



NEWS RELEASE

新闻通稿

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Innovations4Flooring files IPR petition at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board in the US Patent & Trademark Office to nullify Välinge's U.S. Patent '625

Innovations4Flooring 在美国专利商标局(USPTO) 下设的专利审查与上诉委员会(PTAB)提出多方复审 (IPR)， 诉求 Välinge 的美国 625 号专利无效

- *I4F takes action to protect licensees against unwarranted litigation from Välinge*
I4F 采取行动保护其加盟商免受 Välinge 无据诉讼的影响
- *Supports I4F legal proceedings to nullify the Dutch part of Välinge European Patent – EP'317; prior art for both patents overlap, neither believed to be patentable*
呼应和支持 I4F 依照法律程序申请 Välinge 的 EP'317 号欧洲专利的荷兰部分无效。该两项专利的在先技术存在重叠，且均不具备专利性。
- *US '625 cornerstone of Välinge's long side patent portfolio in the US*
美国 625 号专利作为 Välinge 长边专利的基石 在美国的专利资产

WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO – Innovations4Flooring (I4F), a technology company providing flooring installation solutions, today announced that it has filed an inter partes review (IPR) petition at the Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) in the US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to nullify Välinge's U.S. Patent No. 7,398,625. I4F's filing sets forth that Välinge's '625 patent is invalid in view of prior art showing that the claimed features were known in the flooring industry well before the priority date of the '625 patent.

WILLEMSTAD, CURAÇAO – I4F 公司是一家专业提供地板安装和解决地板安装问题的技术公司，今天宣布其在美国专利商标局(USPTO) 下设的专利审查与上诉委员会(PTAB)提出多方复审(IPR) 诉求，请求 Välinge 专利号为 7,398,625 的美国专利无效。I4F 在诉求中提出，申请 625 号专利无效，是因为复审其在先技术时可以发现，625 号专利的优先权日之前相关功能已经在地板行业普遍知晓。

It is expected that the PTAB will render a decision on whether to institute the IPR within the next six months. A final written decision is expected to be issued by the PTAB no later than twelve months after the decision to institute the IPR.

预计专利审查与上诉委员会在六个月内会决定是否受理多方复审。如果决定受理多方复审，预计最终决定会在 12 个月内做出。

This follows I4F's initiation of invalidity proceedings on the merits to nullify the Dutch part of Välinge's European base patent EP 1 084 317, filed before the District Court of The Hague in the Netherlands in March 2016. A first instance decision, dealing with this European validity, is expected to be obtained within less than one year from today.

该行动完美的延续了 I4F 的初始法律诉讼战略。I4F 与 2016 年 3 月在荷兰的海牙法院提出诉讼，诉求 Välinge 的欧洲专利 EP 1 084 317 的荷兰部分无效。该诉讼的一审判决，涉及到欧洲部分的专利有效性，预计会在一年内做出。

Perceived as one of Välinge's core patents for the long side in the US, I4F believes that the invalidation of Välinge's '625 patent, in combination with the expected success of the pending nullity action against the Dutch part of EP '317, will free the flooring industry from unjustified royalties. The prior art for these two Välinge patents overlap and neither patent is believed to be patentable.

作为在美国的长边技术核心之一，I4F 相信本次针对 625 号专利的无效申请，同时结合极有可能获胜的申请 EP '317 荷兰部分无效的法律诉讼，会使得整个地板行业从显失公平的特许权使用费里解放出来。Välinge 这两项专利的在先技术存在重叠，且均不具备专利性。

This will also eliminate the fear of being met with unwarranted infringement claims when using these standard locking designs, most recently inflicted by Välinge in the US with the pending '625 patent litigation case against suppliers and retailers.

鉴于近来 Välinge 在美国针对 625 号专利对供货商和零售商提起诉讼，I4F 的法律行动也会使得用户在使用常规化的锁边设计时，减少其在遭受没有法律依据的侵权诉讼时所承受的担忧。

John Rietveldt, I4F's CEO says, "Välinge's patents have been imposed on the flooring industry for far too long, and their invalidation will positively impact freedom of choice in the industry. We are confident that our licensees and customers are protected against these claims, and will continue to do everything in our power to preserve freedom of choice for global flooring manufacturers. The removal of the fear management approach being adopted by Välinge is long overdue."

John Rietveldt, I4F 的首席执行官说：“Välinge 的专利已经被强加于地板行业太多年，通过申请其专利无效，会对整个行业的自由选择带来积极影响，我们非常有信心保护我们的加盟商和客户不受相关法律诉讼的影响，并且我们会尽一切努力来帮助全球地板生厂商实现自由选择的权利。Välinge 实行了多年的畏惧经营管理模式早应该被解除。”

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结束

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About Innovations4Flooring Holding NV:
关于 Innovations4Flooring 股份有限公司

Based in Willemstad, Curaçao, Innovations4Flooring is a technology company focused on the development of patents and flooring installation solutions. A Dutch private equity group holds a majority stake in the company.

Innovations4Flooring 是一家技术公司，注册于库拉索岛，致力于专利的开发和地板安装解决方案。该公司的大股东是一家荷兰私有集团。

3L TripleLock and Click4U, provide a unique drop-lock installation technique for flooring panels that eliminates the need for an additional insert on the short side. This elimination provides manufacturers with the possibility to improve productivity levels as well as to reduce their costs and carbon footprint. International patents and patent applications for I4F's technologies have been granted and filed in over 100 countries worldwide. 3L TripleLock provides a drop-lock installation innovation while Click4U provides an angle system on the long side and a drop-lock on the short side. The solution is suitable for laminate, luxury vinyl tiles, wood plastic composite, rigid core flooring, multi-layer flooring and wooden flooring panels.

3L 锁扣和 Click4U，为地板安装领域提供独特的直落式锁扣安装技术，使其不必在短边安装之余仍需额外插入部件。这可以使制造商提高生产率，并降低生产成本和碳排放。I4F 已经在全球 100 多个国家为其相关技术申请了专利保护。3L TripleLock 是一个直落式锁扣安装发明，而 Click4U 是对长边用角系统、短边用下压锁扣系统的发明。该解决方案适用于强化地板、豪华乙烯基砖、木塑复合地板、硬质塑胶地板，多层地板和实木地板。

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