchain technology» - <http://ip-blockchain.ru/>; and
10. the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO) organized the event «EU Blockathon 2018»:.https://euipo.europa.eu/ohimportal/en/web/observatory/blockathon
11. Blockchain technology can be applied in registration and protection of industrial property rights:
    * + - Blockchain can be used when disposing of intellectual property rights; it can register the contract directly in the distributed registry, while mandatory checks will be made. The record of them will also be stored in the blockchain, whichwill significantly reduce the time to register a right disposal.
        - Blockchain technology can be used as a distributed registry to organize secured repositories of information about the registration of industrial property objects, simplifying access to information regarding priority documents.
12. The Russian Federation submits for consideration and approval of the CWS the proposal to create a new task in the CWS Work Program aimed at studying the possibility of using the blockchain technology in the processes of providing IP rights protection, including the following:
    * + - to develop a model to standardize approaches of using blockchain technology in the processes of providing IP rights protection, processing information about IP objects and their use;
        - to prepare a proposal for future actions aimed at application of the blockchain technology in the processes of providing IP rights protection, processing information about IP objects and their use.
13. The results are to be presented for consideration of the CWS.

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