

Inclusion and Musical Innovation

30.04.2025 1 min read

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April 26 is World Intellectual Property Day, and this year music is the central theme. To mark the occasion, we tune into an inspiring example of innovation that broadens access to the world of sound: Vibrating vests that translate music into physical sensations, allowing people who are deaf or hearing impaired to feel the music.

Not Impossible LLC's technology – protected by U.S. Patent No. US 9,679,564 B2 – converts sound into frequencies and distributes them across different areas of the body, creating a kind of "haptic language." High-pitched sounds are perceived in the upper part of the body, while lower frequencies are felt lower down. The vest can even simulate stereo sound, transmitting vibrations on the left or right side of the body, corresponding to the left and right audio channels.

Innovations like this, when protected under the intellectual property system – as in the case of the Not Impossible LLC's patent – not only encourage technological development by ensuring exclusive rights and legal certainty for the patent holder, but promote social inclusion by bringing music closer to people who have historically experienced it in a more limited way.

Not Impossible's "sound vests" are just one example of the vital role intellectual property plays in transforming ideas into real, innovative, and inclusive solutions.

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