



## Press Release

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### **ipVA Sponsors ECVN to Propel Intellectual Property Issues to the Boardroom**

ipVA (IP Value Added) the worlds leading IP Strategy advisory firm has today announced it will sponsor the European Venture Capital Network (ECVN) to help raise the profile of intellectual property (IP) issues across European boardrooms.

The ECVN network was established in 2008 to promote professional and social networking amongst venture capital investment professionals in Europe and now has more than 250 members drawn from all the major European venture funds. ipVA's sponsorship will help ensure the network's members are able to meet regularly to explore and discuss the key issues affecting businesses today in an informal environment.

Andrew Watson, Co-founder and Lead Consultant for ipVA says: “The ECVN network draws its membership from the most influential venture capital professionals in Europe. We have worked in the European venture capital community for over five years and were delighted to be asked to sponsor the network to help to further raise the profile of IP issues within this group. EVCN members have the influence to persuade CEOs and boards of some of Europe’s most prestigious companies to raise the importance of IP to a board level priority. As our work shows, European venture-backed companies are facing increasing challenges from the IP of their competitors and patent trolls\*, both of which can be highly disruptive. At the same time we’re seeing that the building of high quality IP can increase exit value. Being asked to sponsor this group shows that these messages are gaining recognition and that managing all aspects of IP assets and risks need to be a key boardroom priority.”

ENDS

**Notes to Editors:**

1. IP Value Added (ipVA) is the world’s leading provider of IP Strategy advisory services to medium and large sized companies, with an emphasis on venture capital and private equity backed companies. The company provides services and products which enable businesses and investors to better understand and manage their intellectual property (IP) and to manage risk more effectively. ipVA’s skills are also focused on helping clients identify, value and protect all of their intangible assets (e.g. knowledge, people, relationships, communities), all of which are critical to long-term business sustainability.
2. ipVA’s 22 consultants average more than twenty years of industry, legal and IP expertise. Since its formation in 2005 ipVA has delivered over 175 global IP strategy projects. ipVA’s consultants include ex-Chief Intellectual Property Officers (CIPOs) or equivalent roles from IBM, W.L.Gore, TI, Liberty Media, Exxon-Mobil Chemicals, BP, Dow-Corning, Philips and Renishaw. The company has expertise spanning most industry sectors, with particular strength in cleantech and technology, media and telecommunications.
3. \*A patent troll is a company that does not practice their inventions in products or services, instead they derive income from enforcing their patent rights.