Healthcare and IP Strategy

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Healthcare sector has been put under a lot of pressure in the recent years and the Covid-19 Pandemic has accelerated the process of innovation and invention necessary to face and overcome the spread of SARS-COV 2 virus. The industry is rapidly evolving and so is the necessity to protect the emergent IP assets and to develop an efficient strategy to implement them.

THINX has recently assisted NVK Design studio (of architect Natasha Calandrino Van Kleef) and INAF (Italian National Institute for Astrophysics) with the IP strategy for Saturno, a device for the inactivation of pathogens through the use of UV-C lamps and fans, designed for indoor environments, from schools to public and private offices.

The idea for its design came at the multidisciplinary scientific congress held in Milan in 2021 during which participants discussed in a multicultural scientific setting the issues of contagion, with particular reference to the Covid-19 pandemic. The discussion involved virologists, biologists, and astrophysicists who, at different levels, have worked to combat the spread of the SARS-COV-2 virus. The main topics covered were the spread of epidemics and their dependence on seasonality, the functioning of vaccines, and technologies for disinfecting air and surfaces in closed environments.

Some interesting results were obtained from the collaboration between researchers from the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics (INAF, www.inaf.it) and doctors and biologists from the University of Milan. In particular, they studied the efficiency at which different bands of the UV radiation are able to inhibit the replication of the virus. An important result obtained by the group of astrophysicists and biologists from Milan as early as May 2020, widely disseminated internationally, was the direct quantitative measurement of the ability to inhibit the virus with UV-C light, with effectiveness proving particularly high.

One of the spin-offs of this result was the conception of "Saturno", a disinfection system for public and private environments based on a functional design that aims at environmental sustainability and the well-being of people, while being aesthetically pleasing. The conception, design and prototype production of an ad hoc device was possible thanks to the collaboration between the INAF team and the studio of architect Natasha Calandrino Van Kleef. The system has been designed to sanitize closed environments through the recycling of ambient air, with no need for outside air.

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