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1999

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

POLAND

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

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– 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 ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 1999

PREPARED BY THE PATENT OFFICE OF
THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

I. Evolution of patent activities

1. In 1999 the procedures concerning filing applications with the Polish Patent Office (PPO), as well as grant and protection maintenance procedure didn't change in comparison with the previous year.
2. In 1999, the number of applications and notifications run slightly below quantities of the previous year; however, there was no area noted to having had experienced rapid changes concerning the number of receipts of applications for grant of protection with respect to the previous year. And so, in 1999:
 - the Polish Patent Office received 3.437 patent applications in the national procedure; 2.285 of them being domestic applications and the remaining 1.152 - foreign applications,
 - 40.761 notifications of designations of Poland in international patent applications were filed abroad under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and 3.519, applications of preceding years entered the national phase at the PPO. At the same time, acting as the Receiving Office, the PPO received, under the PCT, 47 Polish patent applications for seeking protection in foreign countries.
 - 1.360 utility model applications were filed with the PPO. They were mainly domestic applications – 1.290. Like in preceding years, the number of foreign applications remained at a low level and amounted to 77. In recent years a downward trend in the total number of utility model applications has been noticed.
 - Two applications concerning a topography of an integrated circuit were filed.

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

1. In 1999, the following publications were issued :

a) periodicals:

- „Biuletyn Urzedu Patentowego” („Patent Office’s Bulletin”)
- 26 Nos, i.e. 21.259 copies,
- „Wiadomosci Urzedu Patentowego” (Communications of the Patent Office”) - 12 Nos, i.e.9.355 copies,
- „Informacje Urzedu Patentowego”(“Patent Office`s News”)
– 12 Nos, i.e. 6.999 copies

„Wykaz patentów na wynalazki udzielonych przez Urząd Patentowy RP w 1998 roku „ („Index of patents granted in the Polish Patent Office in 1998 „) - 2 volumes i.e. 203 copies,

- „Wykaz wzorów użytkowych na które Urząd Patentowy RP udzielił prawa ochronnego w 1998 roku”(Index of utility models which were granted legal protection in the Polish Patent Office in 1998) - 1 volume, i.e.102 copies,

b) non periodical, brochure publication :

- Polish patent specifications 2.253 titles, i.e. 139.609 copies,
- „Annual Report of the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland, 1998”

- 200 copies,
- “Harmonization of the trademark law in the countries of the European Community – 300 copies
- „Industrial property protection in the countries of the Central and Eastern Europe .Basic legal acts in the scope of trademarks” (Republic of Armenia, Republic of Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Republic of Hungary) Part IV -300 copies,
- “The uniform text of the “PCT Administrative Regulations” – 300 copies
- :The Uniform text of the “PCT Executive Regulations” – 300 copies

2. In 1999 were performed and supplied to users:

- a) 517.900 pages of xeroopies of Polish and foreign patent documentation were performed upon individual users’ requests , and supplied
- b) 15.742 microfiches of patent specifications were performed and sent for the needs of international exchange (to 10 countries).

3.The following carriers for storage of patent documentation were used: CD-ROM discs, paper, microfilm, microfisches, with gradual decrease of the microform and paper proportion.

4.In 1999, like before, work connected with text processing at all stages of the procedures for the grant of exclusive rights were performed in the network with the use of information contained in the Uniform Patent Data Base (BAZPAT). Basic records in the data base were created directly upon receipt of applications and then supplemented regularly with the information on the decision taken. Text processing was realised in 1999 mainly with respect to:

- keeping necessary computer data cards in order to obtain information on the current stage of processing of each case,
- automatic filling in of appropriate documentation, including prints and forms necessary at the stage of correspondence with the applicant,
- preparation of automatic data composition for official publications of our Office.

5. Publication system of the Office enables production of all publications of the Office in its own capacity. In 1999, automation of the publishing

process with regard to the official gazettes and first pages of patent specifications was mainly based on exploitation of the data contained in the BAZPAT data base. The basis for the montage were laser printouts got at the stage of automatic composition functioning under the DTP (VENTURA PUBLISHER) system. Apart from composition of the official gazettes, other computer systems were exploited for publication activities, among others with respect to issuing of successive editions of the International Patent Classification, publishing of complete patent specifications, as well as for other publications. Printing is performed by offset machine with the use of copy printers.

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

1. In 1999, 7.491 abstracts of specifications, including 6.138 abstracts of patent applications and 1.353 abstracts of utility model applications were published in the „Patent Office’s Bulletin”(BUP).
2. In 1999, the VI th edition of the IPC was applied in the PPO , both at the stage of classifying new applications and on currently published patent documents .
3. Within the frames of classifying and reclassifying, the following tasks were executed
 - Changes to sections A, B, C, D and E of the IntCl 7 were translated. Translated changes were introduced to A, B, C textual file, and sections A and B were transferred for printing under Ventura system:

- Materials covering changes of Int Cl, enabling our experts to classify patent and utility model applications according to the Int Cl 7 we prepared and transferred to the Patent Examination Department;
- Software for conversion of the IntCl 6 text to the form suitable for Ventura was prepared and modified;
- Patent and utility model applications before publication in “Patent Office`s Bulletin” (Nos 1/2000 – 5/2000) were reclassified from Int Cl 6 into IntCl 7.

4. Bibliographic data processing was performed in 1999 for retrieval purposes, in connection with :

- a) holding and regular updating of the Bibliographic Data Base of Polish Patent and Utility Models (INFPOL) and Bibliographic Data Base of Foreign Patent and Utility Models (INFPAT), as well as of the ARSPATENT data base, containing bibliographic data, abstracts of specification and drawings:
- b) servicing the users as regards information retrieval on the INFPAT, INFPOL and ARSPATENT data bases, as well as on bibliographic data bases contained on CD-ROM optical discs,
- c) getting appropriate information for automatic composition of the official gazettes of the PPO from the home data base „BAZPAT”, as well as exporting of data intended for feeding the external data bases accessible for the public for retrieval.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

1. In 1999, building of Polish and foreign patent documentation file on CD-ROM optical discs, on paper and on microforms was continued. The increase of patent documentation files was as follows :

a) foreign patent specifications:

- 2.092 CD - ROM discs (558.200 titles) - containing all patent specifications issued in 1999 CD -ROM by the following offices : Austria , Germany, Great Britain, the United States, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Luxemburg, Republic of Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Canada, Australia, Russian Federation, as well as WIPO, EPO and OAPI,
- 276.800 titles - on paper,
- 23.200titles - on microforms

b) Polish patent specifications:

- 2.600 titles (8.500 copies) - on paper
- 2.600 titles (1.400 copies) - on microforms.

c) 551 CD.-ROM discs flown to the bibliographic and subject data bases.

2. The total number of patent documentation in the search files - status as on December 31, 1999 :

- 10.897 CD- ROM discs - containing 8.786.000 copies of full text documents ,
- 15.952titles (17.015.000 copies) of patent documents on paper,
- 6.578.000 titles of patent documents on microforms.

3. In 1999, our Office continued collecting, storing and preparing of patent and technical literature, acquired by purchase, subscription or by exchange, i.e. :

- 4.300 folders of patent and technical periodicals on paper carrier and 180 CD-ROMs containing foreign patent official bulletins and other periodicals were registered and put to dissemination;
- 190 titles were prepared and introduced to ZBILNI data base ;

____. V. Activities in the field of computerised and other mechanised search systems

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1. In 1999 , the following computerised search systems were exploited :

1.1. Home systems functioning on - line and based on the uniform data base BAZPAT , assigned for the needs of filing applications and granting procedures, i.e. :

- application procedures for inventions and utility models - ZGLO,
- examination of patents - BAWY,
- examination of utility models - BAWU,
- information on state of protection, register and fees - OROP.

1.2. Home systems connected with systems of support (including administrative service) - operating off - line , i.e. :

- information on the law - IPRA,
- personnel - KADR,
- patent attorneys -RZEP,
- materials management -GOMA,
- finance - accounting - FIKS.
- automatic composition of publications - ASWY

1.3. Local systems supporting access to the data bases on CD- ROM discs, containing the files of full text specifications, bibliographic data and abstracts of patent specifications in the Office's Library.

1.4. External systems installed on the IBM computers in the Informatic Centre of the Warsaw University (CIUW) and supporting the bibliographic data base INFPOL covering Polish patent documents, as well as the INFPAT data base with data on foreign patent documents, updated with the use of EPIDOS data, as well as the ARSPATENT data base containing Polish Patent document each of them enabling retrospective retrieval of bibliographic information through the INTERNET and by the phone line equipped with modem.

2. The informatic system in the PPO operates in the ETHERNET network..

2.1. The network resource management involves as follows:

- 4 systems : Net Ware 4.1, Net Ware 4.11 and 2 systems Net Ware 5.0
- 2 systems WINDOWS NT 4.0 and ULTRANET for supporting network access to data bases on CD-ROMs in Infoware system
- CD-connection systems for supporting network access to data bases on CD-Rom (ROMARIN)
- The local ETHERNET network is connected through 2 routers with TCP/IP external networks enabling access to the mainframe in the CIUW, as well as to the INTERNET.

2.2. The following hardware was used for exploitation of the computerised systems:

- 6 servers Pentium I and 2 servers Pentium II
- 275 PC - work stations, PC 486 and PENTIUM) , including stations for reading in of image information with scanners,
- 240 printers /ink jet-printer, needle printer, laser printer/ .

2.3. The the following program tools were used:

- REVELATION for management of home data bases,
- FOX - PRO for exploitation of the graphic data base,
- Ventura and COREL -DRAW for publication purposes,
- QR -text and WORD for WINDOWS - text editors.
- MS OFFICE

2.4. The following carriers were used for patent information purposes : 3,5-inch diskettes with the capacity of 1,4 Mb, CD-ROM and DVD discs and streamers as an archive carrier.

2.5. Within the framework of development of the existing systems, the following tasks were performed in 1999;

- Works concerned with the access on the Internet to the information on patent and trademarks protected in Poland were continued. Remote access to those bases from experts' terminals and for external users (in the Reading Room) was set in motion.
- Publishing of the "Biuletyn Urzedu Patentowego" and "Wiadomosci Urzedu Patentowego" on the Internet was launched. Works connected with publication of those bulletins on CD-ROMs started:
- Works related with the development of the network access to the data bases on CD-ROM were continued:
- Works concerned with the development of the subsystem functioning for the needs of the Board of Appeal were conducted. Two additional work stations for servicing tasks concerned with the appeal procedure were implemented
- Modernized systems were implemented in the following scope: personnel and salaries, finance and accounting, materials management, as well as record of capital assets. Necessary training of the officers was carried out;
- Works were undertaken concerning modernization of the retrieval system of image elements of trademarks by using ORACLE tools;
- The line capacity has been increased from 9,6 Kbps to 128 Kbps.
- Tasks concerned with the problem of the 2000 year were performed.

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

1. In 1999 the following tasks were performed as regards organisation and upkeep, of the files intended for consulting by the Office's experts and by the public:

- Works connected with extension of the network retrieval of information contained on optical discs in the InfoWare system, directly from work stations of experts.
- Works connected with updating and exploitation of the ZBIPAT and ZBILNI (data bases containing information on patent and non - patent literature incoming to the Office. The ZBILNI data base was supplied with the 190 volumes of books.
- Stock-taking of 54.000 internal applications on microfiches and 8.400 Polish specifications of utility models.

2. Patent documentation , as well as patent and technical literature , acquired by purchase, by exchange and subscription , was further prepared , stored and made accessible to the experts of the PPO and to the public. As regards information services:

- In the Patent Office's reading - rooms, 18.900 folders with foreign patent documentation and 21.500 copies single patent specifications, as well as 1.100 books were rendered accessible to 5.100 outside users and the Office's experts.
- within the free access to the book - shelves , the files of Polish patent documentation and Polish patent literature, indices of trademark applications and registered trademarks were consulted.

3. Within services rendered for the users :

- 1.614 retrievals were performed on the INFPAT and INFPOL data bases,
- 2.711 retrievals on the bibliographic data bases on CD-ROM
- retrievals on the ARSPATENT data bases were performed on the Internet. 1318 Kb of information were taken.

4. Within our cooperation with the territorial information centres , the Office continued supplying them with foreign patent documentation and literature. In 1999 , by virtue of agreements , the Office provided them with:

- 1.293 discs with patent documentation on CD-ROM,
- 150 disc with patent literature
- 366 copies of foreign patent bulletins,
- 3.603 copies of Polish utility models,
- 847 copies of Polish ornamental designs,
- 106.394 copies of Polish patent specification
- 1.433 copies of BUP
- 841 copies of WUP

5. We transmitted to the patent libraries abroad :

- to 33 countries - 525 copies of „Wiadomosci Urzedu Patentowego” („Communications of the Polish patent Office”)
- to 17 countries - 487 copies of „Biuletyn Urzedu Patentowego” („Patent Office’s Bulletin”)
- to 24 countries - 50 copies of „Index of patents granted ...in 1998 ”
- to 21 countries - 22 copies of „Index of utility models which were granted legal protection ...in 1998”
- to 12 countries – 28.398 copies of patent specifications
- to 1 country - 12 copies of „Patent Office’s News”

Moreover, Provincial Clubs of Technology and Rationalisation, as well as editorial offices and libraries were supplied with patent associated literature.

VII. Mutual exchange of patent documentation and information

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1. In 1999, exchange of signal and source information with foreign patent offices continued. We received patent documentation and literature from 42 patent offices and 2 international organisations .
2. We carried out regular exchange of bibliographic data with the EPO for the needs of EPIDOS, as well as in order to update the external data bases INFPAT and INFPOL.
3. We prepared and transmitted in electronic form data necessary for production of optical CD-ROM PRECES discs , containing ,among others , data on Polish inventions and produced in co-operation with patent offices of Hungary , Czech Republic , Romania and Bulgaria, Latvia Slovakia and Lithuania .

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

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1. Training with respect to patent information covered, among others, the following items :
 - participation of the PPO's experts in trainings organised in the EPO and in patent offices of member countries of this organisation,
 - participation of the PPO's experts in trainings conducted in the PPO by experts from member countries of the EPO,

- participation of some of the PPO's staff in mission of technical assistance to patent offices of member countries of the EPO.
2. Within the scope of promotion of patent information, the following action were undertaken in 1999 :
- Workshop seminar containing methodology of using data bases on CD-ROM were organized jointly with patent information centre of the Academy of Technology in Kielce and data bases accessible on the Internet.
 - Programm for the IV National Conference on "Patent information for science and industry" was prepared and the conference was organised jointly with the University in Łódź. The employees from the Polish Patent Office presented the following topics:
 1. Promotion and training of the Polish Patent Office in the scope of the industrial property protection and patent information;
 2. Technology of supplying data bases- present status and development directions;
 3. Patent information on Internet. Presentation of the accessible bases
 4. New data bases on CD-Roms and DVD.
 - An exhibition stand was organised at the International Fair "Multimedia 99" in Poznan
 - An exhibition stand was organised at the "Innovations 99" in Gdynia

Papers on news in the scope of patent information were prepared to be published in the monthly "Informacje Urzedu Patentowego" (Patent Office's News) as well as papers for conferences and seminars organised by Regional Clubs of Technology and Rationalisation and Polish chambers of Patent Attorneys.

Lecturers invited from the EPO presented the EPO policy in the

scope of patent information as well as patent bases accessible on-line
and on the Internet.

Information collected and prepared in the Polish Patent Office, Warsaw 2000