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ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

BELARUS

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.

Annual Technical Report of Belgospatent on Patent Information Activities in 1999

I. Evolution of patent activities

- **Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants with respect to the previous year**

As compared to the previous year, there were no changes in procedures and requirements for application filings and grants.

- **Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year**

Inventions

In comparison with the previous year, the level of activity of foreign applicants in filing applications lowered by 34.5 per cent while the level of activity of national applicants grew by 9 per cent. At the same time, the number of applications for inventions received in 1999 decreased inconsiderably (by 1.7 per cent) and amounted to 1189 applications.

General information on applications for inventions filed in the Republic of Belarus (RB) is presented in Table 1.

Table 1

	1998	1999	1999/1998 %
Patents for inventions received, total	1209	1189	98.3
of which:			
- from national applicants	910	993	109
- from foreign applicants	299	196	65.55
including:			
- former subjects of the USSR	38	24	63
- applicants from other countries according to the national procedure	41	23	56
- applicants from other countries according to the PCT procedure	220	149	67.7

A 10.7 per cent increase was registered in the number of applications filed under Section G of the International Patent Classification (IPC). A steady upward trend in the number of applications filed under Sections A (9.7 per cent) and H (6.25 per cent) is clearly seen. The breakdown of applications for inventions received according to the IPC Sections is shown in Table 2.

Table 2

IPC Section	1998	1999	1999/1998 %
A	289	317	109.7
B	246	213	86.6
C	255	236	92.5
D	20	20	100
E	68	63	92.6

F	118	107	90.7
G	149	165	110.7
H	64	68	106.25
Total:	1209	1189	98.3

The number of favourable decisions based on the results of patent examination of applications for inventions in 1999 lowered by 7.8 per cent as compared to the previous year and amounted to 590 decisions. First of all, it is connected with the fact that from March 1, 1000 the examiners of the Examination Department for Inventions refused the services of Rospatent in carrying out patent searches in respect of applications and began to do it themselves using retrieval systems on the basis of the CD-ROM archive as well as the Internet information resources.

Data on patents registered and valid in RB as well as their breakdown according to the IPC Sections are presented in Tables 3 and 4, respectively.

Table 3

	1998	1999	1999/1998 %
Patents registered, total	656	550	83.84
including:			
- patents registered through reregistration of the USSR author's certificates	27	14	51.85
- patents on new applications filed with Belgospatent	629	536	85.21
of which:			
- to national applicants	490	382	77.96
- to foreign applicants	139	154	110.79
Total number of patents valid in RB	2554	2860	111.98

Table 4

IPC Section	1998	1999	1999/1998 %
A	128	112	87.5
B	122	104	85.25
C	127	127	100
D	16	8	50
E	49	34	69.39
F	75	61	83.33
G	89	59	66.29
H	50	45	90
Total:	656	550	83.84

Utility Models

In 1999, there were received 141 applications for granting a utility model patent, nearly twice more than in the previous year. The number of favourable decisions made increased about 3 times. Table 5 contains information on the number of applications for granting utility model patents filed and the number of patents registered.

Table 5

	1998	1999	1999/1998 %
Utility model applications filed, total	73	141	193
of which:			
- by national applicants	70	134	191
- by foreign applicants	3	7	233
Decisions for granting patents made	35	104	297
Utility model patents registered, total	25	96	384

Table 6 demonstrates the growth in the number of utility model patents registered which is observed practically in all IPC Sections.

Table 6

IPC Section	1998	1999
A	7	23
B	8	25
C	-	4
D	-	1
E	3	12
F	1	13
G	3	16
H	3	2
Total:	25	96

In accordance with the Law on Inserting Supplements to the Law of RB on Legal Proceedings and the Status of Judges in the Republic of Belarus adopted on July 9, 1998 and intended to create a patent tribunal in the Supreme Court of RB, in 1999, there were taken measures to create a judicial system for adjudication in the field of industrial property rights protection and realization.

In accordance with the Civil Code of RB which came into force on July 1, 1999, on the basis of its Article 45 determining the RB Supreme Court jurisdiction of civil cases, the Supreme Court will investigate cases as a trial court for disputes which arise in connection with creation, legal protection and use of industrial property subjects.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, distribution and use of primary and secondary sources of patent information

- **Publishing, printing, copying**

In 1999, the Official Bulletin of Belgospatent was restructured. Belgospatent began to publish the Official Bulletin on Inventions, Utility Models and Industrial Designs and the Official Bulletin on Trademarks as separate publications.

As on January 1, 2000, the official publications of Belgospatent in the field of patent information are:

- the Official Bulletin on Inventions, Utility Models and Industrial Designs;
- RB patent specifications of inventions and utility models;

- a collection of normative and methodical materials "Industrial Property";
- the Annual Report of Belgopatent.

Official publications are produced on paper in the printing-copying shop of Belgopatent.

100 copies of these publications (each of them) are distributed free of charge at 68 addresses of RB including the government of RB, bodies of state power and administration, the largest republican and regional libraries, higher educational institutions and others. More than 92 enterprises, organizations and firms including 3 organizations from the USA and United Kingdom received them by subscription. Within the framework of international exchange Belgopatent publications are directed to 41 countries and 4 international organizations.

- **Mass storage media used**

As media for storing information on applications and RB patents there are used paper carriers (paper cases with application documents) and hard disks in the servers with the redundancy system RAID. As Belgopatent is dispersed territorially, the databases for inventions and utility models exist in two redactions. One of them is generated and used in the Preliminary Examination Department and the Examination Department for Inventions; the other (its copy) - in the Automation Department and the editorial-publishing group. To reduce them to one and the same form, database synchronization procedures are carried out periodically.

- **Word processing and office automation**

A through system of clerical work in an electronic form has been partially introduced in Belgopatent in parallel with carrying out this work on paper. Data on applications received are put to the database by operators of the Preliminary Examination Department, then the data are made more precise and updated in the process of substantive examination. The same data are used for publishing Official Bulletins and granting titles of protection. As for utility models, the procedure of allotting a number to a patent also has been automated.

- **New techniques used for the generation of patent information**

Circulation of patent documentation and Belgopatent official publications is carried out in the printing-copying shop of Belgopatent provided with copying equipment for reproducing black-and-white and colored images as well as equipment for afterprinting works.

III. Matters concerning abstracting, classifying, reclassifying and indexing of technical information contained in patent documents

In 1999, the IPC sixth edition was used for the purposes of examination, search and publishing of patent documentation. The patent collection was not reclassified.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

- **File building**

The search file of the Examination Department for Inventions being the File for the State Examination of Inventions is generated mainly on CD-ROMs and DVD-ROMs received within the framework of international exchange. Besides, there are Bulletins of the following countries on a paper carrier: Belarus, the Ukraine, the Russian Federation as well as the Eurasian Patent Office.

- **Updating**

The file is updated when receiving new CD-ROMs. In 1999, over 1000 CD-ROMs were acquired in the course of international exchange.

- **Storage**

All available CD-ROMs are stored in the Examination Department for Inventions of Belgospatent on the special stands, with the exception of about 1500 CD-ROMs installed in the jukeboxes and other devices for reading out in the local net.

- **Documentation of other offices maintained and/or considered as part of the existing search file**

As on January 1, 2000, the File for the State Examination of Inventions contained more than 5000 disks among which there were 5 DVD-ROMs and included the following databases:

1. The database of the Russian Federation:

- 1.1. the database with application and patent abstracts for 1994-2000 (5 CD-ROMs);
- 1.2. the database with abstracts and full texts of patents for 1994-2000 (29 CD-ROMs).

2. The database of the Eurasian Patent Office:

- 2.1. full texts of applications and patents for 1996-1998 (on paper and scanned in a facsimile format);
- 2.2. the database with application and patent abstracts for 1999-2000 (12 CD-ROMs).

3. GLOBALPat database:

- 3.1. the retrospective database for 1971-1996 (116 CD-ROMs);
- 3.2. the current database for 1997-1998 (23 CD-ROMs);
- 3.3. GLOBALPat INDEX from 1971 (1 CD-ROM).

4. The PCT and EPO database:

- 4.1. ACCESS A database (PCT and EPO applications for 1978-1988, 1989-1992, 1993-1995, 1996-1997 and 1998-1999) on 5 CD-ROMs or its version on one DVD-ROM;
- 4.2. ACCESS EP-B database (EPO patents for 1980-1993, 1994-1996 and 1997-1999) on 3 CD-ROMs or its version on one DVD-ROM;
- 4.3. full texts of PCT applications from 1978 (over 1000 CD-ROMs);
- 4.4. full texts of EPO applications from 1978 (over 1000 CD-ROMs).

5. The database of the USA:

- 5.1. the search databases of BIB, ASSIST, SNAP, ASSIGN, CLASS programs (5 CD-ROMs);
- 5.2. full texts of the US patents from 1994 (over 1200 CD-ROMs).

6. The database of Germany:

- 6.1. DEPAROM-KOMPAKT database from 1991 (2 CD-ROMs);
- 6.2. PATOS database from 1980 (2 CD-ROMs);
- 6.3. full texts of DE applications and patents from the second part of 1991 (over 500 CD-ROMs).

7. The database of Japan:

- 7.1. PAJ-INDEX database from 1994 (8 CD-ROMs);
- 7.2. PAJ database from 1994 (41 CD-ROMs);
- 7.3. PAJ database from 1989 to 1997 for Classes A, G and H with applications of foreign applicants (3 CD-ROMs);
- 7.4. full texts of accepted applications and JP patents from 1995 (over 200 CD-ROMs).

8. The database of the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Benelux, Portugal from 1978 (1 CD-ROM).

9. The database of France:

- 9.1. the database of France from 1979 (30 CD-ROMs of the type BREF);
- 9.2. full texts of FR applications from 1992 (over 200 CD-ROMs).

10. JOPAL database of patent associated literature from 1981 (1 CD-ROM).

11. The patent database of Australia from 1993 (15 CD-ROMs).

12. The PCT Bulletin from 1998.

13. Full texts of OAPI applications for 1994.

14. Full texts of Korean applications and patents for 1998-1999 (110 CD-ROMs).

15. Full texts of Canadian applications and patents (1 CD-ROM).

V. Activities in the field of computerized and other mechanized search systems

• In-house systems

In 1999, the work was carried out to improve existing in-house automated systems in accordance with users' requirements and to create and introduce new ones. So, the subsystem "Inventions" was polished up as to automate clerical work and to introduce new forms of correspondence.

The subsystem "Inventions" is constructed on the grounds of two databases: the national database of applications and patents and the archive of CD-ROMs. In 1999, there was developed and put into operation the software of CD technologies functioning with three jukeboxes PIONEER DRM-5004 under the control of which nearly 1500 CD-ROMs work.

The following databases are arranged with the possibility of direct access for examiners to the local net of the Examination Department for Inventions:

1. IPC: CLASS
2. the database of Belgospatent
3. the database of the Russian Federation
4. GLOBALPat INDEX database
5. the PCT and EPO database ACCESS A
6. the EPO database ACCESS EP-B
7. the US search databases BIB, ASSIST, SNAP, ASSIGN, CLASS
8. DEPAROM-KOMPAKT database of Germany
9. PAJ-INDEX database of Japan
10. PAJ database of Japan (classes A, G, H with applications of foreign applicants)
11. the database of the United Kingdom, Switzerland, Benelux, Portugal
12. JOPAL database of patent association literature.

The following databases are linked up in the regime of indirect access:

1. full texts of the US patents
2. PAJ database of Japan
3. BREF database of France
4. the database of Austria.

As for utility models, there were developed a search part of the in-house automated system "Utility Models" giving an opportunity of searching in the own database of utility models and a program of preparing a utility model specification mock-up for imposition as a constituent of the publishing subsystem.

- **External databases**

As external databases, there were used the following information resources of Internet (with only one computer linked up):

1. the database [ESP@CENET](#)
2. the WIPO database
3. the IBM database
4. the US Patent Office database
5. the Japanese Patent Office database.

- **Administrative management systems**

In 1999, there was developed a program complex of accounting payment of patent and utility model fees "Fee Stocktaking" including collection of application examination fees and annual maintenance fees. The said complex is introduced in the relevant subdivisions of Belgospatent.

- **Equipment used**

In-house automated subsystems "Inventions" and "Utility Models" include:

Hardware:

- IBM PC Server 320 (RAM – 64 Mb, processor – 1, RAID – 4 × 2,25 Gb);
- 486, Pentium, Pentium MMX workstations – 20 units;

- Canofile – 510 computer system with its File Print 300 printer and Disk File Drive 5001S readout device;
- PIONEER DRM-5004x jukebox – 3 units;
- 10Mb Ethernet local network.

Software:

- Windows NT Server 4.0, Windows 9x operation systems;
- MS SQL Server 6.0, VFoxPro 6.0 database management systems.

VI. Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public

As on January 1, 2000, the Central Republican Patent Collection of the Republican Scientific and Technical Library (RSTL), the only multiprofile scientific and technical library in RB, contained over 24 million documents including about 4 million documents on CD-ROMs (3023 CD-ROMs). The patent collection is represented by patent documentation of 69 countries and 6 international organizations.

To speed up searching of documents in the patent collection of the library, there are the following abstract, bibliographic and reference databases:

DEPAROM-KOMPAKT (DE)	1991-1999
CLASSIS BIB (US)	1969-1997
BREF (FR)	1978-1989, 1997-1998
JOPAL (WIPO)	1981-1997
PAJ CD-ROM (JP)	1994-1999
ESPACE-ACCESS MIMOSA (EPO)	1978-1999
PAJ CD-ROM INDEX (JP)	1997-1999
GLOBALPat	1971-1997
Inventions of Countries of the World (RU)	1998
Complex Total Index (RU)	1924-1998

The reading room of the library patent documentation division is equipped with 2 PCs and a CD-server (a tower Axis StorPoint ? D-server) for 35 CD-ROMs to look through documents on electronic and microcarriers.

A local net functions in the library patent documentation division to search, look through and copy documents.

At the end of 1999, an Internet class was opened in RSTL with the assistance of the Bureau on Cultural and Academic Matters of the US State Department. Visitors of the patent collection have access to this class for carrying out patent searches.

Remote users who don't have direct access to the patent collection can use the system of interlibrary exchange. They are provided with various services such as preparation of bibliographic annotated lists of new acquisitions, information letters about patent documents received, selections of patent documentation on a defined subject and others.

In 1999, the library patent documentation division started the work on completing regional libraries, affiliates of RSTL, with books and periodicals including patent documents.

In April of 1999, the library patent documentation division together with Belgopatent held the seminar "The State and Prospects of Patent Information Supply in the Republic of Belarus".

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information

- **International or regional cooperation in the exchange of machine-readable information**

In 1999, Belgopatent continued international exchange of patent documentation with 41 countries and 4 international organizations (WIPO, the EPO, EAPO and OAPI). The patent documentation received by Belgopatent in exchange for its official publications gave an opportunity to go on with completing the File for the State Examination of Inventions and the Central Republican Patent Collection.

- **Medium used for exchange of priority documents**

In 1999, as before, only a paper carrier was allowed for filing applications with Belgopatent.

- **Implementation of the statement of principles concerning the changeover to electronic data carriers for the exchange of patent documents**

In 1999, Belgopatent participated in the work of the Coordination Council for Issuing a Joint Regional Patent Information Product containing information about inventions of the CIS countries on optical disks (CD-ROMs). The offices-parties of this project prepared a draft Agreement on the problem. It is planned to sign it in 2000.

VIII. Other relevant matters concerning education and training in, and promotion of, the use of patent information, including technical assistance to developing countries

- **Training courses for national and foreign participants, use of audiovisual means**

The Training and Research Centre of Industrial Property of Belgopatent renamed as the Training and Research Republican Unitary Enterprise of Intellectual Property "RUPIS" (RUP "RUPIS") on October 13, 1999 is the only educational institution in RB that trains specialists in patenting. RUP "RUPIS" training activity includes:

1. Training of specialists (a 1000-hour training program) in legal protection of industrial property with awarding them diplomas of the state standard qualifying them as patent lawyers; in 1999, 22 specialists received diplomas after retraining;
2. Preparation of RB patent attorneys for attestation; in 1999, 12 patents attorneys were prepared for attestation;
3. Training of specialists in assessment of intellectual property subjects in intangible assets (a 80-and a 160-hour programs); in 1999, there were prepared 12 specialists in legal provision for assessment and accounting of intellectual property subjects in the framework of the 160-hour program;

4. Training of specialists in the framework of a short-term 120-hour program "The Basis of Legal Protection for Industrial Property Subjects in RB"; in 1999, 8 certificates of professional skill improved in the field of patenting and innovating were handed in;
5. Preparation and holding of seminars and conferences; in 1999, there were prepared and held the seminars "Plant Varieties — Intellectual Property of the Republic of Belarus. The Experience of Legal Protection. Problems. Decisions", "Intellectual Property in the Economy of Enterprises", "Preparation and Submission of Applications for Inventions and Utility Models", "Improvement of Competitive Capacity of Goods and Services on the Basis of Effective Use of Industrial Property Subjects" in Minsk and the seminar "The Role of Intellectual (Industrial) Property in Producing Competitive Goods and Services" in Vitebsk.

- **Promotion activities**

On December 21, 1999, the regional seminar "Legal Protection and Putting of Industrial Property Subjects into Civil Circulation" was held with the participation of the EAPO representatives.

On June 9-11, 1999, at Belgospatent request, the WIPO representatives took part in the seminar on intellectual property protection and, in particular, on the Madrid system international registration of marks.

On November 10-12, 1999, the UPOV representatives visited Belgospatent to render the consultative assistance in solving problems of protection afforded in respect of new plant varieties.

In 1999, there was published the first issue of the scientific-practical journal "Intellectual Property in Belarus". Belgospatent was one of its founders.

- **Studies to identify trends in new technology**

To execute the orders of the President of Belarus in respect of realizing a plan of measures for elaboration of organization economic mechanisms directed at putting intellectual property subjects into civil circulation as well as to carry out patent research for determination of tendencies in developing new technologies, the RB State Committee for Standardization (Gosstandard) put into force the RB Standard "Assessment of Intellectual Property Subjects. General Provisions" on October 1, 1999 and the RB Standard "Patent Research Procedure" on January 1, 2000.