

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018

I4F reacts to repeatedly vague allegations made by Unilin

- *I4F confident its locking technology does not infringe any valid Unilin patents*
- *Dutch court and EPO already confirmed validity of I4F's 3L TripleLock patent in 2016 and 2017*
- *I4F believes Unilin's allegations to be anti-competitive propaganda*
- *More and more manufacturers are signing up with I4F*

DOMOTEXasia/CHINAFLOORS 2018, SHANGHAI, CHINA – I4F, a group of companies providing patents and technologies to the flooring industry, today reacted to vague allegations made by Unilin, that I4F believes to be unfounded, regarding its patent position. I4F is of the opinion that Unilin's statement is nothing more than anti-competitive propaganda.

In 2016 and 2017, the District Court of The Hague in the Netherlands and the European Patent Office (EPO) confirmed the validity of I4F's 3L TripleLock patent. I4F strongly believes that its patented locking technology does not infringe any valid Unilin patents.

In the past Unilin has, repeatably, made similar, vague public statements containing, what I4F strongly believes to be, false patent infringement allegations in relation to its locking technology. As far as I4F is aware, these allegations have never led to the actual filing of an infringement case in any court. Once again, Unilin's recent announcement does not specify which patents or products are involved in this alleged infringement. I4F believes that these intentionally vague public allegations, unaccompanied by concrete legal follow up, demonstrate the weakness of Unilin's position. This leads I4F to believe that Unilin's sole intention is to dissuade companies from using I4F's revolutionary locking solutions. In I4F's opinion, this is anti-competitive "propaganda" purposely orchestrated to cause damage to I4F's credibility.

The recent strong growth of new I4F licensees has confirmed the industry's demand for I4F's technologies and vision to provide manufacturers with accessibility to meaningful innovations at reasonable prices.

I4F will continue to do everything in its power to fight anti-competitive behaviour that inhibits innovation, drives up costs and restricts freedom of choice.

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About I4F:

I4F is an innovations group focused on the development of patents and technologies for the flooring industry. Its portfolio includes IP for flooring installation and wall mounting systems, material compositions, surface treatment as well as laminate and board production technologies. I4F has strategic partnerships with the industry's most important IP players, including Classen, Kronospan, UWC and Kowon. The company's flagship technologies, 3L TripleLock and Click4U, provide a unique one piece drop-lock installation technique for flooring panels that eliminates the need for an additional insert 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. International patents and patent applications for I4F's technologies have been granted and filed in over 100 countries worldwide.

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