INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS INFRASTRUCTURE

# IPRS CLEAR

## Permission should be an API

**ASK ONCE. DECIDE CLEARLY. LEAVE PROOF.**

A focused successor to the Intellectual Property Royalty System / Artificial Intelligence Royalty System

Henry Michael Bueno
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IPRS.ai

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

# From a global royalty vision to one useful primitive

Generative AI can create in seconds. Permission still moves through email, spreadsheets, bespoke contracts, and disconnected identifiers.

THE THESIS

**Permission should move at the speed of generation. Every intentional AI use of a known creative asset should be able to ask, accept terms, and leave proof - in one call.**

IPRS Clear proposes a deliberately narrow solution: one API call for a known, declared AI use. A platform submits asset identifiers, purpose, commercial status, attribution capability, territory, model, and an optional budget ceiling. It receives **ALLOW**, **DENY**, or **REVIEW**, plus asset-level reasons, obligations, an explicit quote, and a signed evidence receipt for every outcome.

## What changed since the first paper

The original IPRS/AIRS paper is dated June 12, 2025. RSL 1.0, published six months later, now standardizes machine-readable AI usage, licensing, payment, authorization, and proof of permission.[5] ODRL expresses policy, ISCC identifies content, and C2PA binds provenance to media.[6][7][8] The category was directionally right; the novel opportunity has moved up the stack.

## The new claim

IPRS Clear is an orchestration and evidence layer. It does not detect infringement, adjudicate ownership, set compulsory rates, hold funds, or create a new global registry. This smaller promise is implementable, measurable, and falsifiable now.

| INPUT | DECISION | EVIDENCE |
|---|---|---|
| Known assets + use + budget | ALLOW / DENY / REVIEW | Reasons + quote + obligations + signed receipt |

01 / SCOPE

# The first paper tried to make the whole market at once

Ownership, identification, detection, legal classification, pricing, payment, and governance are each independent hard problems.

**THE ORIGINAL SYSTEM**

- global registry
- ownership verification
- universal detection
- rate setting
- payments
- governance

**Value arrives only after the whole network exists.**

**THE FIRST PRODUCT**

- one authenticated caller
- one declared use
- known asset IDs
- voluntary terms
- signed outcomes
- one endpoint

**Value arrives with one rights holder and one platform.**

## Separate the events

Model training, crawler access, intentional use of a known asset, accidental resemblance in output, and commercial distribution do not share one legal rule or one technical signal. The U.S. Copyright Office treats training-related fair use as fact-specific and recommends continued development of voluntary licensing markets rather than an immediate universal regime.[1]

## Start with the tractable transaction

Version 1 addresses intentional, declared use of a known character, image, recording, voice, likeness, or other contracted asset in a generative workflow. The first customer is an enterprise creative platform releasing brand or campaign material. The asset, intended use, obligations, and budget are knowable before release.

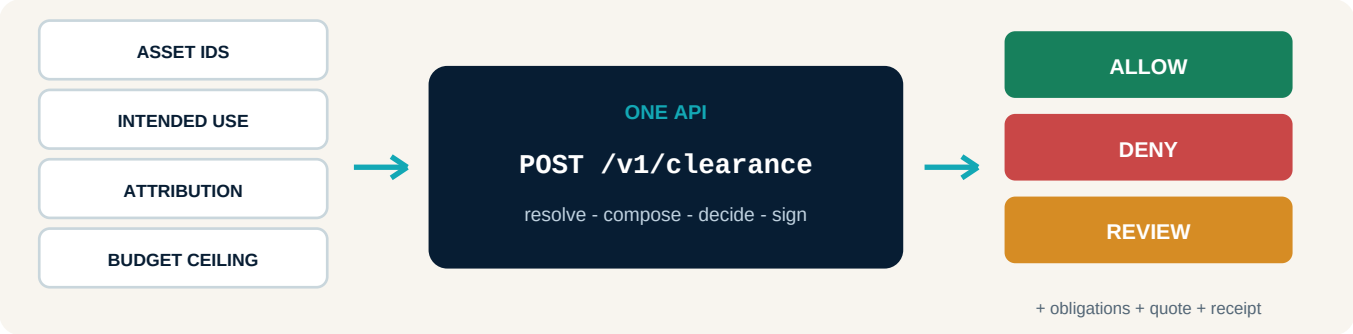
## Five design rules

| RULE | PRACTICAL EFFECT |
|---|---|
| **Declare before detecting** | Detectors may suggest candidates later; ambiguity routes to REVIEW. |
| **Voluntary policy before invented rate** | Use stated terms and never silently reduce them. |
| **Proof before promise** | Sign what was evaluated, while preserving legal uncertainty. |
| **Standards before reinvention** | Normalize RSL, ODRL, ISCC, C2PA, and sector data. |
| **Review is a valid outcome** | Missing authority or a budget mismatch stays visible. |

02 / PRODUCT

# One call at the decision point

The API turns scattered rights data into the exact answer a creative product needs before it releases an output.




## The request

```
{
  "request_id": "campaign-1042",
  "assets": [{"asset_id": "demo:field-recording"}],
  "use": {"purpose": "generation", "commercial": true,
    "attribution_supported": true, "territory": "worldwide",
    "model": "creative-model-v1"},
  "budget": {"max_total_cents": 2000}
}
```

## The resolution path

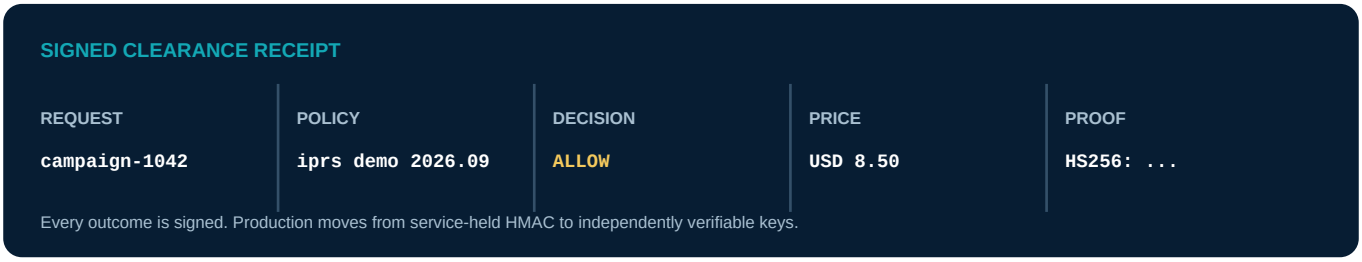
| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Validate** | Reject malformed input, duplicates, and more than fifty assets. |
| 2 | **Resolve** | Find an authoritative voluntary policy for each declared asset. |
| 3 | **Compose** | Apply purpose, commercial-use, attribution, price, and budget rules. |
| 4 | **Decide** | Use precedence DENY, then REVIEW, then ALLOW for the whole request. |
| 5 | **Sign** | Issue an evidence receipt for the resulting decision, including non-clear outcomes. |

03 / CONTRACT

# Three outcomes - no hidden maybe

The service distinguishes policy certainty from legal certainty. Every outcome is explicit, explained, and signed.

| OUTCOME | WHEN | WHAT HAPPENS |
|---|---|---|
| **ALLOW** | Every declared asset has verified matching policy; no prohibition applies; the quote fits. | Return quote, obligations, sources, and a signed receipt. |
| **DENY** | A verified policy prohibits the purpose, commercial use, or an unmet obligation. | Return exact asset-level reasons and a signed receipt. |
| **REVIEW** | Policy or authority is missing or unclear, or the quote exceeds budget. | Escalate without inventing permission; sign the evidence. |




## Why the receipt matters

A receipt binds a request identifier, decision, policy set, asset-level reason codes, policy sources, and issuance time. It creates a portable audit object that legal, creative, product, and engineering teams can read without reconstructing a chain of emails. Denials and referrals are evidence too.

## Autonomy has a boundary

The routine path can be self-service: a publisher signs in, creates a policy, issues a hashed API key, and lets integrations receive idempotent decisions. REVIEW preserves the human boundary when authority, identity, terms, or budget cannot be resolved honestly.

## Money stays explicit

The proof of concept uses integer cents and basis points. It returns a quote and obligations but never claims that funds moved. Quote, authorization, usage, settlement, refund, and dispute should remain separate evidence events in production.

04 / TRUST

# Evidence with an honest boundary

The API proves its own policy decision. It does not turn an asserted catalog record into a universal legal fact.

**THE RECEIPT PROVES**
- a named service recorded a decision
- a specific policy set supplied the evidence
- asset reasons and sources remain signed
- ALLOW, DENY, and REVIEW all leave proof

**THE RECEIPT DOES NOT PROVE**
- the catalog issuer owns every asserted right
- no undeclared work influenced the model or output
- the use is lawful in every jurisdiction
- payment settled or a court must honor the receipt

## Different rights stay different

Copyrighted expression, trademarks, characters, names, voices, likenesses, and styles do not have identical protection. The Copyright Office has identified gaps in U.S. digital-replica protection and recommended federal legislation.[2] It also emphasizes that copyright protects expression rather than ideas, systems, or methods.[11]

**POLICY RULE**

**Every catalog entry states its asserted basis - such as contract, copyright, trademark, or publicity right - while the decision layer remains neutral about whether that assertion would prevail in court.**

## Detection is evidence, not judgment

ISCC can support exact and similarity-oriented content identification, but matching is not an infringement test.[7] C2PA can make provenance tamper-evident, yet its explainer cautions that provenance alone cannot determine truth.[12] IPRS Clear follows the same discipline: a later detector may nominate a candidate asset and evidence, but uncertainty must route to REVIEW.

05 / INTEROPERABILITY

# Use the standards. Own the experience.

The defensible product is the normalization, deterministic decision, and portable receipt - not a new vocabulary for every layer.

| FOUNDATION | ROLE | IPRS CLEAR RESPONSIBILITY |
|---|---|---|
| **RSL 1.0** | AI usage terms, payments, license acquisition, validation, proof of permission.[5] | Ingest or adapt policies; avoid a rival web licensing language. |
| **W3C ODRL 2.2** | Permissions, prohibitions, parties, constraints, and duties.[6] | Define a small AI-use profile and deterministic evaluation rules. |
| **ISCC / ISO 24138** | Content-derived identifiers spanning similarity and exact identity.[7] | Resolve declared identifiers to authoritative policy records. |
| **C2PA 2.2** | Cryptographically bound provenance and assertions.[8] | Expose a receipt reference suitable for an output assertion. |
| **Sector registries** | Ownership, repertoire, claims, and splits for a specific market. | Normalize policy authority; do not replace expert governance. |
| **Payment partners** | Authorization, invoicing, aggregation, payout, refunds, compliance. | Send explicit allocation instructions; do not custody funds in v1. |

## Why not reproduce the music clearinghouse?

Music proves that high-volume licensing is possible, but it also exposes difficult matching, ownership-split, reporting, governance, and unclaimed-royalty problems. The Copyright Office called for authoritative data and transparent reporting while describing the market as legal quicksand.[9] The Mechanical Licensing Collective is intentionally limited to a narrow right, work type, and use.[13]

LESSON FROM MUSIC

**Borrow the event-and-receipt pattern. Do not borrow the assumption that one global institution can immediately govern every kind of intellectual property.**

## Regulatory relevance

EU AI Act Article 53 requires general-purpose model providers to maintain a copyright policy, address rights reservations, and publish a training-content summary.[3] The 2025 GPAI Code of Practice offers a voluntary compliance pathway.[4] An IPRS receipt is not a safe harbor, but operational evidence is increasingly valuable.

06 / ECONOMICS

# Price the contract, not an abstract influence score

The first paper proposed proportional royalties based on frequency and significance. Neither concept is objectively measurable across media, markets, and jurisdictions.

## A smaller economic hypothesis

High-value, intentional use of a recognized asset can support a stated clearance price when the alternative is manual delay or unquantified risk. The API therefore reads prices and revenue-share obligations from voluntary policy. It never invents the value of a style, prominence, resemblance, or creator reputation.

## Royalty stacking

When several assets are declared, the service sums their stated prices. If the result exceeds the caller's maximum, it returns REVIEW with the complete quote. Silently capping or reallocating a contracted price would create a new dispute rather than solve one. Bundles can come later through explicit negotiation.

| REVENUE TO TEST | WHY IT FITS THE WEDGE | DEFERRED |
|---|---|---|
| Hosted decision service | The platform pays for reliability, evidence, authentication, and lower manual work. | Percentage of creator royalties |
| Policy operations | Rights holders pay for normalization, managed signing, audit, and controlled distribution. | Custody, money transmission, or token economics |
| Pilot and enterprise setup | Adapters and private controls turn a proof into recurring platform software. | Selling a legal-clearance guarantee |

## An adoption path without a network-effect trap

| STAGE | PARTICIPANT | VALUE |
|---|---|---|
| DAY 0 | One rights holder | Publishes 100 governed assets and policies. |
| DAY 1 | One platform | Calls one endpoint and stores the receipt ID. |
| DAY 30 | Joint evidence | Measures review rate, latency, policy errors, and willingness to pay. |
| NEXT | Standards adapters | Add RSL, ISCC, ODRL, C2PA, registry, and settlement connectors. |

Cloudflare's HTTP 402-based Pay Per Crawl shows that programmatic access, price acceptance, logging, aggregation, and distribution can be separated into a practical transaction.[10] IPRS Clear applies the one-decision idea to declared generative use rather than web crawling.

07 / PROOF OF CONCEPT

# The paper now has an executable claim

A local reference and self-service web product demonstrate the same contract through exactly one business endpoint.

| CASE | INPUT | RESULT | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| Licensed generation | Field recording + commercial generation | **ALLOW / $8.50** | Verified policy adds attribution and a 250 bps obligation. |
| Training request | Same recording + model training | **DENY** | The verified policy prohibits this purpose. |
| Editorial commercial | Editorial photo + commercial generation | **DENY** | Commercial use is expressly prohibited. |
| Unclear authority | Legacy asset without verified policy authority | **REVIEW** | The service refuses to infer permission. |

## Reference implementation controls

- Integer-cent pricing and integer basis points; no binary floating-point money.
- One to fifty unique declared assets are accepted per request.
- A hard prohibition outranks REVIEW and ALLOW in a composite request.
- Duplicate assets and malformed requests are rejected.
- Receipts are signed over deterministic evidence; altered receipts fail verification.
- Authenticated request IDs replay the stored response rather than conflict.
- Every ALLOW, DENY, and REVIEW outcome receives a receipt.

## Production upgrades

| TRACK | REQUIREMENT |
|---|---|
| SECURITY | Managed asymmetric signing, authentication, key rotation, rate limiting, idempotency. |
| AUTHORITY | Verified policy issuers, provenance, conflict handling, revocation, dispute workflow. |
| PRIVACY | Data minimization, retention limits, purpose controls, regional processing. |
| INTEROP | RSL/ODRL ingestion, ISCC resolution, C2PA assertion, payment and registry adapters. |

08 / VALIDATION

# A thirty-day pilot that can fail

A strong white paper does not ask readers to believe the future. It names the evidence that would change the team's mind.

## Pilot shape

- One rights holder and one creative-AI platform.
- One hundred known assets and one commercial use family.
- One territory set; quotes only; external settlement.
- Weekly review of every DENY and REVIEW with both parties.

| METRIC | TARGET | WHY IT MATTERS |
|---|---|---|
| Integration effort | <= 1 engineer-day | Tests whether one-call simplicity is real. |
| Local-policy p95 latency | < 100 ms | Keeps clearance inside an interactive workflow. |
| Deterministic replay | 100% | Same request and catalog must return the same policy result. |
| All outcomes with valid receipt | 100% | Evidence is the product, not an optional log. |
| Silent default approvals | 0 | Unknown authority must never become permission. |
| Policy numeric validation | 100% | No active price or share begins malformed. |
| Manual review rate | Measure first | Policy quality, not wishful thinking, sets the baseline. |

## The primary qualitative test

SHARED UNDERSTANDING

**Can legal, creative, product, and engineering teams all interpret the same receipt without a translation meeting?**

## Stop conditions

Pause expansion if authoritative policy creation costs more than manual clearance, if review rates remain high after catalog iteration, if platforms will not call before release, or if neither side values the receipt. Those results would falsify the current wedge and prevent an expensive clearinghouse build based on assumptions.

09 / ROADMAP

# Expand evidence before authority

Each stage earns the next. None requires pretending that the API is a court, a detector, or a bank.

| STAGE | SHIP | GATE |
|---|---|---|
| **1 / Decision** | One endpoint, self-service studio, signed outcomes, pilot export. | Pilot proves integration and shared understanding. |
| **2 / Standards** | RSL/ODRL ingestion, ISCC and URL resolution, C2PA receipt assertion. | Policies remain deterministic across sources. |
| **3 / Workflows** | Review queue, organization roles, webhooks, compliance exports. | Operational evidence survives across teams. |
| **4 / Settlement + detection** | External payments plus candidate evidence and reviewer controls. | No score or quote becomes a legal verdict. |

## Explicitly deferred

- universal model-training royalties
- ownership of an artistic style as such
- a new cryptocurrency or blockchain
- custody of creator funds or claims of legal safe harbor
- automated ownership adjudication
- a global compulsory license
- detection of every undeclared influence

PRODUCT DISCIPLINE

**Do not add a component because it sounds inevitable. Add it only when the pilot exposes a requirement that the current one-call contract cannot satisfy.**

## The award-worthy story

The ambition is not reduced; it is concentrated. A project earns attention by making a consequential problem legible, presenting an original and responsible wedge, working in front of judges or partners, and stating its limits before critics have to. IPRS Clear can do all five.

10 / CONCLUSION

# Permission should be an API

The first IPRS paper asked how AI innovation and creator compensation could coexist. The answer is now stronger because it is smaller.

IPRS Clear turns one declared AI use of known assets into a deterministic policy decision and signed evidence. It reuses emerging standards, exposes uncertainty, keeps settlement separate, and can be tested with real partners immediately.

ONE-SENTENCE PITCH

**Permission should move at the speed of generation. Ask once. Decide clearly. Leave proof.**

## The next meeting

Invite one rights catalog and one creative-AI platform to a 45-minute design session. Replace one fictional policy with one authorized asset and agree on the thirty-day pass/fail metrics. Publish the paper and protocol openly; charge for the managed decision service, policy operations, signing, audit, adapters, and enterprise controls.

## Publication and IP posture

The original IPRS/AIRS literary work is registered with the U.S. Copyright Office, effective June 14, 2025, as TXu002501544. That registration covers the deposited expression, not the underlying system idea, this later text, new software, trademark rights, or government endorsement. Public release should preserve separate authorship records and use IPRS Clear(TM) without claiming federal trademark registration.

IPRS.ai

## Henry Michael Bueno

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Research, OpenAPI contract, reference implementation, and self-service proof included.

SOURCES

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IMPORTANT

**This paper presents a product and research proposal. It is not legal advice, a title opinion, a guarantee of rights, or a representation that any fictional example asset, publisher, policy, or price is real.**