

IP is booming despite the recession

2010 was a very good year for Mathys & Squire LLP. It was our centenary year and turnover increased by almost 30% compared with 2009. We also increased our staff numbers by over 15% to accommodate the increased workload – and we already have a number of new recruits set to join us over the coming months. Work in the first quarter of 2011 is up a further 25% on the previous year.

Whilst we have seen, and helped, both domestic and foreign clients look more critically at their portfolios over the last few years, to prune out less valuable IP, we have also seen these companies protecting more of their latest innovations so that they are in a stronger position to recover from the financial crisis. As a result, the overall workload from existing clients was up and the remaining growth came in the form of clients transferring their existing portfolios to our care.

The growth in our domestic work in recent years has also been fuelled by the increasing regionalisation of our workforce. Over the last six years we have opened offices in Cambridge, York, Manchester and Reading.

As a region, Cambridgeshire has for many years been a significant source of our domestic work, and many of our attorneys have a connection there. Unsurprisingly, therefore, our first regional office was opened in Cambridge and that was in 2005. This year we are pleased to be expanding our presence in Cambridge with a move to bigger offices in Vision Park, Histon.

The Cambridge office is led by Alan MacDougall and is boosted by three senior team members, Jane Evenson, Chris Hirsz and Jeremy Smith.

Chris Hirsz has over 30 years' experience of patents, most recently with multinational electronics firms. Chris is a physicist with considerable commercial experience having worked with GEC, Motorola and the UK Intellectual Property Office and more recently in another Cambridge firm.

Partner Jane Evenson already has strong links with the region and will be involved with the expanded Cambridge office. She has more than 15 years experience in patents and works in the fields of biotechnology, biochemistry, molecular biology and organic chemistry, with particular expertise in antibodies and immunology, stem cell biology, gene therapy and pharmaceutical chemistry.

Jeremy Smith is an engineer who focuses on software and other computer related technologies. Since qualifying as a patent attorney he has developed his expertise in the prosecution of computer implemented inventions and mobile telecommunications related technologies.

We forecast that this growth will continue and we already have plans to expand our regional offices, and our London office, further over the coming years.