2017

Trends in patenting
Europe is a leading technology market

- Patent applications at the European Patent Office (EPO) on the rise in 2017:
  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>160 004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>159 316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>165 590</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Europe posts growth in patent applications:
  
  - Germany: 15% increase
  - UK: 4.3%
  - Netherlands: 4.9%
  - Italy: 4.3%
  - Sweden: 7.4%
  - Spain: 8.2%
  - Austria: 13.1%
  - Denmark: 16.6%
  - Japan: 13%
  - US: 26%
  - P.R. China: 17.9%
  - Republic of Korea: 16%
  - Switzerland: 13%
  - Germany: 15%
  - France: 6%
  - UK: 3%
  - Italy: 3%
  - France: 4%
  - P.R. China: 5%
  - Japan: 4%
  - US: 5%
  - Others: 15%

- Top technology fields:
  
  1. Medical technology: +6.2%
  2. Digital communication: +5.7%
  3. Computer technology: +4.1%
  4. Electrical machinery/Energy: +4.0%
  5. Transport: -4.2%

- Countries of origin of European patent applications:
  
  - Germany: 24%
  - France: 7%
  - Switzerland: 69%
  - Italy: 6%
  - Netherlands: 4%
  - UK: 3%
  - EPO states: 3%
  - US: 4%
  - Japan: 3%
  - P.R. China: 2%
  - Others: 15%

- The EPO serves large and small applicants:
  
  - Large enterprises: 24%
  - Universities and public research: 7%
  - SMEs, individual inventors: 69%

- Most active patent applicants:
  
  1. Huawei: 2 398
  2. Siemens: 2 220
  3. LG: 2 056
  4. Samsung: 2 016
  5. Qualcomm: 1 854

All figures are based on European patent applications. Source: EPO. Status: 22.1.2018
epo.org/annual-report2017