

# Life Sciences Companies Make Up a Small Portion of the Companies Opting-In to the Unitary Patent; Ireland Announces Referendum Date



Life sciences companies continue to make up a small portion of the companies registering for Unitary Patents. Per the European Patent Office's [statistics](#) portal, as of January 30, 2024 there have been 18,721 registered Unitary Patents. The Uptake Rate is 17.5%. Of this, Medical Technology companies account for 2,266 (or, 11.8%) of the registrations. This is the largest of the 35 technology fields that the portal is tracking. Pharmaceuticals account for 717 (or, 3.7%) of the registrations. Biotechnology accounts for 444 (or, 2.3%) of the registrations.

Notably, Johnson & Johnson has the largest share of registrations at 267. This is followed by Siemens, with 261 registrations. Other life sciences companies cracking the top 25 include: Hoffman-La Roche (82 registrations), Align Technology (46 registrations) and Becton, Dickinson & Company (105 registrations).

In related news, Ireland has also [announced](#) that its referendum on whether to ratify the Agreement on a Unified Patent Court (UPCA) will occur in June 2024. If Ireland votes yes, it will become the 18<sup>th</sup> country to actively join the UPC. All 27 members of the EU are eligible to join the UPC, though only 24 have signed the UPCA. Non-EU countries, such as England, cannot join the UPC. Notably, Poland and Spain have not signed the UPCA.