



Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
Office européen
des brevets

The Significance of the European Patent System for the European Economy

Patents and the Fourth Industrial Revolution



Importance of IPR-intensive industries for EU economy

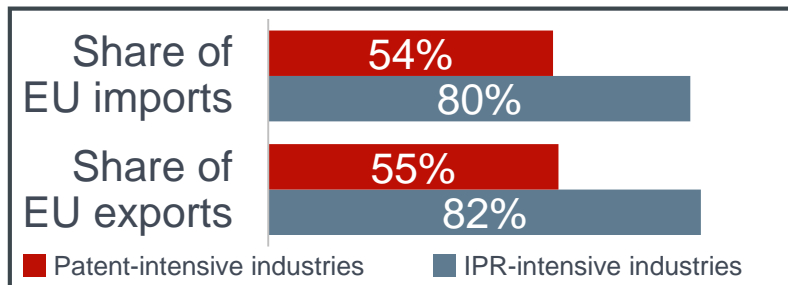
Contribution to EU GDP



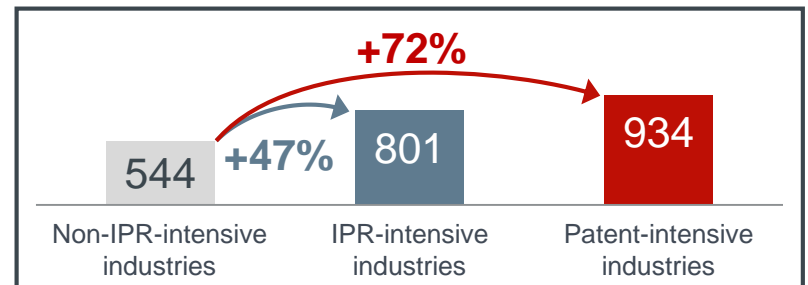
Share of EU employment



Contribution to EU trade



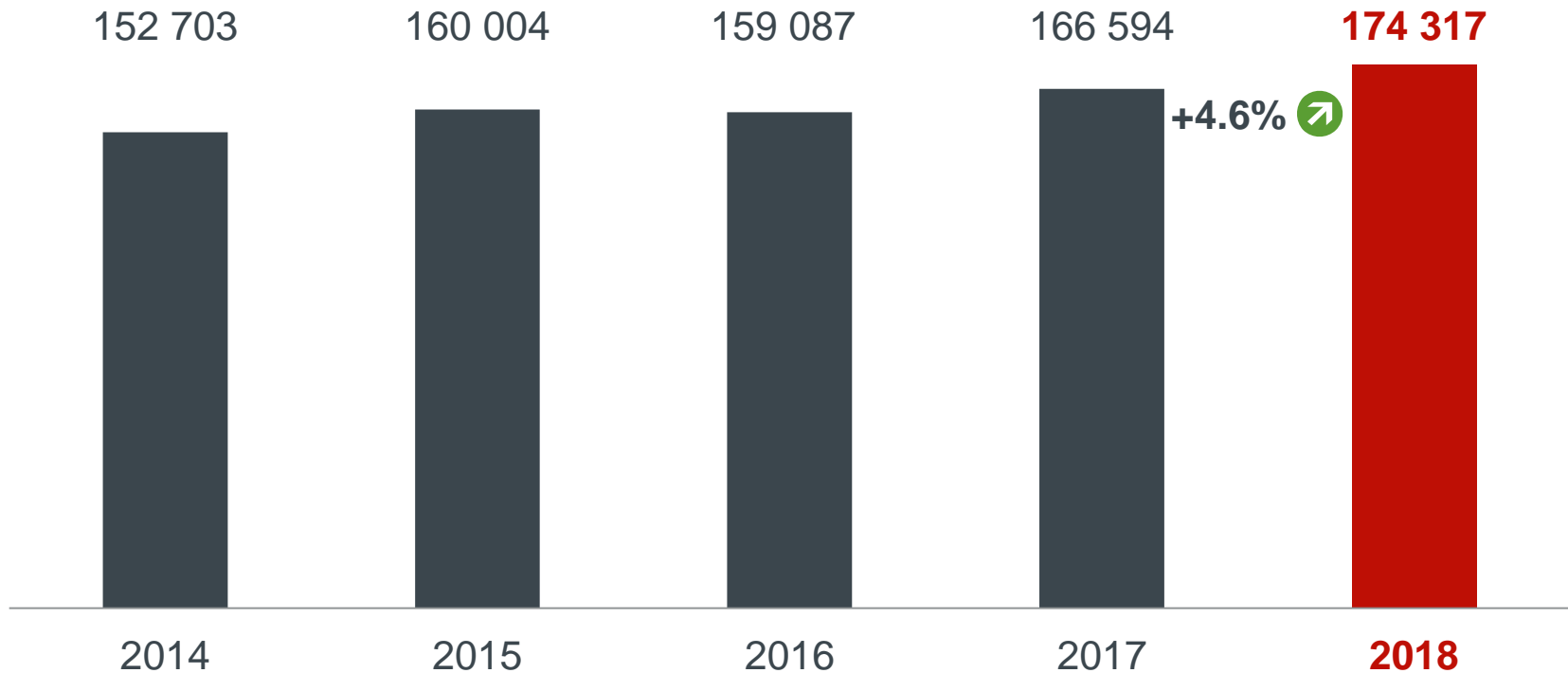
Wage premium



Source: IPR-intensive industries and economic performance in the European Union – Joint Report 2019 from the EPO and EUIPO- Data 2014-2016.

Note: IPR: IP rights: trade marks, patents, designs, copyrights, geographical indications and plant variety rights.

Increasing demand for European patents



Source: EPO. Status: 21.1.2019.

European patent applications include direct European applications and international (PCT) applications that entered the European phase during the reporting period.

Emergence of a new breed of inventions

SOFTWARE



AI



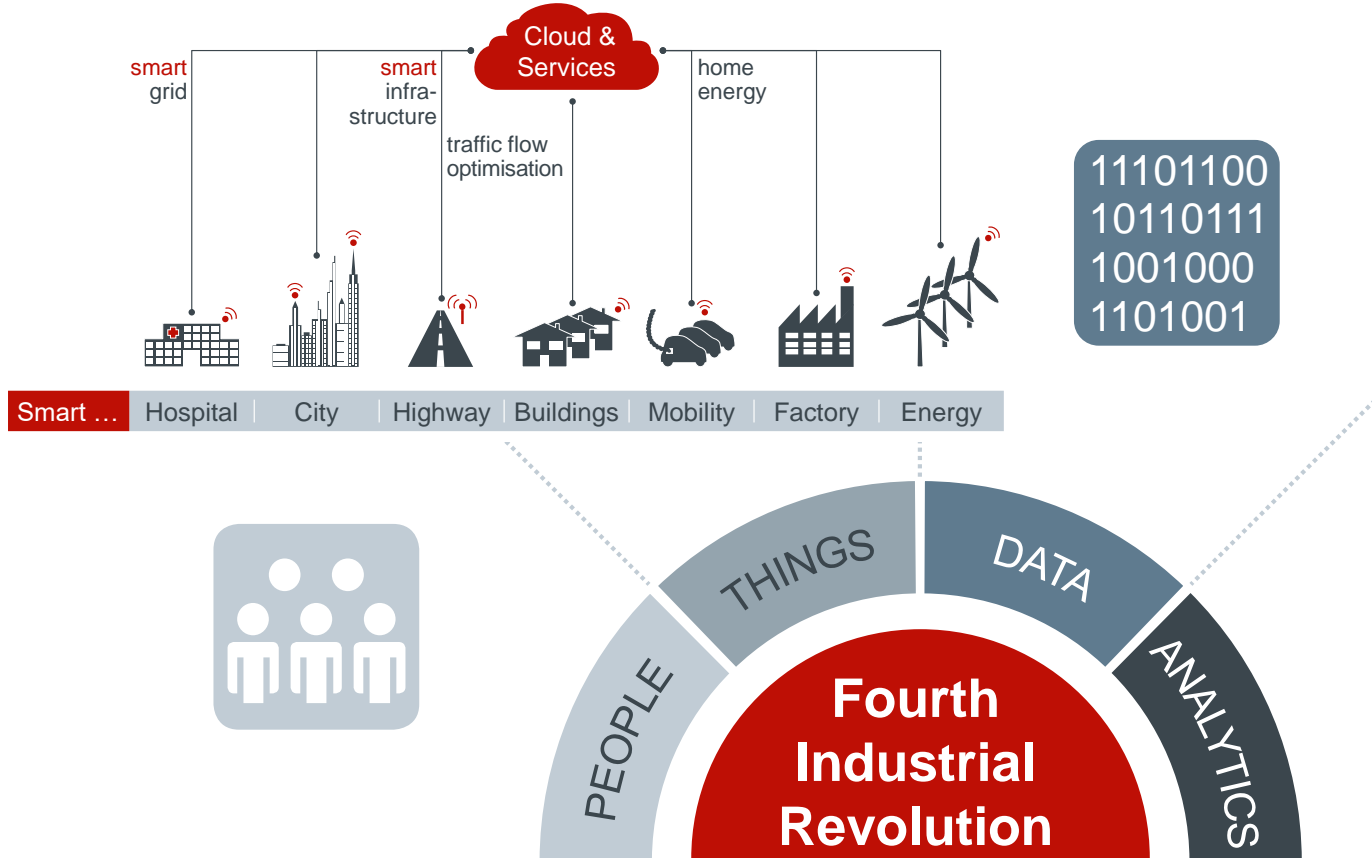
SUPER-SOFTWARE



EVERYWHERE – in Every field of technology, well beyond ICT

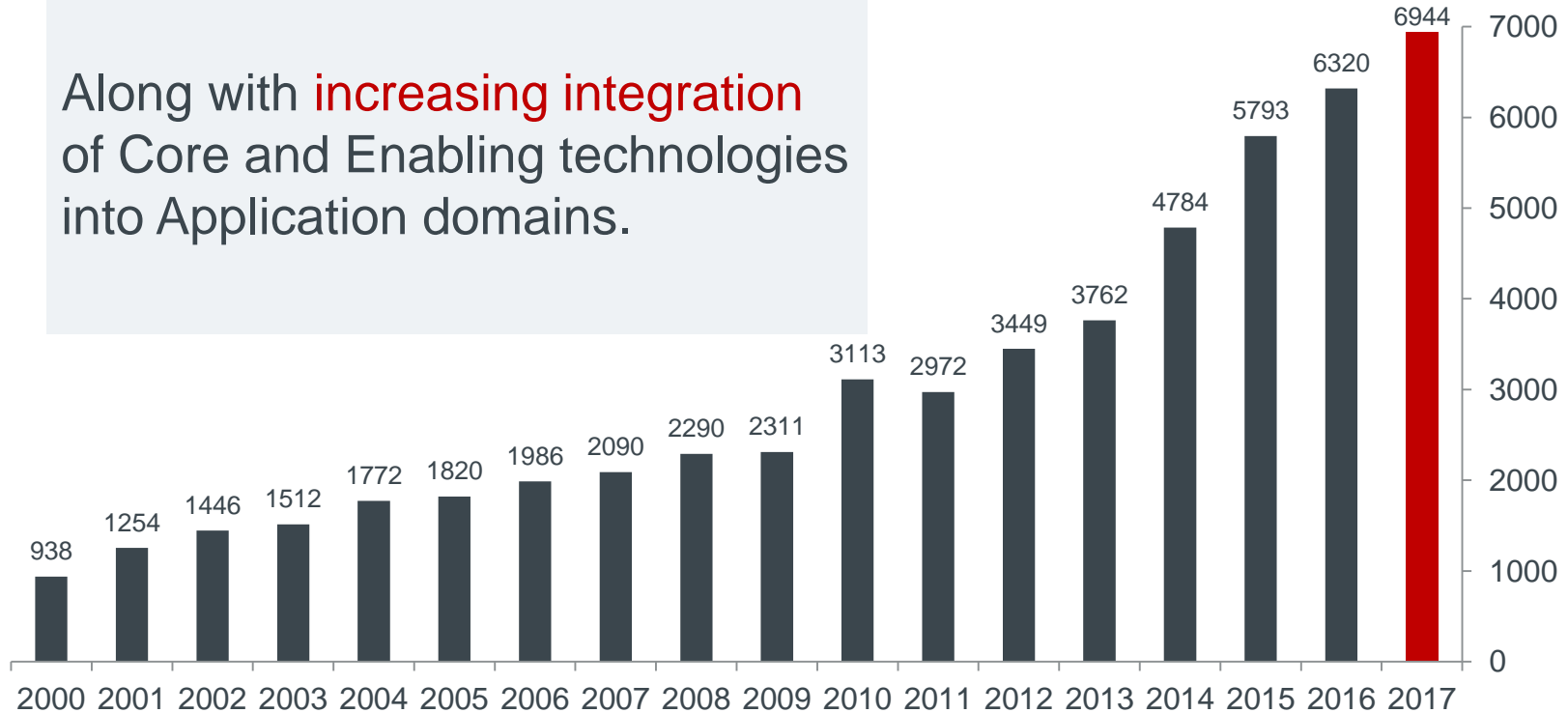


The value chain of 4IR

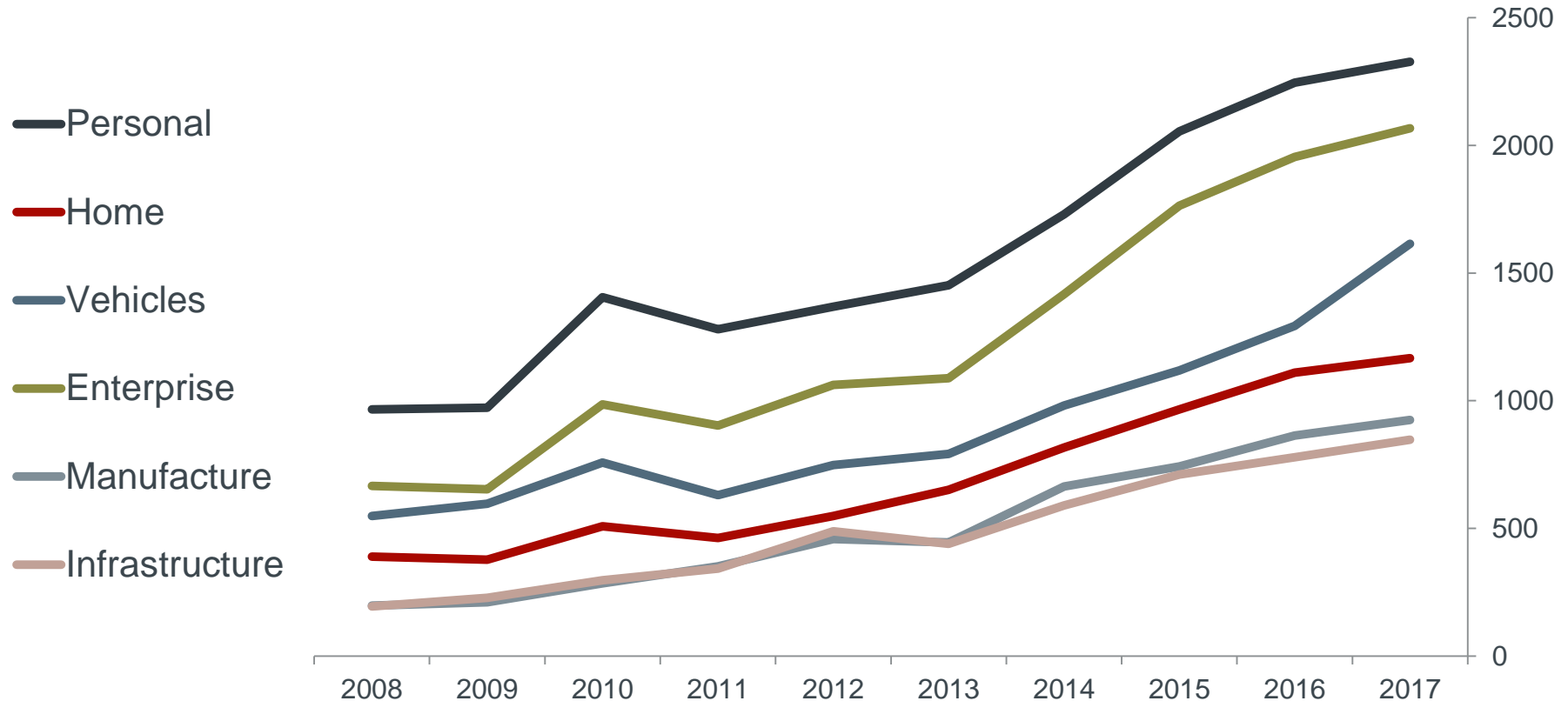


Steep rise of 4IR applications at the EPO

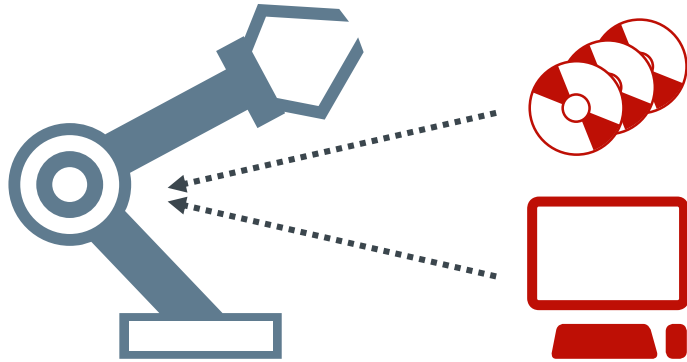
Along with **increasing integration** of Core and Enabling technologies into Application domains.



Innovation is soaring in application domains



It's all about software

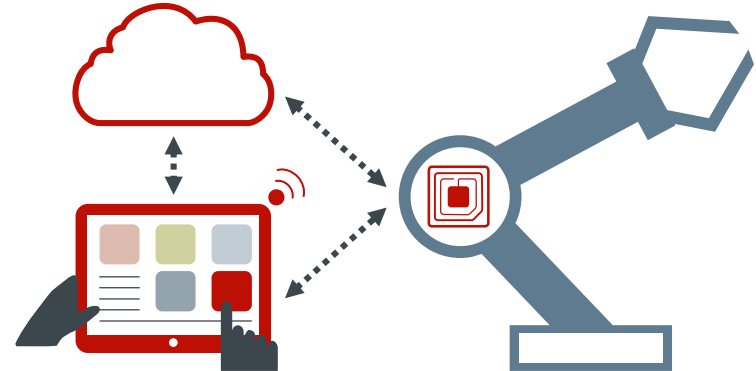


Today

Advanced machines using standard software
(advances from improving the machine)

4th Industrial Revolution

Advanced software using standard machines
(advances from improving the software)



A revolution for the patent system?

EPO has an established approach to **Computer Implemented Inventions (CII)**

- Common understanding of CII procedures **in all sectors**
- Annual improvement of CII content of the **Guidelines** for Examination

The challenge of **industry convergence**

- Growing **complexity** of the patent landscape
- A challenge for established practices in **IP management and strategy**



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Thank you for your attention!

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