BRAZIL'S UPDATES

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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY – JULY/AUGUST 2017

Beer industry creates a product to avoid people from excessively drinking The Danish beer Tuborg has promoted a action during a music festival.

http://exame.abril.com.br/marketing/cerveja-cria-produto-exagero-bebida/

Tuborg's new product: action in Denmark on the consumption of alcohol (Tuborg//Publicity)

Sao Paulo - A beer manufacturer is worried about the excessive consumption of alcohol and wants its consumers to drink less. Strange? Of course not!
What if hearing and music are the way to avoid drinking too much? Now it sounds a bit strange. But science explains it.
In a study conducted in France a few years ago, researchers concluded that loud music makes people drink more and quicker.
That is a reason why we always drink too much in shows, parties and music festivals.
People drink a glass of beer even three minutes quicker when listening to loud music - comparing the moderate volume of 72 decibels with the high volume of 88 decibels.
In the same comparison, people asked, in average, for 2.6 beers in a given time interval. In that same period, with loud music, they asked for 3.4 beers in average.
With that in mind, the Danish beer manufacturer Tuborg has created "Beer Plugs": beer glass-shaped earplugs.
Earplugs help to reduce the volume of sound, and thus avoid excessive consumption of alcohol.
A promotion action by the trademark distributed Beer Plugs during Roskilde Festival, in Denmark.
The package says: "Fact: loud music makes you drink faster" and "protect your hearing and drink with respect".
Source: http://exame.abril.com.br.

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Mechanics
Invisible drone tests technologies for unmanned planes
Unmanned plane

The 1:4 scale module is 3 meters long and has a 3-meter wingspan. [Image: DLR]

The German Space Agency (DLR) has successfully tested an autonomous plane prototype, designed to evaluate various technologies which should allow qualitative enhancements for drones and open the pathway for better plane automation.
The prototype, known as SAGITTA, is a jet unmanned aerial vehicle, built in collaboration with Airbus.
The first flight was fully scheduled before taking off. The drone has taken off and flied autonomously for seven minutes for a pre-defined path. Then it got close to the track and landed with no human intervention at all.
The main technologies evaluated include the material constituting the plane, which is an ultralight composite made of a polymer reinforced with carbon fiber. Thin paper-like layers are glued until reaching thicknesses varying according to the structural role and the cargo to which each piece or part of the body will be submitted.
"Our researchers had to design and build individual constituents so to fit them precisely during assembly, since the adhesive layer needed to be thin and uniform for the link to be strong", DLR's Martin Wiedemann said.

Invisible drone

This first prototype has been built in a 1:4 scale of the drone which should enter production line within the next few years - it is 3 meters long and has a 3-meter wingspan.
Propelled by two 300 N turbines, the drone can take off with a total weight of up to 150 kilograms.
The demonstration flight has also served to confirm that the drone can camouflage to radars, with its stealth characteristic primarily offered by its shape.
The test vehicle will now be used to evaluate new structural constituents to which active functional elements will be integrated, such as adjustable and dynamic flaps.
"Apart from brakes, it is an 'electronic flight device' which is controlled by electromechanical activators, instead of hydraulic constituents. The experimental vehicle is not a ready product for production. It has been designed to collect valuable information on new technologies for unmanned flight systems", Mr. Wiedemann said.
Source: Inovação Tecnológica website - August 3, 2017.
Bibliography:
Distributed Multi-Robot Coordination for Dynamic Perimeter Surveillance in Uncertain Environments

Robotics
Escort robots will be able to guide people and animals

One of the conceptions tested by the team involves the formation of a virtual fence around animals, so to guide them to their final destination. [Image: Alexander Jahn]

Shepherd robots

Alexander Jahn and Luciano Pimenta, from the University of Sao Paulo in Sao Carlos (SP), have developed a robot system which is able to guide animals or people so to make the quicker route in a path which is not previously known.
For that purpose, researchers have worked with the so-called swarm robotics, wherein a group of robots autonomously exchange information to perform a joint task.
"Imagine that you wish to take a group of animals from one place to another in a large farm. With robots coordinating the whole itinerary, the path undertaken will always be the shortest one, besides providing a risk-free route, with no holes, for example", Luciano explained.
Each robot makes its own calculations, planning the best direction to be followed by the group. Along the route, each one of them collects small samples of "good paths" and, based on them, they calculate the ideal route until the end of the journey. For that purpose, robots have GPS, in case of tasks in external environments, cameras and various sensors, such as laser location and ultra-sound sensors.
To enable the convoy to reach its objective, robots continuously make a kind of an auction, wherein they compete to decide who will be responsible for the next movement of the group. At each round, the robot tracing the faster route with less barriers will win. The dispute is continuously performed, until the convoy reaches its final destination.

Robots for the society

The system has been tested in small open code robots called e-pucks, but researchers state that the technique may be applied to humanoid robots, drones or even autonomous cars. Furthermore, robots do not need to be exactly cybernetic sheepdogs. The system may be used to guide persons in buildings and institutions, or even serve as escort for people and cargo.
According to Alexander, the society has more and more incorporated robots in the industry in the past decades; out of industry, however, there is not much development and automation. Work such as the one his team has been doing may serve as an incentive for other researchers to take the same path and new research brings more direct impact to the population's routine, guiding robots beyond production lines.
Source: Inovação Tecnológica website - July 28, 2017.Tecnológica - 28/07/2017

Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services and the Brazilian Patent and Trademark Office present a public inquiry on a proposal to fight patent backlog

So to grant transparency to the process and adjust the measures to fight patent backlog to the demands from the society, the Ministry of Industry, Foreign Trade and Services (MDIC) and the Brazilian Patent and Trademark Office (INPI) have recently announced a public inquiry to be opened on the proposal of a rule for simplified proceedings for the approval of patent applications.
The proposal will establish that patent applications with filing receipt or requirement for the start of national stage performed until the date of the publication of the rule and awaiting examination will be approved within a 90-day deadline, as long as they fulfill given requirements and have not received background information as provided by third parties. Patent applications on pharmaceutical products and processes will be excluded from this simplified procedure.
Interested parties may send suggestions until August 21, 2017. After that deadline, MDIC and INPI will analyze the received proposals.
Currently, INPI has 326 workers dedicated to patent examination. Alternative studies have been performed, considering the scale gain by contracting 687 new patent examiners. For that hypothetical case, it has been verified that the backlog would be solved in eight years. The accumulation of patent applications with the Brazilian Patent and Trademark Office (INPI) has reached an unsustainable proportion against the response and examination ability of the organism.
That accumulation, known as backlog, has reached the quantity of 231,184 outstanding applications, by the end of last June.
This matter obviously requires much analysis and discussion. We will be following its evolution and will contact you as soon as we have further news. One thing is certain: even if INPI intends to make use of search/examination material for patentability originating from international offices (WIPO/EUIPO), the probable impact of its decisions to courts, with requirements for their re-discussion, deserves consideration. In our opinion, the simplification of the substantive technical examination to reduce such backlog does not bring in better treatment for this chronic problem.
It only seems to represent a transference of the (INPI's) problem (backlog) to another organism of the public administration (the Judicial Power), which may, in other words, not only materialize the delaying of the procedure, but especially increase the final cost of your investment.