From Intellectual Property to Economic Value

Peter Regent
Swiss Independent Financial Advisor (FinSA) | Family Offices & UHNW Entrepreneurs | Cross-Border Wealth Structuring | Capital Governance | Non-Custodial Advisory | Switzerland

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Towards a World IP Digital Exchange: an infrastructure for the valorisation of intellectual property

In Europe — and even more markedly in Switzerland — a **structural paradox** persists.

We generate **high-quality intellectual property** in universities, research centres, SMEs, technology spin-offs and specialised industrial clusters, and yet a significant portion of this IP **never becomes economically functional**.

Not because it lacks quality. But because it lacks **structure**.

The real problem is not innovation.

It is translation.

Today, much intellectual property occupies a grey zone:

- too intangible to be financed by the traditional banking system,
- too complex to be understood and compared by institutional investors,
- too fragmented to be standardised,

- too legally idiosyncratic to be made transferable or scalable.

As a result, IP remains **registered**, but not **activated**. Protected, but not **economically legible**.

An idea in development: the World IP Digital Exchange

Over recent months, I have been reflecting on and working towards an idea that I consider increasingly relevant from a systemic perspective: the creation of a **World IP Digital Exchange**, conceived **not as a market**, but as a **neutral infrastructure for the economic translation of intellectual property**.

The objective is ambitious, yet very precise:

> **to transform intellectual property into structured, governable and financially intelligible economic rights, without transferring ownership and without engaging in any form of financial intermediation.**

It is essential to be clear about what this idea **is not**.

It is not a trading platform. It is not a crypto project. It is not a marketplace for ideas.

It is an **infrastructure layer** positioned between innovation and future access to capital.

What the infrastructure would do

In its conceptual design, the World IP Digital Exchange would rest on four fundamental pillars.

1. Standardisation

Development of replicable legal and economic frameworks enabling heterogeneous IP — software, patents, know-how, brands and content — to be described, classified and assessed according to coherent and comparable criteria.

2. Legal clarity

Definition of contractual models that clearly separate:

- ownership of the IP,
- economic exploitation,
- rights to cash flows,
- governance and enforcement mechanisms.

3. Digital traceability

Implementation of a secure digital register to manage:

- economic rights linked to IP,
- relevant lifecycle events,
- reporting and transparency obligations.

4. Validation through pilot projects

Application of the framework to real IP originating from:

- innovative SMEs,
- university spin-offs,

- Technology Transfer Offices,
- applied research projects.

The outcome would not be a financial product, but a **validated model**, capable of rendering IP **financially interpretable** at a later stage, within the appropriate regulatory perimeter.

An essential note on international negotiability

A frequently misunderstood — yet central — aspect of any serious discussion concerns the **international circulation of Swiss-law financial instruments**.

Swiss securities **may be held, transferred and exchanged outside Switzerland**, including within the European Union and the United States, **but not automatically or indiscriminately**.

The key principle is straightforward:

> **the relevant regulatory framework is not only that of the issuer, but primarily that of the place of negotiation and the type of investor.**

In other words:

- a Swiss security may circulate globally,
- but the organised market remains anchored to the jurisdiction of issuance.

Under the model envisaged here:

- issuance, registration and trading rules remain in Switzerland, within a private market context;
- international circulation occurs exclusively through **bilateral OTC transfers** between professional investors, in compliance with applicable local regulations (MiFID II in the EU; Regulation D / Regulation S in the United States).

This approach ensures:

- regulatory neutrality,
- cross-border compatibility,
- banking and institutional credibility,
- no exposure to foreign trading venue regimes.

In short: **the market remains Swiss; circulation is global, but disciplined and discreet.**

Why Switzerland

Switzerland offers a combination that is difficult to replicate elsewhere:

- legal precision,
- contractual freedom,
- a mature governance culture,
- a pragmatic approach to digital registers,
- credibility with institutional counterparties.

For these reasons, I consider Switzerland an ideal jurisdiction in which to develop **pre-market innovation infrastructures**, prior to the introduction of any capital markets logic.

Who this reflection is addressed to

At this stage, my interest is directed towards **partners**, not investors, in particular:

- universities and universities of applied sciences,
- Technology Transfer Offices,
- SMEs with exploitable yet under-valorised IP,
- legal and governance experts in IP and structured finance,
- applied research partners,
- public actors within the innovation ecosystem.

The intention is to develop the project within a **research–implementation framework**, with strong emphasis on neutrality, governance and long-term sustainability.

An invitation to dialogue

If you operate at the intersection of:

- innovation and practical application,
- intellectual property and economic valorisation,
- research and market readiness,

and believe that **intellectual property deserves better economic infrastructure**, I would welcome a structured exchange.

This is not a matter of speed. It is a matter of **doing things properly, once**.

Explanatory Notes

Note 1 – Nature of the project The IP Digital Exchange is, at present, a concept under study and development. It does not constitute an offer, an investment solicitation, nor a financial intermediation initiative under Swiss law (FinSA) or any other jurisdiction.

Note 2 – Absence of regulated activities In its current phase, the project does not perform and does not intend to perform:

- trading activities on behalf of third parties,
- operation of regulated markets or trading venues,
- placement of financial instruments,
- investment advisory services within the scope of the described infrastructure.

Any future development will be assessed separately and in compliance with the applicable regulatory perimeter.

Note 3 – Scope of international circulation Any reference to the international circulation of Swiss-law financial instruments is purely descriptive and systemic in nature. Any cross-border transfers would, if applicable, occur solely between professional investors, on a bilateral (OTC) basis and in compliance with relevant local regulations.

Note 4 – Partners versus investors This contribution is addressed exclusively to potential institutional, academic and industrial partners interested in participating in a phase of research, validation or co-development of the model. It is not addressed to retail or professional investors for capital-raising purposes.

Statement on ownership of the idea and structure

The conceptual idea, systemic approach and architectural structure of the **World IP Digital Exchange**, as described in this contribution, have been developed by **Peter Regent** in the course of his professional activity and applied research in governance, structured finance and intellectual property valorisation.

Unless otherwise agreed in writing:

- intellectual ownership of the idea, conceptual model and foundational architecture remains with the author;
- any sharing with third parties occurs exclusively for exploratory, collaborative or research purposes;
- any future operational development, technical implementation or economic exploitation shall be subject to specific agreements, respecting the rights of all parties involved.

This statement is not intended to limit collaboration, but to clarify the reference framework from the outset, in the interests of transparency, fairness and sound governance.