

U.S. Wields 'Security' to Justify Discriminatory Patent Rule

Clear Voice

By LIANG Yilian & HU Dingkun

The United States Patent and Trade-mark Office (USPTO) has revised transparency rules related to patent invalidation petitions in the name of "national security," with a focus on applications submitted by foreign entities.

China's Ministry of Commerce said the revision constitutes a discriminatory restriction on the legitimate rights of Chinese companies.

On October 28, John A. Squires, the director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Patent and Trademark Office, signed a memorandum making major changes to the rules governing inter partes review (IPR) petitions for patent invalidation. The new rules require petitioners to fully disclose all real parties in interest.

The IPR is a procedure within the USPTO for challenging issued patents. Typically, a company uses this procedure to submit technical evidence showing that another company's patent lacks "inventiveness" or "novelty," and petition the USPTO to invalidate that patent.

The memorandum defines the rule



The photo shows the headquarters of SMIC (North) in Beijing. (PHOTO: VCG)

change as a "national security measure," naming several Chinese companies on the U.S. Commerce Department's "entity list as having submitted large numbers of IPR petitions." They include YMTC, Huawei, DJI, and SMIC.

The memorandum says that such procedures should not be used by "foreign adversaries" to "harass" U.S. patent holders or otherwise give an advantage to those who "harbor malicious intent

toward the United States."

It is clear that China is the primary target of the rule change, and Chinese tech companies — or those with Chinese investment — will now face more stringent scrutiny when filing IPR petitions.

This heightened scrutiny is already becoming a reality.

On November 10, the USPTO issued a show cause order to YMTC, asking the company to explain within 14

days why it continues to pursue an IPR against U.S. firm Micron Technology despite being on the entity list and "reasonably believed to be engaged in or likely to engage in activities detrimental to U.S. national security or foreign policy interests."

Dennis Crouch, law professor at the University of Missouri, said the memorandum signals that the United States will adopt an anti-China strategy in its patent system, and the YMTC case suggests this strategy has already taken "its first step."

By overstretching the concept of "national security," the U.S. is erecting barriers to Chinese companies' petitions in a bid to tilt the playing field in patent disputes and increase the difficulties Chinese firms face operating overseas.

In recent years, as more Chinese products enter global markets, Chinese companies have frequently encountered patent disputes or even patent "trolling."

When Chinese firms believe that certain technologies should not qualify for patents but have been granted U.S. patents — leading to high royalty demands — petitioning to invalidate those patents is an important means of safeguarding their rights.

But now the discriminatory IPR rules will put Chinese companies at an inherent disadvantage in such disputes.

Voice of the World

Resilient Chinese Economy Brings Global Prosperity

By QI Liming

In the first three quarters of 2025, China's GDP grew by 5.2 percent year-on-year. The economy maintained a generally stable and improved development trend, injecting certainty and stability into the global economy. Looking ahead, China is well placed to lead global cooperation with a more open and inclusive attitude and create a future of shared prosperity.

Driving global economic growth
Achieving this growth is especially commendable amid current geopolitical tensions and global economic uncertainty, said Luis Fernandez, senior researcher at the World Economic Research Center of the University of Havana. He emphasized that China's steady economic growth plays a vital role in the global economy and will significantly benefit countries that cooperate with China.

Patricio Giusto, director of the Sino-Argentine Observatory, said in the first three quarters, the total industrial output value of enterprises above designated size across China increased by 6.2 percent year-on-year, while the growth rate of industrial production showed a steady and positive trend. The equipment manufacturing industry and high-tech manufacturing sector performed particularly well, he added, noting that development of AI has ushered in a historic opportunity. "This data have convinced people that China is fully capable of achieving the expected economic growth target for the entire year of 2025," Giusto said.

Janusz Piechociński, former deputy prime minister and economy minister of Poland, noted that China's stable economic performance is closely tied to its vast consumer market, comprehensive industrial supply chains, and the visionary and scientific approach of its macro-economic policies. He highlighted that China is home to the world's largest middle-income population, whose strong domestic demand provides a powerful engine for the country's internal economic cycle.

Mercedes Pita, the director of communications for the World Sustainability Foundation, Ecuador, said the stable

operation of China's economy and its continuous expansion of opening up are of great significance to global economic growth.

Deepening reform and opening-up benefits the world

Bernard Dewit, president of the Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce, believes that, "A country with a continuously growing economy and an increasingly open market plays a crucial role in maintaining global stability and promoting common prosperity." China is unwaveringly committed to comprehensively deepening reform and opening up, sending out positive signals such as confidence, cooperation and inclusiveness to the international community. In the current era where an increasing number of global challenges require countries to work together to address these, China is injecting strong impetus into building a more resilient and mutually beneficial world economy, said Dewit.

Leung Chee Wah, secretary-general of the Association of Belt and Road Malaysia, said China emphasizes the development of new quality productive forces, which will bring extensive cooperation opportunities to global partners including Malaysia, such as opportunities for technology implementation and market alignment, promoting the establishment of a more closely-knit and mutually beneficial cooperative framework.

Jürgen Klute, the co-founder of the Europe Silk Road Connect, said the uncertainty of the international environment has not weakened the resilience of China's economy. China has demonstrated a firm determination and policy stability in responding to external pressures and promoting high-quality development. The pace of China's opening-up and innovation will keep moving forward.

Luigi Gambardella, president of the Brussels-based international digital association ChinaEU, considered that China has become an indispensable engine driving global industrial transformation. China's experience in the digital economy, green development, poverty alleviation and other fields will provide references for countries seeking stable growth.

Drones Carry Low-Altitude Economy Success

Opinion

By LIANG Yilian & ZHANG Jiaxing

Imagine you're a thirsty tourist trekking up the steep stone steps of the remote Badaling section of the Great Wall, and you desperately need a cold drink to cool down. Now, it is as easy as placing an order on your phone and waiting for a drone to bring it to you.

Examples of such services also extend to drones carrying emergency plasma weaving across the Wuhan city skyline.

These operations all form part of low-altitude logistics — or drone-based transport operating below traditional aviation heights — which has transformed the idea of "being out of reach" into

something reliably available at the touch of a phone screen.

When "low-altitude economy" appeared in China's 2024 Government Work Report for the first time, it signaled the rise of a new strategic industry. Yet among the many scenarios where low-altitude applications could develop, logistics has emerged as the first to go commercial. This is no coincidence, as it actually reflects the readiness of Chinese technology, and the strength of an institutional framework that encourages rapid change and deployment.

China's logistics system has long been both a marvel and a stress test. Daily parcel volumes soared from 100 million in 2019 to peaks of 729 million in 2023 and now push toward an almost unimaginable one billion parcels a day, according to Jin Bing, former official of the State Post Bureau of China. What

once was able to expand by hiring more couriers or buying more trucks has reached its limits. Put simply, human-based logistics cannot scale up at the speed the market demands.

This shift is already visible in Chinese cities, where drones are "halving delivery times," as *The Irish Times* recently observed, by flying packages to neighborhood drop-off stations for couriers to finish the final stretch. What began as experimentation has quickly accelerated into mass deployment. According to Jin, one major logistics company opened more than 500 drone routes in 2024 alone — more than twice its total from the previous decade. In Shenzhen, some sorting hubs see over a thousand drone takeoffs and landings each day, supporting a drone-express network that reliably fulfills 20,000 to 30,000 orders daily. China's B2C online retailer JD.com's drones, operating routinely in seven provinces, have cut delivery times in remote mountain regions from 72 hours to just three.

Beyond scale, integrated systems are redefining efficiency. SF Express, China's largest courier, and Shenzhen Metro have launched the country's first "rail-based logistics station," knitting together aerial drones, ground depots, underground unmanned vehicles, subway corridors, airport hubs, and large cargo aircraft. This model, already spreading across Zhejiang province and the Greater Bay Area, cuts delivery time by up to

80 percent and logistics costs by up to 50 percent, proving that low-altitude logistics is not an experiment — it is a viable business model.

Policy has been the quiet but decisive enabler of this momentum. Since early 2024, Chinese regulators have introduced a series of coordinated measures: support for unmanned delivery and low-altitude logistics, the promotion of integrated air-ground transport systems, and guidance for developing drone-based feeder routes and last-mile services. This consistency has created something rare in the global landscape: a regulatory ecosystem designed to build rules in parallel with rapid deployment. It is an advantage far more powerful than any single technical breakthrough.

China has approached the low-altitude economy as both a frontier for innovation and a form of public infrastructure. The result is an ecosystem in which manufacturers, operators, city planners, and regulators evolve together.

As *The Economist* noted in a recent analysis of the sector, Chinese companies can "develop products faster than their counterparts elsewhere." The deeper truth is that China's advantage is not only speed, but coherence. China is building a complete model — technological, operational, and regulatory — that other countries may eventually look to as a template rather than a curiosity.



Innovation Drives Smart Maritime Progress

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This can be found in the development of polar icebreakers, scientific expedition vessels, deep-sea diving equipment as well as oil and gas platforms:

- In 2022, China developed the world's first amphibious unmanned aerial vehicle, Nezha, that flies, hovers and dives underwater.

- In 2023, the main line of the Shenzhen-Zhongshan Link, a mega cross-sea passage in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, was fully connected.

- In 2024, Qinqin Station in Antarctica, China's fifth research station on the continent, began operation, while

the country's first domestically designed and built deep-sea drilling vessel, Dream, was commissioned.

- In 2025, the second phase of Deep Sea No.1 gas field became fully operational.

Looking ahead, it is necessary to continuously tackle core technologies, deploy major marine projects, and strengthen the construction of innovation platforms, and ultimately promoting innovation-driven development.

Green development

Coral reefs, known as "tropical rainforests on the seabed," are one of the most biodiverse marine ecosystems. In recent years, scientists from Guangxi

University have been protecting and restoring the coral reefs on Weizhou Island, in south China's Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region. They built a 2,000-square-meter demonstration area, successfully curbing the degradation of coral reefs. In just three years, the coverage rate of living coral in the area increased from about five percent to 20 percent.

From north to south, along China's long coastline, a series of practices are being established to protect the marine ecology. According to the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR), China has to date supported nearly 200 major projects for marine ecological protection and restoration, driving the improve-

Hi-Tech

By LI Linxu

The China Meteorological Administration (CMA) recently unveiled its AI meteorological service system, Fenghe (literally "Wind Harmony"), aiming to revolutionize meteorological service models and achieve intelligent transformation in weather forecasting and public services.

Currently, Fenghe comprises five core modules: a meteorological knowledge center, a model square, a meteorological AI toolbox, an agent factory and an evaluation lab.

Its key capabilities include understanding meteorological service demands, generating tailored content, performing weather-related reasoning and decision-making, and calling specialized meteorological tools.

By accessing Fenghe via a mini-program or web platform, users can input weather-related queries and receive automated responses. Covering scenarios from science popularization Q&A and weather inquiries to disaster warnings and industry-specific advice, Fenghe provides personalized recommendations

ment of almost 1,780 kilometers of coastline and over 795,000 mu of coastal wetlands. In addition, 138,000 mu of mangroves have been planted.

Technology provides significant support to marine ecological protection. An independently developed environmental monitoring buoy has been in continuous operation for 20 months. The Shouwangzhe-1 tsunami warning surface buoy connects to the recording platform operating at a depth of 5,100 meters on the seabed, forming part of a national marine observation network.

According to the MNR, the country will continue enhancing innovation in marine science and technology, modernizing marine industries, and comprehensively promoting the construction of marine culture.

based on intelligent analysis.

For instance, for a family driving from Shanghai to Baiyangdian Lake during a thunderstorm, it can suggest alternative indoor attractions while avoiding waterlogged highway sections during peak storm hours.

Fenghe will undergo regular evaluations by an expert team to ensure its competitiveness as a vertical domain model.

Behind Fenghe's launch are breakthroughs in core technologies, such as a trillion-scale meteorological corpus for training, LoRA-based fine-tuning to enhance domain-specific knowledge, reinforcement learning from human feedback for advanced reasoning, and multi-agent collaboration tailored for meteorological service scenarios, ensuring stable performance and user experience.



The China Meteorological Administration's AI meteorological service system "Fenghe." (COURTESY PHOTO)