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1999

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by the

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An annual series of reports on the patent information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

*
– The term “patent” covers utility models and SPCs.
– Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in the series of documents SCIT/ATR/ID.

TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

**ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES
OF ROSPATENT**

IN 1999

I. CHANGES IN PATENT ACTIVITIES

Changes with respect to filing of applications and registration as against the previous year

In 1999 ROSPATENT carried on the work on the improvement of standards governing the provision of legal protection to such subject matters of industrial property as invention and utility model.

Special provisions which specify the nature of distinctive features of an invention and a utility model have been incorporated into the Rules governing the drafting, submission and review of a patent application for an invention and Rules governing the drafting, submission and review of an application for a utility model certificate.

Recommendations concerning examination of invention and utility model applications which have an additional section dealing with the national phase review of international applications have been worked out and become effective.

Trends and Areas of Rapid Changes as against the Previous Year

Inventions

In general, 1999 is characterized by a steady growth of invention applications, although it should be noted that a number of applications filed by foreign applicants went down.

The increase in the absolute number of applications was due to a considerable growth of invention applications filed by national applicants. Table 1 summarizes data reflecting the filing of applications for Russian patents by domestic and foreign applicants.

Table 1

	1998	1999	1998/1999 (%)
Applications for RF patents directly with ROSPATENT	21,362	24,659	115.9
including national applicants	16,454	19,900	120.9
including foreign applicants	4,908	4,759	97

The majority of invention applications by national applicants are filed for Section A of the International Patent classification – Human Necessities; by foreign applicants – for Section C – Chemistry; Metallurgy. The least popular both among national and foreign applicants is Section D – Textiles; Paper. The number of applications filed for this Section in 1999 accounted for less than 1% of the total number of invention applications.

The number of patents granted to Russian applicants as compared to the previous year declined by 20%, while that of the foreign applicants showed a slight 1.1% increase.

Table 2 summarizes data on granting RF invention patents in 1998-1999.

Table 2

	1998	1999	1998/1999 (%)
Patents granted - Total	23,315	19,508	83.7
including Russian patent holders	19,215	15,362	80
including foreign patent holders	4,100	4,146	101.1

Utility Models

As compared to the number of applications and patents for inventions, the number of utility model applications and certificates granted is not high. However, one should note a 26.5% increase in the total number of applications filed in 1999 as shown in Table 3. It is obvious that the majority of applications are filed by domestic applicants.

The certificate granting dynamics index has increased by 9.4% as compared to the previous year, which is also reflected in Table 3.

The leading position is taken by the IPC Section A – Human Necessities with the number of certificates granted under this category increasing by 25.6% as compared with the previous year and reaching the maximum figure. Section B – Performing Operations; Transporting is also among the leaders. The least popular sections are Section C – Chemistry; Metallurgy with the interest to this Section in 1999 being on the decline, and Section D – Textiles; Paper, although the interest to this IPC Section has increased more than twofold as compared with the previous year and reached 240.6%: however in terms of certificates granted it is the lowest.

Table 3

	1998	1999	1998/1999 (%)
Utility model applications filed - Total	2,723	3,444	126.5
Including – by Russian applicants	2,675	3,379	126.3
Including – by foreign applicants	48	65	135.4
Utility models certificates granted	3,162	3,459	109.4
Including – by Russian applicants	3,096	3,386	109.4
Including – by foreign applicants	66	73	110.6

II. MATTERS CONCERNING THE GENERATION, REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES OF PATENT INFORMATION

Publications, Printing and Copying

In 1999 ROSPATENT generated the following information:

- 44,758 invention related publications, including
 - 19,511 patent claims
 - 20,985 application claims
 - 4,262 claims of inventions previously unpublished
- 3,459 publications of utility model descriptions

For all invention patents granted, full descriptions of inventions were issued. Also, invention descriptions to RF patents have been produced in the form of microfiches – 24582 microfiches (24322 documents) and “Inventions” official gazette – 390 negatives, 7410 copies reproduced.

Upon requests from users patent documents were duplicated both in the form of full-year sets and as individual IPC categories. Table 4 reflects the ratio of orders for full-year sets of invention descriptions on paper as against CD-ROM over the last 5 years. The table suggests that a decline in the number of orders for information on paper medium was accompanied by a corresponding increase in the orders for CD-ROM.

Table 4

Medium	Number of full-year sets				
Type	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
CD-ROM	67	76	93	107	137
Paper	43	35	19	16	16
Total	110	111	112	123	153

For the purpose of completing the depositories, the users are offered services in the form of providing descriptions of inventions under registration by IPC categories. In 1999 such descriptions were provided to 220 users, while the total number of documents provided exceeded 120,000.

In 1999, the official publications of the Federal Institute of Industrial Property (FIIP) of ROSPATENT were provided to 928 users, i.e. 16% as much, as in 1998.

Together with other information products, FIIP of ROSPATENT offers its users abstracts with invention descriptions on CD-ROM. Besides the possibility to subscribe to the latest materials, one can order retrospective information on inventions dating back as early as 1994. Normally, databases are offered together with the reference and search system to ensure automated search, viewing and copying of documents.

Main Communications of the Office in the Field of Patent Information

Official Publications in 1999 included the following titles:

- *Inventions (Applications and Patents) Gazette* – 36 issues;
- *Utility Models, Industrial Designs Gazette* – 12 issues;
- Five volumes of annual indexes to *Inventions (Applications and Patents) Gazette*;
- descriptions of inventions for patents – 19511 descriptions with a total number of printed paper copies of 500,000;
- *Russian Patents* optical CD-ROMs with official information on RF inventions – 12 issues;
- four CD-ROMs with information on invention patents in the form of bibliographic data, abstracts in Russian and English with basic drawings, and with information on utility models in the form of bibliographic data, formulae and basic drawings to formulae;
- front pages of utility model descriptions to the Russian Federation certificates;
- official Russian text of the International Patent Classification, the edition currently in effect;
- Progress and Activity Report of the Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks:

Mass Storage Media Used

For its official publications ROSPATENT uses an automated system of publications. Documents on inventions and utility models are published after a formal examination for the first printing, and after a positive decision following examination as to the substance, a second publication takes place.

Data on inventions and utility models transferred before the publication to digital carriers are systematized and fully controlled in the technological databases (DB).

There two types of technological DBs: DB containing bibliography for the published documents, is of an accumulative nature.

DB containing the full volume of the published information with the text and graphic parts of documents, is of a fragmentary nature. Each fragment corresponds to a specific issue of the periodical gazette.

The software for the above DBs was developed on the basis of Retrieve database software.

Data are mainly stored on paper carriers. In recent years, a sizable proportion of the information received and produced has also been stored on optical discs. Archive information and information which is not part of the Minimum Documentation under the PCT is also stored on microforms.

Word processing and Office Automation

In 1999 about 30% of routine patent applications and all of routine utility model certificate applications were input into automated data bases through scanning and subsequent conversion to machine-readable form.

All of ROSPATENT's official bulletins are published by automated systems relying on databases. In 1998 hardware setup for the above automated systems was completed. Data processing and input are handled by 130 work stations equipped with state-of-the-art computer hardware.

Literature references and text are input in two modes, as follows:

- direct key-boarding for poorly legible documents and for text with multiple chemical equations;
- Scanning and digitizing of crisp equations and abstracts.

In June of 1999 ROSPATENT completed modernization of the technology and software for the publishing system in order to drastically reduce the periods of publishing information on the industrial property subject-matters in its official publications. As part of the publishing system, in addition, an automated subsystem was developed for the needs of the reference and dispatch service of the FIIP Publication unit.

The reference and dispatch service of the Publication unit served as a link between the FIIP Automated data bank and the publishing system. After publication of each gazette, bibliographic information supplemented with data concerning publication and dispatch of the protection documents is channeled via reference and dispatch service back to the Automated data bank.

Equipment Used for Generation of Patent Information

The automated publishing system facilitates fully automatic production of mock-ups from formatted texts.

To prepare the secondary sources of patent information for printing and reproduction the following technological equipment is used for producing the finished printed materials in the form of publications and facsimile copies (Xerox copying):

- equipment for printing processes;
- equipment for production (multiplication) of patent information in facsimile form;
- equipment for microfilming and reproduction of microfilms (microfiches).

III. MATTERS CONCERNING ABSTRACTING, CLASSIFYING, RECLASSIFYING AND INDEXING OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Abstracting, Reviewing, Translating

The practice of including into published patent documents the abstracts prepared by applicants was continued in 1999.

Abstracts produced and issued by patent experts are used to prepare for publication of information with respect to issued Russian Federation patents.

Translation into English of abstracts of granted Russian Federation patents continued in 1998. Abstracts of granted Russian Federation patents in Russian and English continued to be issued, as follows:

- in Russian – full texts on paper and on CD ROM;
- in English – full texts on CD ROM;
- in both Russian and English – abstracts only on CD ROM.

On user request, subject-oriented reviews are prepared on the basis of patent and scientific/technological documentation collections available in ROSPATENT, and foreign patent documents are translated into Russian.

In 1999 the provision of patent information to enterprises and organizations was also carried out by the ROSPATENT Information and Publication center.

Inventions of the World journal contains abstracts in Russian with information on foreign inventions published in official gazettes of WIPO, EPO, Great Britain, Germany, USA, France, Switzerland and Japan which is broken down into 112 subject-oriented groups. Twenty five thousand paper medium subject-oriented issues were produced and distributed in 1999 among almost 300 subscribing organizations and enterprises.

Inventions of the World journal was also produced in the machine-readable form (diskettes and optical CD ROMs). During the period under review. 1251 subject-oriented issues were produced on diskettes, 4679 – on CD ROMs, as well as four full-year sets.

Classification and Reclassification Activities

The International Patent Classification is the only classification used within the ROSPATENT system for storing and distributing patent information among its users.

In 1999 the seventh edition of the IPC was prepared for publication in Russian.

Starting from January 1, 2000 for the publication of patent documents the seventh edition of IPC is used.

Reclassification of the domestic collection of application and patent descriptions also started in 1999.

FIIPS participates in the preparation of the 8th edition of the IPC as member of the Working Group on the IPC reform and the Working Group on the IPC revision. The following work was done in 1999:

- comments were issued on the following projects of foreign offices: C 278 (B32B), C 341 (A61B,N) C 344 (A61F), C 363 (C 10 L) and C 414 (B30B);
- reviewers' reports were drafted on ROSPATENT's projects: C343(A61B); C368(E21B), C389(B61L) – 2 reports, C390(CO4B), C391(C10B) – 2 reports, C 394 (FO4D) – 2 reports, C407 (H01B) – 2 reports, C 419(G01M), C421(G21B);
- comments were issued on the recommendations of the Seminar on the IPC revision procedure, contained in document IPC/SEM/98/11;
- data were prepared for the Table of correspondence between the 6th and 7th editions of the IPC;
- response was drafted to the WIPO questionnaire on the classification and reclassification data;
- comments were issued to the WIPO circulars concerning IPC-8 and ROSPATENT's intentions to reclassify IPC-7.

Hybrid Indexing Systems

FIIP experts put down hybrid system indexes indicated on domestic patent documents on all publications including abstracts, descriptions of invention applications and patents and utility model certificates.

Bibliography and Full Text Processing for Search Purposes

Lately, the patent information processing technology has undergone improvement. Throughout the year ROSPATENT's data were entered into the automated data bank and work was done to ensure control over bibliographic data with respect to invention applications.

The software used to process primary material texts (input, recognition, formatting) is based on Fine "Reader 4.0" optical index recognition system. Also used are "Microsoft Word 7.0" and "Microsoft Office 95" text processors.

Work was done on entering into ROSPATENT's database full-text documents referring to invention and utility model applications.

In total, 265 500 pages of alphanumerical and graphic information were entered into the database which corresponds to 24,900 invention and utility model applications to be further

automatically processed at the stage of examination and preparation of patent documents for publication.

IV. SEARCH FILE ESTABLISHMENT AND UPKEEP

File Structure

The structure and the contents of the file are determined by its mission and the tasks following from it. The contents of the State Patent Examination File (SPEF) are subject to Rule 34 of Regulations under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

Structurally the SPEF is organized into domestic patent documentation section and the foreign patent documentation section comprising the current information portion and historic information, as well as the patent associated literature including special technical literature in the form of books and periodicals. The SPEF patent documentation is arranged by IPC heading, within a heading – by country, within a country – by year of publication, and within a year – in numerical order.

Domestic patent documentation includes descriptions of inventions in the USSR (from 1924 onwards), descriptions of inventions and utility models of the Russian Federation (applications, patents, certificates), official bulletins of the USSR and the Russian Federation. Domestic patent documents are stored as a systematic set and a numeric set.

Foreign patent documents (the current set and the historic set) are organized following the IPC. Full-text foreign documents are accompanied by abstracts in Russian.

Updating

Annually the current portion of the file is updated through addition of domestic and foreign patent documentation. In 1999 the SPEF received 441133 paper copies of descriptions including 73757 domestic and 367376 foreign descriptions. Collections of documents on optical discs (CD-ROM and DVD-ROM) are taking a more prominent place among the State Patent Examination File materials. As of January 1, 2000 the SPEF comprised a total of 16846309 patent documents.

Storage

The storage conditions are determined largely by the type of a medium: patent documents on paper are stored in cassettes on shelves, CD-ROM documents – in racks.

Documentation of Other Offices Maintained and/or Considered as Part of the Existing Search File

In 1999, the file on paper was replenished with documents from 10 leading countries of the world and three international organizations included in the “minimum documentation” requirement (USSR, Russian Federation, USA, Great Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland,

Japan, Australia, Austria, Canada, WIPO, EPO, EAPO). The foreign patent documents file comprises 78.1 mln. copies.

By the late 1999 the total number of CD-ROMs amounted to 6449, including documentation from 16 countries and 4 international organizations.

V. ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTERIZED AND OTHER MECHANIZED SEARCH SYSTEMS

In-House Systems

An on-line patent information and search system has been developed in ROSPATENT for Russian patent documents dating back as early as 1994. In 1999 in the course of the work on setting up a digital library a large number of users gained access via Internet to this system, which comprises a full-text database on Russian inventions, databases with abstracts in Russian and English and a database on Russian utility models.

Microsoft software package was selected for this system, using Windows NT 4.0 as an operational system. For searching purposes Excaliber Retrieval Ware 6.6 software was used.

The information and search system permits to carry out traditional logical search, information search with the Russian thesaurus, indistinct (vague) search, bibliographic description format field search including search by dates and numbers.

Search files on CD-ROMs are actively used as an off-line system. By the end of 1999 CD-ROM file included 52 databases. A reference and search system to CD-ROM file is used in the course of the search.

External Databases

Starting from 1997, ROSPATENT is using on-line the databases provided by Questel-Orbit company. Among the most frequently used databases for search purposes is the Derwent company database.

In October of 1999, a contract was concluded providing for access of ROSPATENT experts to the Lexis-Nexis medical database.

Within WIPO industrial property digital library program ROSPATENT experts in 1999 gained a preliminary access via Internet to the STN and IBM databases.

In addition for search purposes the Office experts take full advantage of free access to other patent databases via Internet, mainly to those of the USA, EPO and WIPO.

Administrative Management Systems

Since 1986, an automated data bank (ADB) is functioning in the RO SPATENT Federal Institute of Industrial Property (FIIP) which provides information on invention applications, utility models and industrial designs.

ADB includes 39 program complexes in the form of complete subsystems to carry out various application processing processes. Throughout 1999 work was performed on changing the invention application date and number formats (if possible) in accordance with recommendations of WIPO ST.2 and ST.13 standards.

As part of the publishing system, an automated subsystem was additionally developed and put into operation to perform reference and dispatch functions of the FIIP's publication unit, which became a link between ADB and the publishing system since it employed a new software allowing to use for official publications the ADB bibliographic data referring to inventions and utility models.

Equipment Used

Hardware:

- *RM600* server
(RAM – 512 MB, processors – 4, external memory – 54 GB, VT320 monitors – 100 units);
- *Compaq Proliant 1000* server
(RAM – 128 MB, processors – 1, external memory – 3.5 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant 3000* server
(RAM – 128 MB, processors – 1, external memory – 36 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant 5000* server
(RAM – 256 MB, processors – 2, external memory – 57 GB);
- - *Compaq Proliant 6000* server
(RAM – 1340 MB, processors – 4, external memory – 81 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant 7000* server
(RAM – 256 MB, processors – 2, external memory – 27 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant 2500* server
(RAM – 32 MB, processors – 1, external memory – 8 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant 2500* server
(RAM – 128 MB, processors – 1, external memory – 12 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant 2500* server
(RAM – 64 MB, processors – 1, external memory – 9 GB);
- *Compaq 486, 586, P MMX, PII, PIII workstations* – 340 units.

Switching equipment:

ISDN MAX 200Plus c (8/4) WAN PCMCIA Typell-Typel; SmartSWITCH 6000; 3Com CoreBuilder 3500

Software:

SINIX, Novell, Windows95, Windows NT operating systems.

Data carriers:

DATA 8mm, DLTtape III magnetic tapes.

VI. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE LIBRARY AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Planning, Administration, Computerization

The Russian Patent and Technology Library (VPTB) makes part of the ROSPATENT system as a division of the Federal Institute of Industrial Property, functioning simultaneously as an in-house and public library open to a wide range of patent information users in Russia.

In 1999 the overall space of the library was:

- working premises – 2030 m²
- reading rooms and other premises for serving information users – over 950 m² with 315 reader seats including 17 computerized workstations
- storage facilities – 4800 m².

The library building is equipped with the alarm system and automatic fire fighting system.

In order to automate library and bibliographic processes, a reference and search system was introduced and an automated “electronic catalogue” is being developed. An automated database “Provision of patent information” was tested in 1999 to cater for search purposes, reader regions of residence and reader categories. Another automated patent information system (APIS) with a search potential of 1.5 mln. documents of foreign patent offices and with the technological means which ensure access to full CD-ROM-based descriptions has been developed and is being tested now.

Collecting, Procurement, Preparation

The primary activity of the VPTB is the establishment of the State Patent Collection. The main sources of this State Patent Collection, accounting for 98 per cent of all new materials, are official publications of ROSPATENT and patent documents received via international exchange with patent offices of foreign countries and other information centers. Once received, the documents are registered, classified and grouped for storage.

Collection Management, Storage

The Library collection is arranged following a geographical/systematic/numerical principle. File storage facilities used depend on the type of data carrier:

- patent documents on paper are in cassettes on shelves;
- microforms are stored in metal boxes in film library file-folders (microfilms) and in metal safes (microfiches);
- CD-ROMs are stored in racks;
- electronic data are stored in computer databases.

Inter-Library Exchange, Resource Allocation, National Network of Patent Libraries.

In 1999 government-owned patent information was available from:

- the Russian Agency for Patents and Trade Marks
- intersectoral designated focal points for technical information (IDFPTI)
- libraries (national libraries owned and operated by the administrative divisions of the Russian Federation, and local multi-purpose technical libraries) (MPTL).

According to information in public domain, the Russian Federation operates 70 IDEPTI's, of which 67 carry patent documents of Russia (USSR) and foreign nations through the early 1990s. MPTL's only carry patent information of Russia (USSR). Russian centers of information tend to produce and store their patent related information in machine readable form.

Information Services Available to the Public (Including Automated Services)

To ensure methodological support of the information activity, 42 titles with a total circulation of 20946 copies were published in 1999, including collections of normative acts, scientific and methodological and educational literature in the innovation field, etc.

In 1999 the total number of the readers exceeded 60,000. Annually, the library collection increases by 5 mln.copies.

In order to provide better services to the reader, the Library has set up the following general and specialized reading rooms:

- Patent Documentation of the Pacific Rim Countries;
- Patent Documentation on Microform;
- Information and Bibliographic Services;
- CD-ROM Databases.

The Library and its services are free of charge for all categories of users.

Services to readers continued to be provided within the selective information distribution system (SID). In 1999 thirty two SID users received monthly information on legal protection of industrial property. In total, 12106 bibliographic data items have been dispatched.

Provision of information services to the Library's readers (including foreign readers) comprised 4982 contracted requests and answers to readers' letters, and 26442 fee-charged requests.

Among VPTB subscribers are 1000 remote patent information users.

In 1999, in addition to a large range of CD-ROM-based products issued, work continued on the development of information and technical complexes for major scientific and industrial organizations using as the basis modern patent databases and automated reference and search systems in local and global modes.

VII. MATTERS CONCERNING EXCHANGE OF PATENT DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

In 1999, ROSPATENT carried out international exchange with patent offices of 57 countries, six international organizations and *Derwent* company. New agreements have been signed with the patent offices of Austria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirgisia, Moldova for exchange of patent documents. 61 sets of optical discs, 2 sets of microfiches and 8 sets of paper-carrier information with descriptions to the Russian patents have been sent to foreign countries under the respective exchange agreements. The leading positions in this respect belong to Japan, United States, Germany, EPO and WIPO. In 1999, within the framework of international exchange, ROSPATENT received from abroad 4,851,700 patent documents including 4,188,300 on CD-ROMs and sent to foreign patent offices domestic invention descriptions including 1,573,200 on CD-ROMs.

In 1999, ROSPATENT started the exchange of CD-ROM-based patent documents with Australian and Canadian Offices.

Media Used for Exchange of Primary Documents

Various types of data carriers (paper, microfiche, optical disc) continued to be used in 1999 for exchange of patent documents, with an on-going active process of optical discs being phased in and all other media being phased out.

ROSPATENT received from foreign patent offices:

- 40 sets of invention descriptions on paper;
- 4 sets of invention descriptions on microform;
- 110 sets of invention descriptions on optical discs.

ROSPATENT sent to foreign patent offices:

- 8 sets of invention description on paper;
- 2 sets of invention description on microform;
- 58 sets of invention description on optical discs.

Allowed Media for Filing of Applications

In 1999, traditionally, only paper carriers were used for filing applications with ROSPATENT. Under Rule 92,4 of the Regulations to the PCT, wire, telex, and facsimile messages are allowed for filing purposes, however, that the paper original follows within 14 days of the initial transmission. During 1999, about 6% of the overall number of PCT applications were filed via PCT-EASY.

Implementation of the Declaration of Principles for the Transition to Electronic Data Media for the Purposes of Patent Document Exchange

ROSPATENT continues work aimed at reducing the number of its paper patent documents for international exchange. In 1999, agreements on exchanging only CD-ROM-based documents were reached with the Patent Offices of Australia, Canada, Czechia, Slovakia. At the same time, ROSPATENT continues sending its paper patent documents to the Patent Offices of Bulgaria, Germany, the Netherlands on the basis of agreements.

For users' convenience, CD-ROM optical discs were added to the official publication list, which contain abstracts with descriptions of inventions in Russian and English to be used as reference and search aid to optical CD-ROMs with the official data on Russian inventions.

In order to utilize all the advantages of MIMOSA system, ROSPATENT carries on work on developing the mixed format information processing system to enter such information into MIMOSA system. In 1999 MIMOSA system was fully adapted to the provision of information in Cyrillic alphabet. Work continued on preparation of new optical disc collections containing domestic information: "Inventions of the Russian Federation (full-text patent documents)" and "Abstracts to the RF patents". Discs are included into the official distribution list of MIMOSA-4.

VIII. OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING EDUCATION AND TRAINING, PUBLICITY, USE OF PATENT INFORMATION, INCLUDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Training Courses for Russian and Foreign Nationals

Two training courses on the subject "Patenting of industrial property subject-matters abroad" were organized in 1999 for 48 specialists in the field of industrial property protection

including those from RF, Ukraine and Republic of Belarus. Individual training programs were organized for experts of the Turkish Patent Office and specialists from the Republic of Tajikistan, Republic of Georgia and RF.

ROSPATENT system includes a Russian Training Institute of Intellectual Property (RIIR) which has the status of a higher education institution. In 1999 the system of internal training and upgrading continued to function in RIIP, and 139 trainees used it for the purpose of training and retraining.

For the students of Moscow higher education institutions and specialists from various industries eight practical sessions on handling patent documentation were organized.

Publicity Activities

In early October 1999, ROSPATENT hosted a scientific and practical conference “Theory and Practice in Protecting Industrial Property and Some Subject-Matters of Copyright on the Eve of the New Millennium” which was attended by over 200 specialists. In September ROSPATENT participated in the 48th World salon of innovations, research and new technologies “Brussels-Eureka “. The Russian exposition counted over 160 exhibits protected with RF patents. The international jury awarded the Russian exposition the greatest number of medals and diplomas.

In June 1999 ROSPATENT took an active part in the first international exhibition “Law Expo 99” where it acquainted attendants with its activities in the field of industrial property protection and the possibilities to provide information services to all interested users.

ROSPATENT also participated in the International invention salon “Concourse Lepin” in Paris and “Export opportunities of central regions of Russia” exhibition where the most important and promising inventions were displayed.

The ROSPATENT Library held monthly exhibitions of new titles. Work was completed on the preparation of several methodological aids, including a “Guide on the VPTB optical disc collection”, bibliographic subject-oriented indexes were prepared and excursions were organized for Moscow students.

Research into New Technological Trends

In 1999 ROSPATENT’s divisions carried out research into the following areas:

- legal protection of examination of industrial property targets – 11 works;
- the use of computers in information technologies – 23 works;
- the economic problems of inventing, licensing, and patenting – 5 works;
- forecasting and research in patent information, applied search systems – 5 works.

Assistance in Converting Receiving Offices to the Use of Electronic Media to Facilitate Exchange of Patent Documents

In 1999 ROSPATENT carried out comprehensive work on adapting MIMOSA system for the production of the common CIS optical disc patent information product. To ensure the necessary flexibility of the contents and format of the information provided and to maximally utilize the advantages of MIMOSA system in developing the common product, ROSPATENT developed and offered to the CIS Offices its own system for processing the mixed format information (character and facsimile) to be entered into MIMOSA system.

The commercial production of first regional discs with full texts of inventions and abstracts in Russian and English is planned for 2001.