

Patent dispute - Nokia, Blackberry settle

HELSINKI, FINLAND: Finnish mobile giant Nokia said it was withdrawing all its lawsuits against Blackberry-maker Research In Motion (RIM) after reaching an agreement on patent licencing.



Last month Nokia filed lawsuits in the United States, Britain and Canada against RIM claiming it had breached an agreement on using Nokia patents on WLAN local area network technology.

"We are very pleased to have resolved our patent licensing issues and reached this new agreement with RIM. Nokia protects its product differentiation," said Paul Melin, chief intellectual property officer at Nokia, in a statement.

The Finnish company said the agreement includes a one-time payment and on-going payments, all from RIM to Nokia, with the specific terms remaining confidential.

The dispute arose from different interpretations of which technologies were covered by a 2003 licensing deal that allows RIM to use Nokia's patented technology.

RIM had sought arbitration in 2011 to get the deal modified, but a Swedish court ruled in November it was in breach of contract and could not use the technology without reaching an agreement with Nokia.

Nokia may have lost the title as the top-selling mobile phone maker, but the Finnish company holds patents to over 10,000 types of technology having invested about US\$60bn in research and development over the past two decades.

RIM has also seen its market share eroded by competition from Apple's iPhone and devices powered by Google's Android system.

Source: *AFP* via I-Net Bridge