



TRUMPF modernizes global IP operations with Unycom

How a global manufacturing leader partnered with Clarivate to implement a scalable, future-ready IP management platform.

TRUMPF

- Global high-technology manufacturer
- Founded in 1923
- 18,000+ employees

The challenge

Modernize IP operations to support global scale, collaboration and increasing innovation complexity

The solution

Unycom IP Management Software (IPMS)

The outcome

- Centralized, end-to-end IP processes in a single system
- Greater transparency and self-service access for inventors and R&D leaders
- A scalable foundation for continuous evolution of IP operations.

Supporting innovation at a global scale with modernized IP management

Building a future-ready global IP management software ecosystem

TRUMPF began its life in 1923 as a collection of small mechanical engineering workshops in Germany and has since evolved into a global leader in machine tools, laser technology and industrial electronics.

With more than 18,000 employees worldwide and a strong focus on research and development (R&D), innovation is central to the company's long-term success, and intellectual property (IP) plays a critical role in protecting and enabling that innovation globally.

To support its international research and R&D organization, TRUMPF operates a centralized IP function that manages a broad, growing portfolio of patents and related IP assets. Over time, the IP department has expanded from a small, locally focused team into a globally distributed organization of more than 35 IP professionals working closely with inventors, R&D leaders and external partners across the business.



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Intellectual Property Manager at TRUMPF

Growth demands modernization

In this environment, the IP team at TRUMPF balances a wide range of responsibilities, from managing invention disclosures and ensuring compliance with complex legal requirements to supporting strategic decision-making across

R&D and business leadership. As innovation activities grew, TRUMPF needed better collaboration, greater transparency and secure access to IP information, leading to the decision to modernize its IP systems.

TRUMPF's requirements for a strategic solution:



Secure enterprise-grade platform



End-to-end patent workflow management



German-compliant inventor remuneration functionality



Cross-functional collaboration tools



Self-service access for employees



Integration features



High data transparency



Compliance and government alignment



An implementation team with a proven track record

Transforming IP operations with modern IP platforms

Limitations of the legacy IPMS

As IP operations at TRUMPF matured, it became increasingly apparent that the legacy system, which had once served as the backbone of the patent and IP management processes, could no longer meet the demands of the program.

Originally implemented more than two decades ago to support the transition from paper to digital records, TRUMPF's previous IPMS was fundamentally designed for a different era and couldn't keep up with the needs of the business over time.

Luca Rederer, the IP Manager who led the project at TRUMPF, explained, "As the IP team grew and our work became more complex, the tool didn't evolve in the same way. It couldn't match our pace." As a result, collaboration was fragmented, workflows relied heavily on email and transparency for inventors and business stakeholders was limited.

To support the organization's ambitious goals and continued growth, a new modern and future-oriented solution was required.

"We really all talked to each other. Even though Clarivate is a service provider, we all saw ourselves on the same level, and we recognized the Clarivate team as the experts who have done such projects many times before."

Luca Rederer
Intellectual Property Manager at TRUMPF

Defining requirements for a modern IPMS

TRUMPF set out not just to find and adopt a new solution, but also to strategically transform how IP was managed across the organization.

The requirements list for a state-of-the-art IPMS was extensive, with the needs of the executive team, IP operations, legal counsel, IT, R&D, procurement and data security all considered.

In addition to patent workflows, TRUMPF needed its IPMS to support

Germany's inventor remuneration framework — a legally mandated process that governs how employee inventors are compensated for patented inventions. This process involves strict timelines, detailed documentation, and ongoing tracking of inventor contributions and payments, making it significantly more complex than standard invention disclosure workflows. As TRUMPF's innovation activities expanded globally, reliably managing these obligations at scale became essential.

Above and beyond simply replacing an aging system, TRUMPF's greater strategic goal was to:

- Establish a future-ready platform
- Support best practice end-to-end IP processes
- Enable collaboration across departments and external partners
- Meet today's best-in-class enterprise security and compliance standards.

Outlining the ultimate vision for the project, Rederer noted, "We wanted our IPMS to become our single source of truth where all our work, internal collaboration and connections to external partners happen in a single ecosystem."

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More than a platform: Choosing a strategic partner for success

A rigorous evaluation process

Throughout the evaluation process, TRUMPF engaged closely with the proposed project teams, placing particular emphasis on their ability to manage large-scale implementations, navigate enterprise IT and security requirements and deliver against a demanding timeline.

When it came to finding the right fit, Rederer explained, "We were looking for a partner who continually invests in their platform and in doing so defines the industry standard."

A handful of IPMS solution providers met TRUMPF's requirements, but Unycom and the Clarivate project

team stood out from the rest for reasons beyond the platform itself. "The Clarivate team and their presentation are what really made our decision to go with Unycom a clear one," commented Rederer. From the earliest discussions, TRUMPF felt assured that Clarivate could provide not only the required capabilities but also the level of knowledge, structure and experience needed to support a complex, time-critical transformation.

"Clarivate were not the only ones saying they could do it, but we really felt confident that they could actually deliver," recalled Rederer.



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A robust partnership from the start

Equally important was the sense of partnership established early on. Rather than establishing a traditional vendor-client relationship, the Clarivate team worked collaboratively with TRUMPF as experienced advisors who had successfully delivered similarly complex projects before.

Rederer explained, "We didn't see this as just a service provider relationship — it felt like a partnership.

Right away there was great collaboration. We saw ourselves on the same level and really valued Clarivate's professionalism."

The Clarivate team's clear communication, deep domain expertise and strong understanding of the realities of modernizing IP operations within a global organization gave TRUMPF confidence that the team was the right choice to successfully deliver the ambitious Unycom project.



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A disciplined implementation delivered with confidence

Structured governance and cross-functional collaboration

"We had a very clear governance model for the project, with clearly defined responsibilities from the beginning," explained Rederer.

There were dedicated project leads with counterparts on both sides to foster close coordination across functional areas. Internal stakeholders were engaged early to address data protection, security and compliance requirements. Recalling the excellent collaboration, Rederer said: "We really all talked to each other. Even though Clarivate is a service provider, we all saw ourselves on

the same level, and we recognized the Clarivate team as the experts who have done such projects many times before."

The TRUMPF team felt that this governance model helped promote efficient decision-making and manage the complexity inherent in implementing an enterprise IP management system within a global organization. "It was always very transparent where we were in the Unycom project. This gave us confidence that the project would be delivered successfully," recalled Rederer of the Clarivate approach to the implementation.

Delivering under a tight timeline

The Unycom implementation was executed against an ambitious 9-month timeline, a deliberate choice driven by business priorities.

TRUMPF approached the implementation with both pragmatism and confidence, knowing that a structured methodology and an experienced project team would support a smooth and successful transition.

Rederer said: "It was a tough timeline, but we managed as planned,

and it was handled very well by the Clarivate team. They were very responsive during the hypercare phase, which we needed." During go-live, the TRUMPF team appreciated the highly responsive support from Clarivate, working closely to resolve any issues quickly. This was particularly important given the legal and operational sensitivities tied to invention disclosures and inventor remuneration, which are subject to strict regulatory timelines. The ability to address issues collaboratively reinforced confidence in both the platform and the project team.

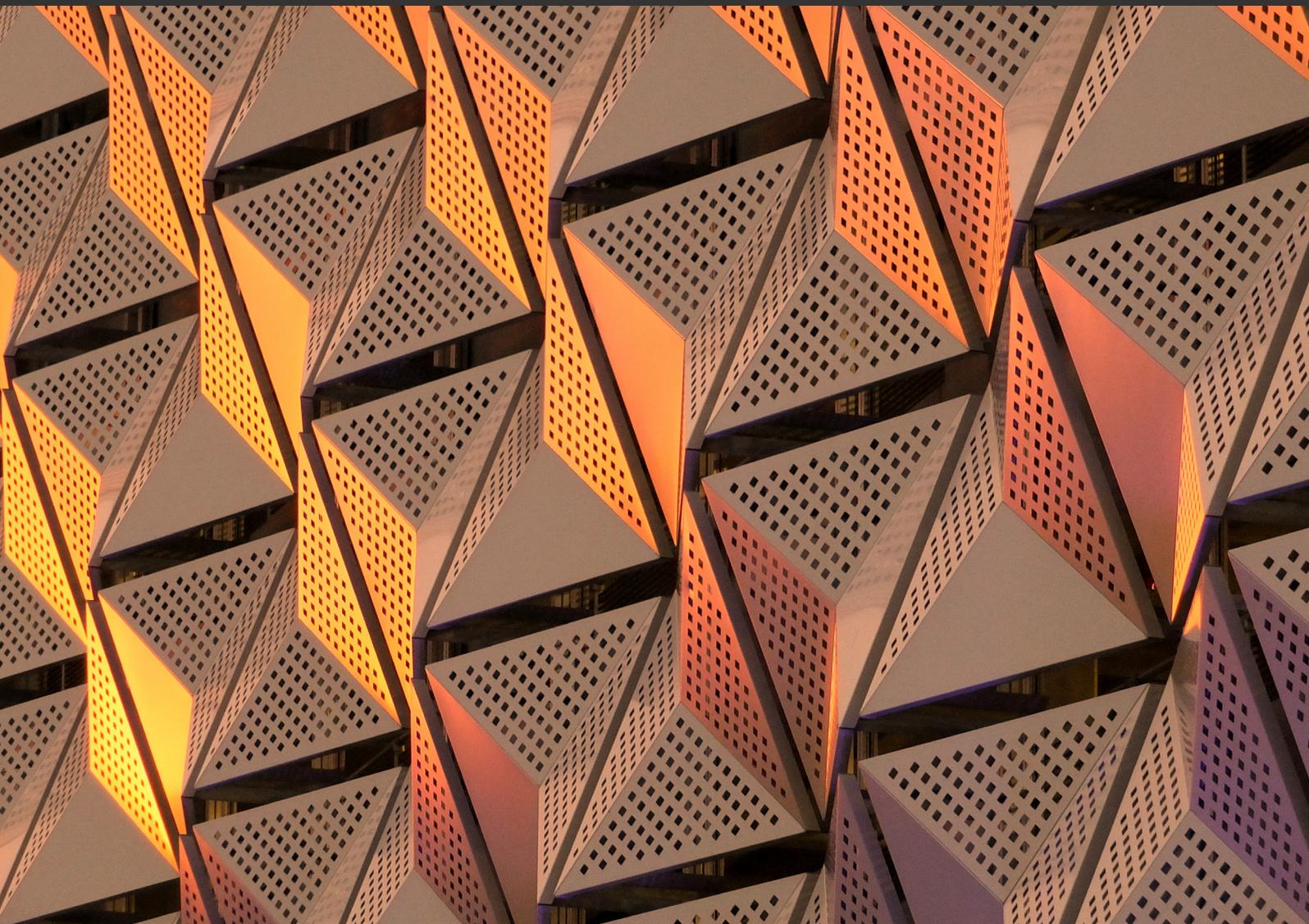
Driving successful adoption through training and enablement

User adoption of Unycom was a key focus alongside technical implementation. TRUMPF invested heavily in preparing colleagues for the Unycom transition, delivering extensive training sessions tailored to different groups.

Rederer commented, "Not everyone adapts to change in the same way, but we prepared our users very well." Live training was complemented by recorded sessions, enabling TRUMPF's IP employees to revisit materials as needed. In the weeks following go-live,

regular Q&A sessions were held, providing a forum for users to raise questions and receive guidance as they began working in the new system. This structured enablement approach helped the team move from initial familiarity to confident, day-to-day use of the Unycom platform.

The implementation successfully delivered a stable and scalable foundation for TRUMPF's IP operations. "We're already seeing a benefit compared to the old system" commented Rederer.



Transforming daily IP operations with a unified platform

A continuous evolution

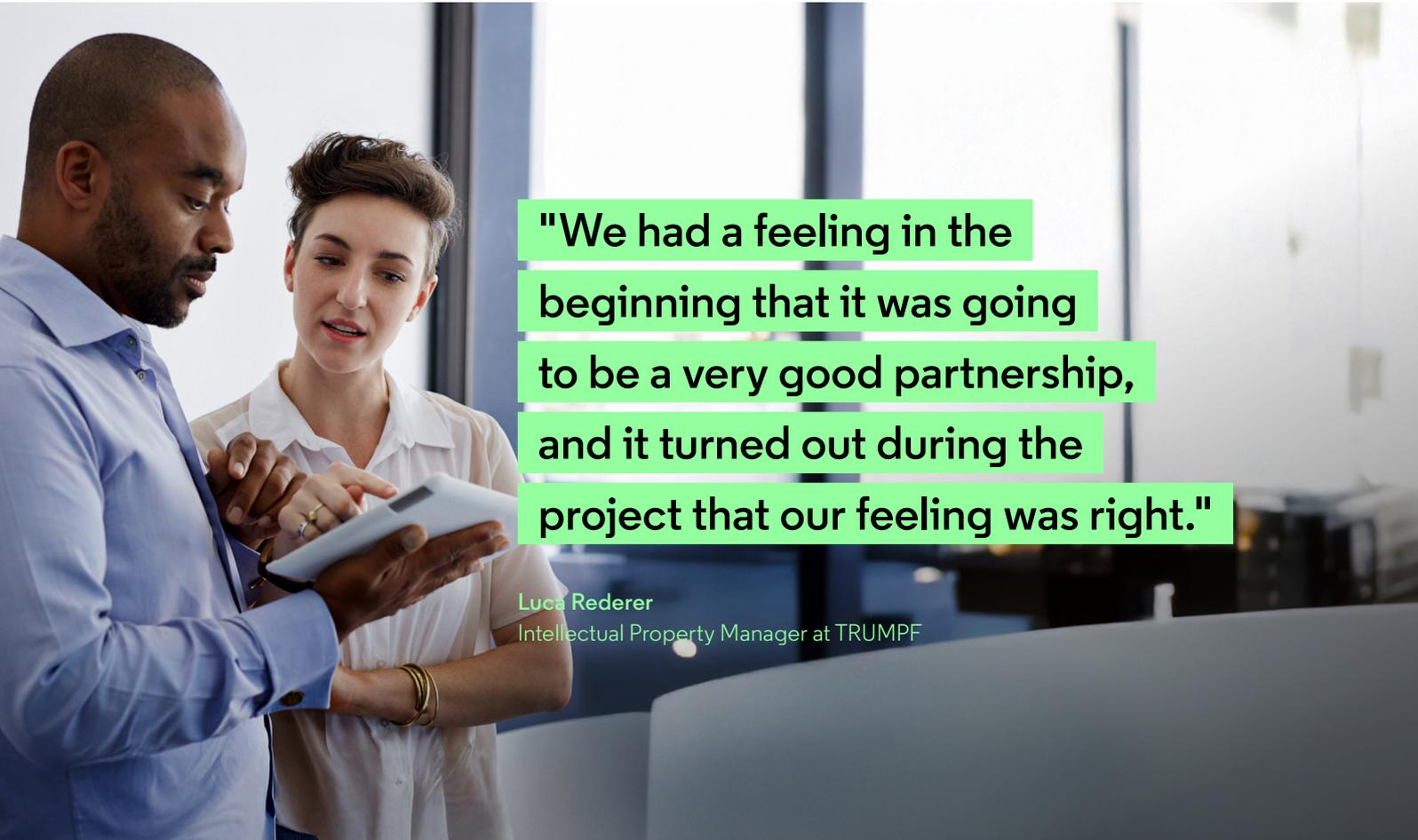
Rather than viewing go-live as an endpoint, TRUMPF approached the Unycom implementation as the first step in a continuous evolution, supported by a platform and partner capable of growing alongside the company's IP strategy.

Since adopting Unycom, the organization has realized meaningful benefits across the IP department, R&D teams and the broader business.

Streamlining IP operations

For the IP department, Unycom provides a centralized environment to manage core processes end to end, reducing reliance on manual workflows and email-based communication. By consolidating activities within a single system, the team has:

- Gained greater consistency
- Increased transparency and efficiency in day-to-day operations
- Established a foundation for future integrations and process optimization.



"We had a feeling in the beginning that it was going to be a very good partnership, and it turned out during the project that our feeling was right."

Luca Rederer
Intellectual Property Manager at TRUMPF

Empowering inventors

The benefits extend well beyond the IP team. Inventors now have self-service access to their invention disclosures, case status and compensation information, significantly reducing the need for ad hoc inquiries and increasing engagement with the IP process.

Rederer said: "The inventors gave very positive feedback. They really liked that they could suddenly see their old cases, their status and what payments they'd already received. This is a huge improvement." Similarly, R&D decision-makers can directly access portfolio information

and insights, enabling more informed decision-making without additional reporting overhead. This increased visibility has helped incorporate IP more deeply into TRUMPF's innovation culture.

"Using Unycom as a regular part of their work has made colleagues across the organization feel more integrated into the whole IP process, and this helps reinforce its importance," Rederer said. By making IP information accessible and transparent, TRUMPF has strengthened awareness of the role IP plays in protecting innovation and supporting long-term business value.

"Our goal was to have a system in which we can manage all of our IP processes and never have to leave, and I think we've made it to a very good starting point. We have a good feeling with Unycom. Seeing the roadmap of improvements coming up, we're very much looking forward to taking advantage of them."

Luca Rederer
Intellectual Property Manager at TRUMPF

About Clarivate

Clarivate is a leading global information services provider. We are the partner law firms and companies rely on to transform the way they create, manage and protect intellectual property. Our comprehensive intellectual property data, software and expertise helps companies drive innovation, law firms achieve practice excellence, and organizations worldwide effectively manage and protect critical IP assets. Clarivate is home to Derwent Innovation, CompuMark, Innography, Darts-ip, IPfolio, FoundationIP and other leading IP solutions.

To learn more, visit clarivate.com/ip

Find the Clarivate IPMS that's right for your organization

IP management software that elevates operational performance

Every organization's IP strategy is different, shaped by its size, structure and innovation goals. Clarivate offers a flexible portfolio of IP management solutions designed to support organizations at every stage of maturity. Learn how Clarivate can help you find the IPMS that best fits your needs today, and scales with you into the future.

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