

## Patent Defense Play RPX Closes Series B From Index, Kleiner, And Charles River

By Leena Rao on July 22, 2009

[Defense Play RPX](#), a defensive patent aggregator, has raised an undisclosed amount of Series B funding led by [Index Ventures](#) with [Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers](#) and [Charles River Ventures](#) participating. The company also raised an undisclosed Series A round of funding in September 2008 from Kleiner Perkins and Charles River Ventures.

RPX first [launched](#) in November 2008 as a way to help companies defend themselves specifically against patent trolls (organizations that buy up patent portfolios with the express intention of forcing other companies to license those patents or face a lawsuit). RPX buys up its own patents, or strikes licensing deals on behalf of its members, and charges companies \$35,000 to \$4.9 million a year for perpetual licenses to those patents. The deal is that if companies pay up, any patents in RPX's portfolio can't be used in litigation against a member company.

The company says that it has purchased nearly \$90 million in patent rights in the mobile, Internet search, telecommunications, consumer electronics and RFID markets to date. RPX will use the funding to try to surpass its goal of acquiring \$100 million in patents during its first year of operation, which means that the company has raised (via venture funding, debt, credit lines etc.) over \$100 million. Not too shabby for a startup that launched during a recession.

RPX's membership already includes many of the world's largest technology companies, including HP, Nokia, Sony, Samsung, LG, Panasonic, and Seiko-Epson.