



**WIPO**

WORLD  
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
ORGANIZATION

# **WIPO Blockchain Whitepaper for IP ecosystems**

**WIPO Blockchain Launch Webinar  
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**Young-Woo YUN (aka Woody)  
Head, Standards Section, WIPO**

# Topics for discussion

- ▶ Objectives of the Whitepaper
- ▶ Main preparatory activities
- ▶ Key features of Blockchain
- ▶ Blockchain Rationale
- ▶ Overview of IP ecosystems and Blockchain uses
- ▶ Potential Blockchain applications in IP ecosystems
- ▶ Key findings and Considerations
- ▶ Areas of future works

# Main objectives of Whitepaper

Gather information on how blockchain is perceived in general and within IP community

Explore the opportunities and challenges of using blockchain technologies for IP

Analyze implications of blockchain applications in IP space

Identify potential applications of blockchain in IP ecosystems

Support the Blockchain Task Force

Suggest recommendations for consideration

# Whitepaper consists of

Executive Summary & Main body with 4 Annexes

Annex I: Overview of IP ecosystems

Annex II: Survey results

Annex III: Potential use cases

Annex IV: Mock-up DIDs

# Preparatory Activities

## Desk Research on BC based applications:

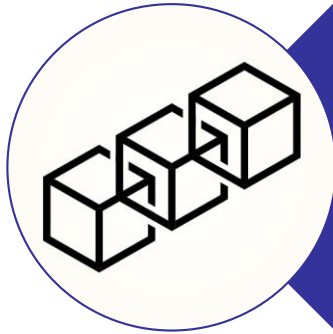
- Projects/initiatives/research works related to IP in the last 4 years
- Applications are being used or explored around the globe in all IP value chain, but still in PoC or pilot

## Survey: 139 responses from IPOs and IP industry

- Questionnaire: 6 sections and 64 questions
- Majority of participants work in IP legal services (40%) and management (31%) focusing on the protection and management phases of the IP ecosystem.

## Interviews with 10 organisations and entities

# Key features of Blockchain



- Decentralization, distributed ledgers, consensus mechanisms, immutability of records and encryption



- Tokenization, Smart Contracts, Automation and Self-Sovereign Identity (SSI)

# Blockchain Rationale in IP ecosystems

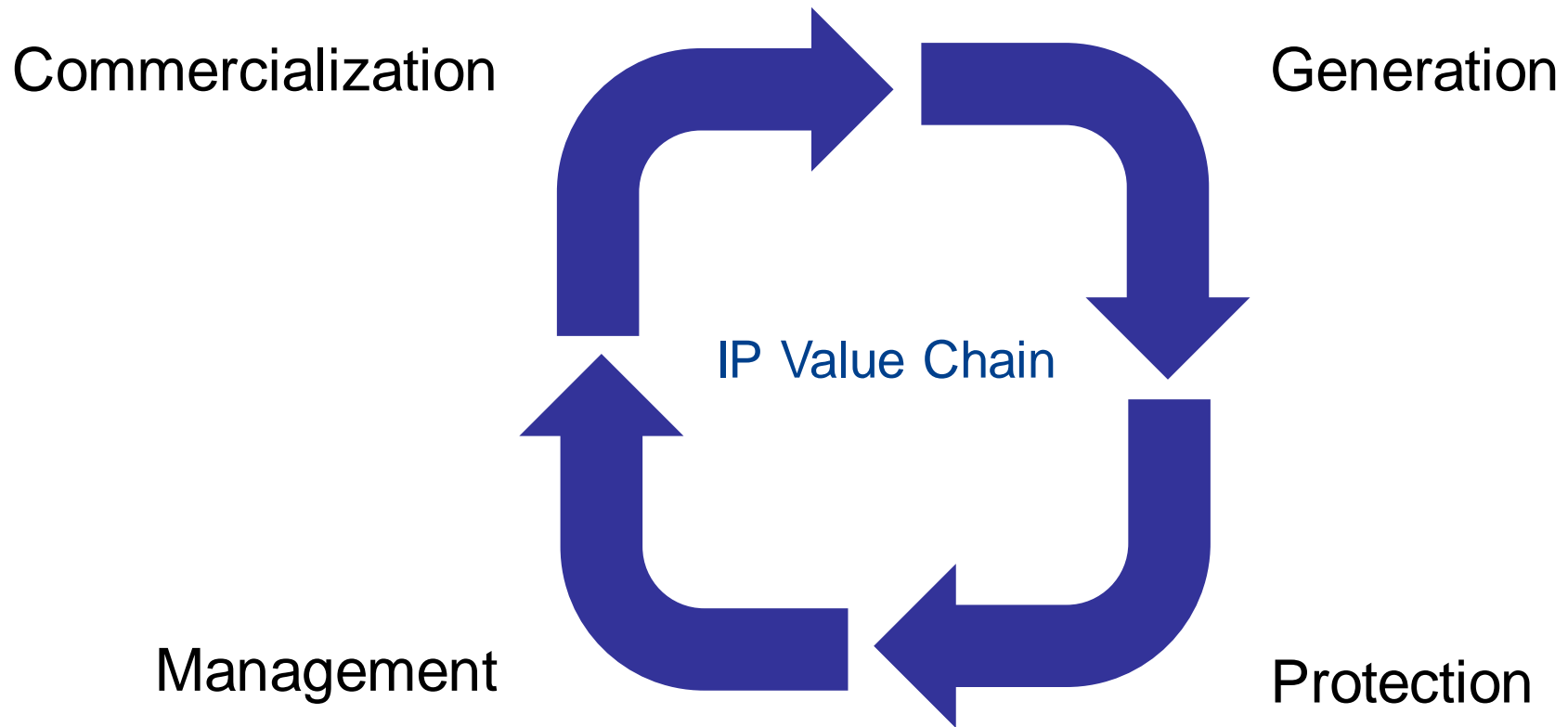
Some major issues  
in IP business  
operations

- Process of managing IP is time-intensive and costly
- Uncertainty in the data and distrust of the competition
- Multiple and incomplete data sources

Opportunities:

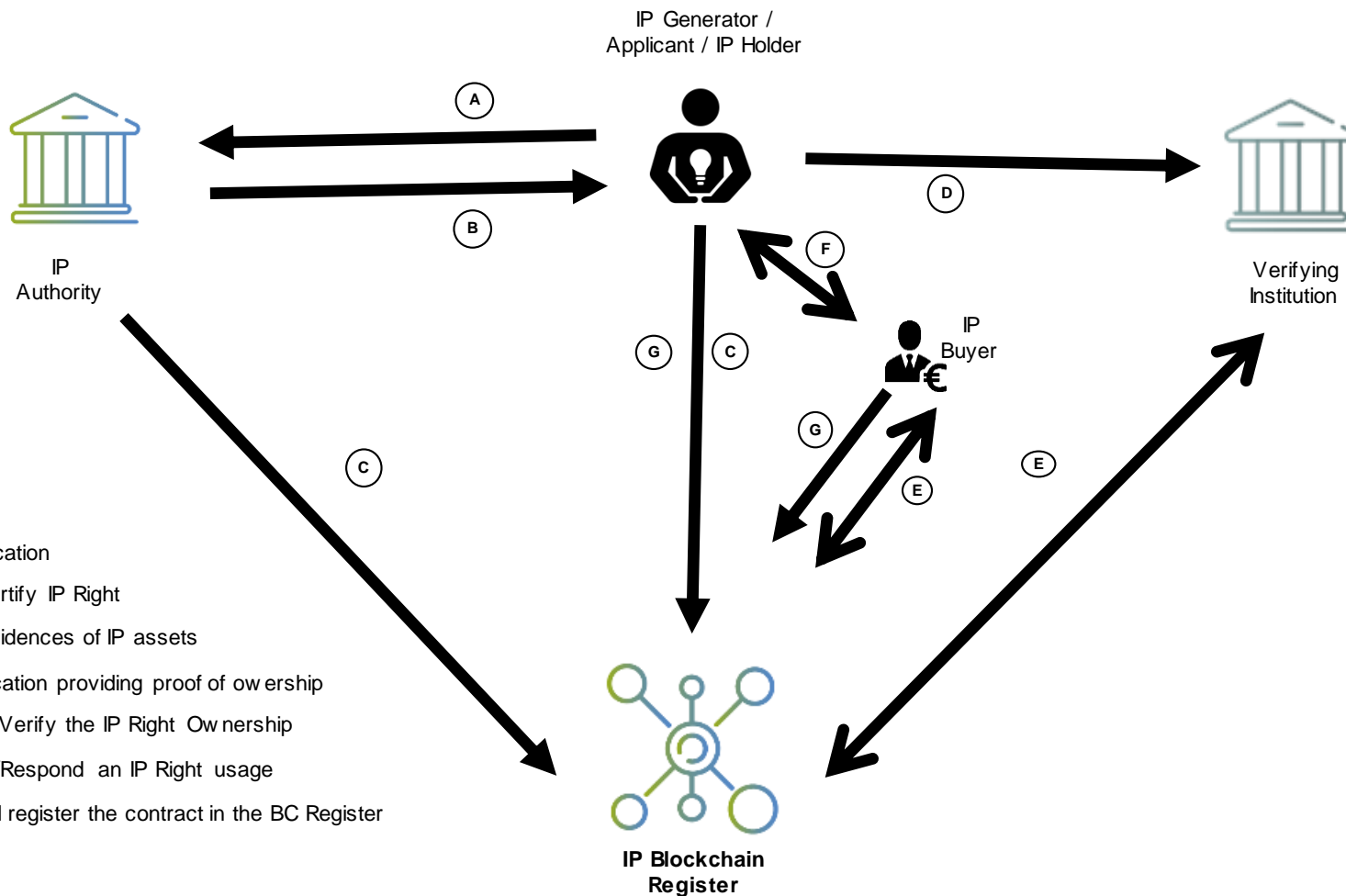
- One version of “the truth” of IP assets
- Increase accuracy, efficiency, verifiability, transparency and public access

# IP Ecosystems and IP Value Chain





# Blockchain use in IP ecosystems



- A** IP Application
- B** Issue/Certify IP Right
- C** Store evidences of IP assets
- D** IP Application providing proof of ownership
- E** Request/Verify the IP Right Ownership
- F** Request/Respond an IP Right usage
- G** Sign and register the contract in the BC Register

# Potential Applications in IP ecosystems

- ▶ All types of IP assests: Registered and Unregistered Rights
  - ▶ Industrial property / Copyright and related rights
  - ▶ Protection and Access to digital data
  - ▶ IP enforcements
- ▶ All phases of IP value chaines
- ▶ Horizontal and Vertical use cases

# Continued ...

## Horizontal Uses



Digital Identity



Trust data sharing



Timestamping



Proof of existence of intellectual assets



Provenance authentication

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Many others

## Vertical Uses



IP Registers



Evidence of trademark use



IPR Transfer/Licensing



IP Ownership Management



IPR Enforcement



Priority doc exchange

.....

Many others

# Key findings (1/2)

Blockchain is impacting every industry

Cultural transformation as well as technological transformation toward a programmable society

Hype seems over, but Blockchain is at its early stage

Numerous blockchain initiatives at international level and in IP space

# Key findings (2/2)

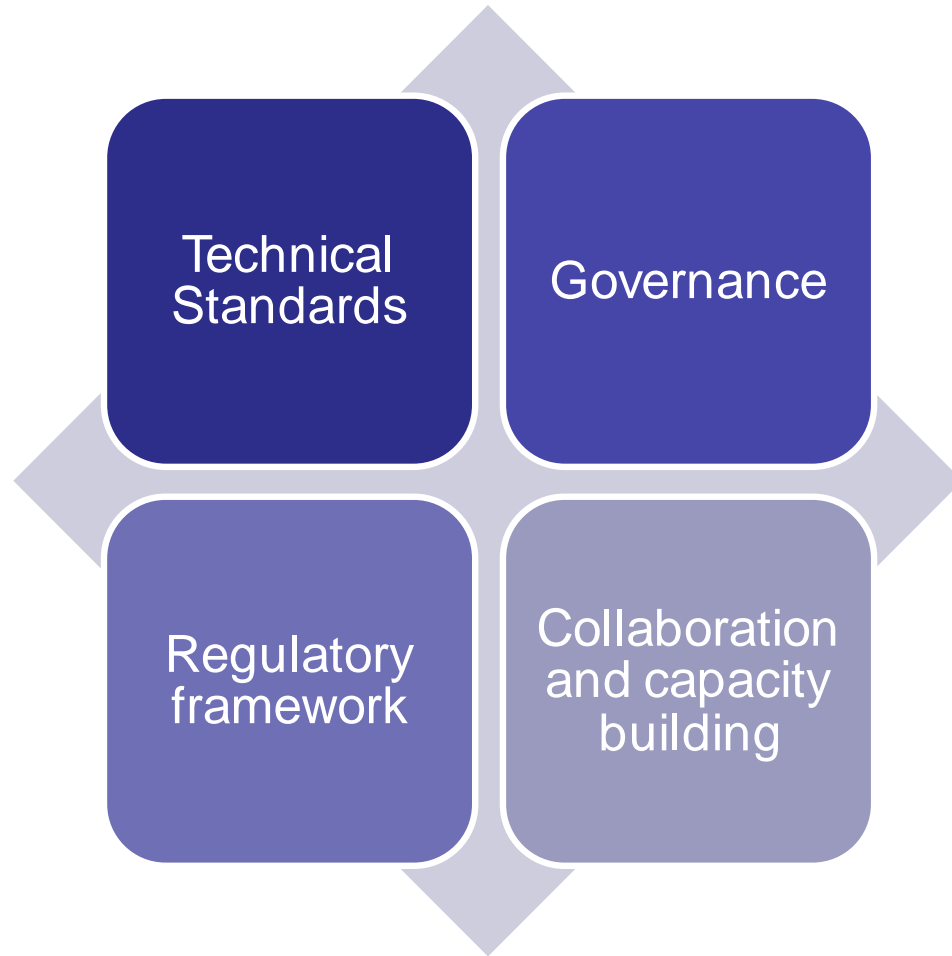
Disrupting and complementing IP business operations

Various opportunities and challenges identified

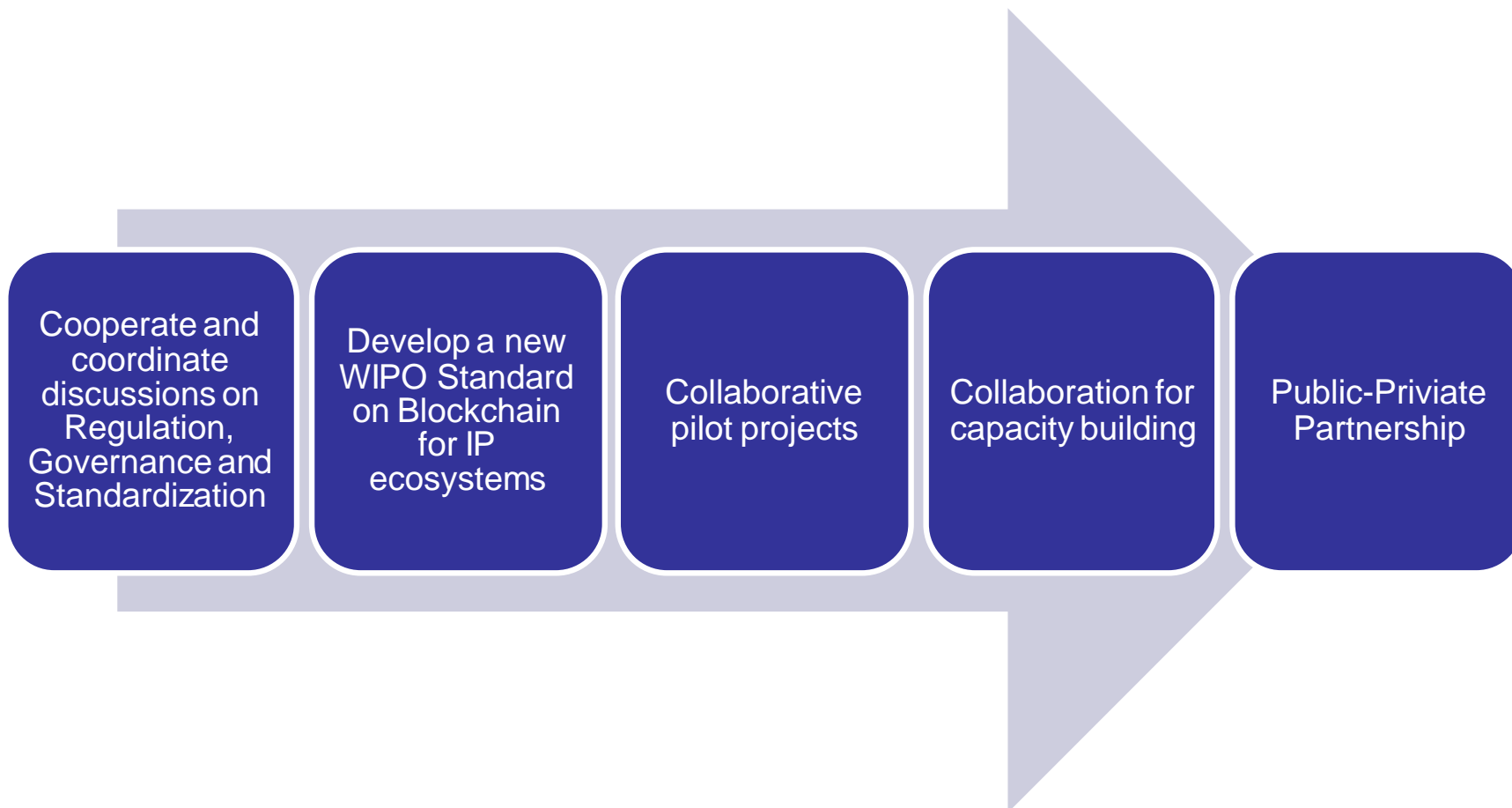
Common identification of IP assets and entities

Importance of Verifiers' role

# Main Considerations



# Areas for future work



# Questions

Thanks for your attention!

Q&A

Email: [blockchain@wipo.int](mailto:blockchain@wipo.int)