

THINKFIRE CREATES UNIT TO HELP INVENTORS AND SMALLER COMPANIES SELL AND LICENSE THEIR PATENTS

CHRIS SOMMERS HIRED AS SENIOR VP TO LEAD NEW GROUP

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ThinkFire, the leading business advisor to high-technology and private equity firms about intellectual property, announced today the creation of a Leveraged Transactions Group (LTG). The new division will focus on identifying and monetizing valuable patents owned by individual inventors, small and medium sized companies, universities and research institutions. For those patents that it selects as having significant value, ThinkFire will work closely with owners to sell or license the assets.

Chris Sommers, former Senior Vice President of Telcordia, and a twenty year veteran of the communications industry, has been hired to lead the LTG. In support of the program, ThinkFire is providing millions of dollars in incremental investment in 2007 to identify and analyze thousands of patents.

“Individual inventors, small and medium sized companies, and research institutions have a limited ability to maximize the value of their inventions,” said Dan McCurdy, CEO of ThinkFire. “They are bombarded by patent ‘trolls’ looking to extract value solely for themselves. The market needs greater transparency and more options for legitimate patent owners to monetize their assets. That’s what the LTG provides.”

ThinkFire’s new transactions group is designed to help inventors and companies realize significantly higher value on the rights to their inventions, which in turn spurs greater innovation.

“I am delighted to join ThinkFire, and look forward to rapidly building the LTG,” said Chris Sommers. “We are providing inventors with a new mechanism to help them obtain full value for their assets. The time is right to support a broader range of patent owners. ThinkFire’s global reputation and team of engineers, attorneys and market strategists is well-suited to provide this service.”