



PATENTS & TECHNOLOGIES

NEWS RELEASE

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I4F offers licensees protection from pending US ITC proceedings decisions

HAMONT, BELGIUM – I4F today announced that following its 2019 settlement agreement with Flooring Industries (Unilin), I4F has the right to ensure that its licensees will not be subject to currently pending ITC proceedings in the United States, nor the consequences of ITC decisions, which now seem to aim towards a General Exclusion Order (GEO) for certain Unilin patents in relation to new materials products.

I4F entered into a confidential settlement agreement with Unilin in November 2019. Through this agreement, I4F has ensured that its licensees have the possibility to sign up for a scope of protection that safeguards them against future risks of a GEO implementation when producing and selling new materials products with I4F's locking technologies.

The scope for the settlement agreement covers “**New Materials Products**” with locking. This means floor coverings using a locking, on both the long and/or short sides - with or without a bevel - featuring a thermoplastic-based or mineral-based core. These floor coverings are also known as luxury vinyl tile (**LVT**), polyvinyl chloride (**PVC**), multi-layer flooring (**MLF**), waterproof polymer core (**WPC**), solid polymer composite (**SPC**), expanded polymer core (**EPC**), magnesium oxide (**MgO**), polypropylene (**PP**) or polyurethane (**PU**).

Previously, on-going litigation between the parties had caused legal uncertainty, costs and commercial risks in the global flooring market. To end these detrimental effects on innovation, investment and competition, the parties agreed to settle their disputes and subsequently withdrew from pending legal proceedings in the US and Europe.

I4F provides licensees with IP expertise, meaningful patents and cutting-edge technologies as well as access to some of the global flooring industry's best innovations, including 3L TripleLock and Click4U.

The company continues to safeguard its patents and technologies around the world, and remains committed to supporting its licensees by enabling business to move forward with a focus on innovation.

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About I4F:

I4F is an innovations group focused on the development of patents and technologies for the flooring industry. Its portfolio includes IP for flooring installation and wall mounting systems, material compositions, surface treatment, digital printing as well as laminate and board production technologies. I4F has strategic partnerships with the industry's most important IP players, including Classen, Kronospan, HMTX, UWC, Kowon, CFL Flooring, Tarkett, Kingdom Flooring, Lico, Benchwick and QuickStyle Industries. The company's flagship technologies, 3L TripleLock and Click4U, provide a unique one piece drop-lock installation technique for flooring panels that eliminates the need for an additional insert on the short side. The solution is suitable for laminate, luxury vinyl tiles, expanded polymer core, solid polymer core and wooden flooring panels. International patents and patent applications for I4F's technologies have been granted and filed in over 100 countries worldwide. Visit I4F.com