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**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES**

**ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT**

**2001**

**ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES<sup>1</sup>**

submitted by

**BELARUS**

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

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<sup>1</sup> – 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**

submitted by

**BELARUS****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 terms of application filings and patent grants for inventions and utility models in 2001.

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

*Inventions*

As seen from Table 1, the number of applications for inventions filed with the Republic of Belarus (RB) in 2001 has remained nearly at the same level as in the previous year.

Table 1

	2000	2001	2001/2000 %
Applications for inventions received, total	1198	1144	95.5
of which:			
- from national applicants	994	932	93.8
- from foreign applicants	204	212	103.9

In 2001, the number of applications to grant patents for inventions subjected to patent examination reached its maximal value and amounted to 988 applications, that is by 40.5% more in comparison with the previous year. Full scope information searches with the use of the automated search system of the Examination Department for Inventions were carried out for 68% of applications examined. In 2000, their share amounted to 42%.

The share of favourable decisions in respect of applications amounted to 87.8% of the total number of decisions taken. The share of unfavourable decisions was 12.2%. In comparison with 2000, the share of unfavourable decisions increased twice.

In 2001, for the first time, the volume of applications considered reached the level of applications filed for examination. The number of applications which passed patent examination amounted to 97% of the number of applications in respect of which requests for examination had been lodged that year.

Data on patents registered and valid in the Republic of Belarus (RB) are presented in Table 2.

Table 2

	2000	2001	2001/2000 %
Patents registered, total	537	529	98.5
including:			
- patents registered through reregistration of the USSR author' certificates and patents to RB patents	15	4	26.6
- patents on new applicants filed with Belpatent of which:	522	525	100.57
- to national applicants	339	374	110
- to foreign applicants	183	155	84.7

The analysis of the branch structure referred to the stream of applications filed with RB shows that the largest number of inventions is created by Belarusian designers in the field of chemistry (18%), machine building and metal working (17%), medicine (13%), agriculture and food industry (12%), electronics and radio engineering (10%), construction (8%), power engineering (7%), transport (5%), production of consumer goods (4%). Patent activity of foreign firms is especially high in the field of chemistry (30%), medicine (18%), agriculture (8%), machine building, electronics and construction (6% in each).

The analysis of dynamics in inventive activity of national applicants shows that the largest number of applications is received from state enterprises and organizations (36%), natural persons (30%), higher educational institutions (20%), business structures (10%). What concerns foreign applicants, the highest activity in acquiring Belarusian patents was demonstrated by firms of Germany (15%), the USA (7%), Switzerland (4%), the United Kingdom (3%), Italy (2%), Austria, the Netherlands, Japan (more than 1%).

#### *Utility Models*

2001, the year under review, was characterized by permanent growth both of the number of applications filed and the number of utility model patents registered. In 2001, 315 applications for the grant of utility model patents were received by Belpatent, that is 1.5 times more than in 2000. The number of favourable decisions taken increased nearly by 70%. Table 3 contains information on the number of applications filed for the grant of utility model patents and the number of utility model patents registered.

Table 3

	2000	2001	2001/2000 %
Utility model applications received, total	210	315	150
of which:			
- from national applicants	198	304	153.5
- from foreign applicants	12	11	91.7
Decisions for the grant of patents taken	175	295	168.6
Utility model patents registered, total	138	264	191

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

- Publishing, printing, copying (main types of publications of the office in the field of patent information, etc.)

In 2001, the main NCIS publications in the field of patent information were the following official publications:

- the official bulletin "Inventions. Utility Models. Industrial Designs", No.4/2000 (280 copies), No.1/2001 (270 copies), No.2/2001 (270 copies), No.3/2001 (290 copies);
- RB patent specifications of inventions and utility models data on which were published in the official bulletins Nos.3,4/2000, Nos.1-3/2001 (6 copies for each specification);
- the Annual Report of Belpatent for 2000 with the circulation of 200 copies;
- a collection of normative and methodical materials "Industrial Property", No.6, with the circulation of 700 copies.

In the official bulletins of 2001 there were published data on 935 laid-open applications for inventions; 168 international (PCT) applications which entered the national phase in RB; 509 patents for inventions and 202 utility model patents registered in the state registers of RB.

The official NCIS publications were issued in Russian on a paper carrier.

The official publications were distributed:

- throughout RB in accordance with the list of RB institutions and organizations for free distribution of control copies of Belpatent non-secret publications as well as on subscription through the Republican Unitary Enterprise of Intellectual Property "RUPIS";
- to 40 patent offices of foreign countries and 3 international organizations within the framework of international exchange through the Republican Scientific and Technical Library (RNTB).

Patent specifications of inventions and utility models (each in 2 copies) were passed over to RNTB to replenish the Republican Patent Collection; patent specifications of inventions (each in 2 copies) were passed over to the All-Russia Patent and Technical Library (VPTB) in exchange for the Russian Federation (RF) patent specifications of inventions issued on CD-ROMs.

- Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of patent information

Data on all decisions and actions taken in respect of applications for inventions (utility models) in the course of their filing, examination and registration of inventions (utility models) in the state register as well as on actions and decisions taken after granting titles of protection are published in the official bulletin of Belpatent "Inventions. Utility Models. Industrial Designs". The heading of each announcement is coded in accordance with the WIPO Standard ST.17. The official bulletin contains the following data:

- information on applications which passed preliminary examination and were advertised for public including bibliographic data and main patent claims, systematic and numbering indices of applications for inventions;

- information on international applications for inventions (PCT) which entered the national phase in RB including bibliographic data and main patent claims, systematic and numbering indices of international applications as well as a numbering index of national applications under PCT;
- information on patents for inventions including bibliographic data, a patent claim and a main patent drawing as well as systematic and numbering indices of patents for inventions;
- information on patents for utility models including bibliographic data, a utility model claim and its main drawing as well as systematic and numbering indices of patents for utility models;
- information on all amendments of the legal status in respect of applications and patents for inventions and utility models, corrections and changes in bibliographic data relating to inventions and utility models, errors in the official bulletin.

- Mass storage media used (paper, microforms, optical storage, etc.)

As media for storing information on applications and patents of RB for inventions and utility models, there are used paper carriers (files with application documents) and rigid disks on servers with the reservation system (RAID).

As data on inventions and utility models are received and processed they are input to the automated database. Data entry to the database is fulfilled by the method of their scanning and subsequent translation to a machine-readable form.

The whole scope of information referred to an application including textual and graphical information as well as data referred to registration of a patent is stored in the database. Data contained in the base are used to carry out searches, to publish the official bulletin, to prepare titles of protection for granting.

As of December 31, 2001, the database contained data on 4439 patents for inventions and 459 patents for utility models registered in the state registers of RB.

- Word processing and office automation

There are used two parallel systems of proceedings in respect of applications for inventions and utility models: on paper and in the electronic form.

The automation system of Belpatent consists of separate subsystems providing operation of concrete subdivisions. Each subsystem fulfils a relatively independent task cooperating with the others through the common database. Interaction of the subsystems is provided by intermatching of common data formats, use of unified versions of classifiers, united base software. All Office documentation ( application and notification forms, various types of documents used for holding correspondence) has been brought to uniformity. Each of the subsystems, in its turn, is represented by a complex of working places which automate definite functions of a corresponding subdivision.

In 2001, there were successfully used the following automated subsystems: for examination of invention, examination of utility models and editorial-publishing activity.

- (New) techniques used for the generation of patent information (printing, recording, photocomposing, etc.)

Preparation of mock-ups for official publications of Belpatent is realized with the use of the automated editorial-publishing system worked out on the basis of Visual FoxPro software, on the grounds of data stored in the automated database. The circulation of official publications is produced at the printing shop provided with copying equipment for reproduction of black-white and colour pictures as well as equipment for carrying out afterprinting operations.

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

- Abstracting, reviewing, translating;

Abstracts of patents for inventions and utility models are a part of the national patent collection of RB; however, their storage is performed on paper carriers in application materials.

- Classification and reclassification activities; Classification system used, e.g., International Patent Classification (IPC), other classification (please indicate whether or not patent documents are classified by your Office and, if so, which classification is used)

The International Patent Classification (IPC) is the only classification used by Belpatent for the purposes of patent documentation storage and distribution. Transition to the use of the seventh edition of IPC was realized on July 1, 2000. However, publishing of data on inventions and utility models with the use of the seventh edition of IPC has begun from the official bulletin of inventions and utility models No.1/2001.

Reclassification of the patent documentation national collection into the seventh edition has not been made.

- Hybrid system indexing

Indices of the hybrid system are put down by the examiners of Belpatent and pointed out when publishing data on patents for inventions and utility models in the official bulletin as well as in RB patent specifications of inventions and utility models.

- Bibliographic data and full-text processing for search purposes

Bibliographic data on an invention and its patent claim are input to the automated database of inventions at the stage of preliminary examination of an application. After substantive examination of the application and taking of a favourable decision to grant a patent bibliographic data in the database are made more precise, the patent claim text is corrected and the patent specification and drawings are input to the database.

After the registration of a utility model the full-text information referred to the utility model and containing bibliographic data, a patent utility claim, its specification and drawings is input to the database of utility models.

In 2001, data on 1093 applications and 555 patents for inventions and 264 patents for utility models were input to the databases.

#### IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

- File building

The search file of the Examination Department for Inventions of Belpatent being the File of the State Examination of Inventions (FGEI) consists of the national patent documentation file and the foreign patent documentation file.

The national patent documentation file includes data on applications and patents of RB for inventions and utility models contained in the database of inventions and utility models and published in the official bulletins of Belpatent beginning from 1994.

The foreign patent documentation file is formed on the basis of CD- and DVD-ROMs obtained within the framework of international exchange. Besides, there are patent bulletins of Russia, the Ukraine, as well as the Eurasian Patent Office (EAPO) on paper.

- Updating

In 2001, the national patent documentation file was replenished with data on 1912 applications and patents for inventions and utility models which entered the national database. As of January 1, 2002, the database of inventions contains data on more than 11000 subjects and the database of utility models – about 700.

The foreign patent documentation file is updated at the expense of newly received CD- and DVD-ROMs. In 2001, 500 CD-ROMs and 500 DVD-ROMs arrived at Belpatent within the framework of international exchange.

- Storage, including mass storage media

CD-ROMs are stored in the Examination Department for Inventions on the special shelves, with the exception of about 1500 CD-ROMs placed in jukeboxes and other devices for reading in the local network.

- Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file

Foreign patent documentation on CD-ROMs is represented by documentation of 8 leading countries of the world, namely Austria, the United Kingdom, Germany, France, Japan, Switzerland, the USA, the Russian Federation, as well as 3 international organizations: WIPO, the EPO, the EAPO. As of January 1, 2002, the foreign patent documentation file contained 6500 CD-ROMs and 500 DVD-ROMs.

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

## – In-house systems (online/offline)

In 2001, Belpatent continued its work for creating the automated search system on the basis of CD-ROM technologies (a pilot project) intended for carrying out patent searches in the Examination Department for Inventions. The system was put into operation in April of 2001.

The main characteristics of the system are:

- The system allows to carry out patent searches in the offline mode and serves an alternative to carrying out of searches with the use of Internet resources.
- The maximal depth of searching covers 1969-2002.
- The patent information databases are: GLOBALPAT (PCT, the EPO, the USA, Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Switzerland), PAJ (Japan), MRED, DIAPAT (Russia).
- The search interfaces are: MIMOSA, CASSIS, DEPAROM, PATOS, DIAPAT.
- The number of search databases is about 400.
- The hardware used is a file-server 180 GB.
- The local network is WINDOWS NT.
- The users are : 30 work stations, examiners of the Examination Department for Inventions of Belpatent.
- The format for data presentation is the first page of a document (bibliographic data, an abstract, the main drawing).
- The variants for connection of databases are: with single loading and with automatic change.
- Replenishment with new databases is about 30 databases (15 GB) a year.
- The perspective of development is integration of databases with decreasing their total number to 20-30.

## – External databases

As external databases, the following information resources of Internet are used:

1. the database [Esp@cenet](#);
2. the WIPO database;
3. the database of the USA Patent Office;
4. the database of the Japanese Patent Office.

## – Administrative management systems (e.g., register, legal status, statistics, administrative support, etc.)

During 2001, the work was carried out to improve the existing in-house automated systems in accordance with requirements of users as well as to create and to introduce new in-house systems. The subsystem of licensing was finished and launched into test operation. Changes were introduced into the subsystem of utility models, the programmes for printing payment documents of the accounting subsystem. For gaining access to Internet there were put into operation a high-quality line of integrated digital communication and a concentrator ZyXEL Prestige 128Plus.

## – Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), carriers used



The in-house automated subsystems “Inventions” and “Utility Models” include:

Hardware:

- IBM PC Server 320 (RAM – 64 MB, processor – 1, RAID 4 × 2.25 GB), Intel Cel 533 (RAM 128, processor 1. 4 × 45 GB);
- 486, Pentium, Pentium MMX, Cel 466, 533, 633 workstations 26 units;
- Canofile-510 computer system with its File Print 300 printer and Disk File Drive 5001S readout device;
- HP ScanJet 6300C scanner;
- PIONEER DRM-5004x jukeboxes – 3 units;
- 10 MB Ethernet local network.

Software:

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

Data carriers:

CD- and DVD-ROMs.

- VI. Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public (relating to facilities, e.g., for lodging applications, for assisting clients on searching procedures, for obtaining official publications and registry extracts):

The Republican Scientific and Technical Library (RNTB) is the only in RB multi-profile scientific and technical library. The Library collection contains more than 32 million copies of documents. RNTB serves over 2 thousand enterprises and organizations of the Republic. Annually more than 160 thousand visitors use its collection and services; giving out of documents equals about 3 million copies not taking into account appeals to electronic resources; 250 thousand pages of document copies are produced on average.

The service of readers is carried out in 8 specialized reading rooms provided with computer equipment and modern furniture. The collections of 5 regional RNTB branches amount to more than 4.3 million copies of documents.

In 2001, the Library continued broad introduction of computer technologies into all library, information and administrative processes. The local network of RNTB has more than 80 connections. In all, the Library has about 100 computers. On the basis of RNTB there is developed an automated information-library system intended for the operative service of scientists and specialists of the country and organization of open access to global information resources. RNTB has created the electronic catalogue of books and periodicals, more than 20 bibliographic and factual databases of its own generation. In 4 reading rooms of the Library (the reading rooms of new receipts, foreign literature, patent documents, normative and technical documentation) readers are provided with free access to Internet. The Library has its own Web-site in Internet: <http://www.rlst.org.by>.

The national patent collection makes 70% of the total collection and numbers 29.7 million copies. It contains patent documentation of 69 countries and 6 international organizations; moreover, databases on CD-ROMs contain more than 5 thousand disks. Retrospective

searches to the depth of 50 years are possible. The reading room of patent documentation in the Library is equipped with 5 computers and a CD-server (a tower Axis StorPoint CD-server) for 35 disks. For the Library readers the reading room has a computer with free access to Internet.

The Library makes its collection of patent documentation available for different categories of information users and renders the following services:

- searching and selection of single documents with their dumping, scanning and sending by e-mail;
- selection of abstracts in Russian for foreign patent specifications of inventions;
- subject-matter searching of patent specifications and preparation of bibliographic lists;
- preparation of quarterly annotated bibliographic lists of patent and legal literature newly received;
- publication of information letters about the highest number;
- consultations on the work with patent documents and practical studies concerning the work with the collection.

To improve its methodical activity the Library tested a new form of methodical work and in cooperation with the American programme of training and access to Internet took part in preparation and holding of 3 training-seminars "Methods of Searching in Internet". In April of 2001, the Library together with Belpatent held the republican seminar "Patent Information Resources: Present-Day State and Development Prospects" for specialists of patent services.

#### VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information:

Nothing more to report since 2000 year.

#### 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

In 2001, the Republican Unitary Enterprise of Intellectual Property "RUPIS" continued its work for retraining and improving professional skill of RB specialists in the patent and innovative activity.

- Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.)

On December 4-6, 2001, there was held the seminar "Patent Search and Examination" with the financial assistance of the EPO. More than 150 specialists including examiners of Belpatent and representatives of the Association of Patent Attorneys of RB, patent services of leading organizations and enterprises, the Belarusian Society of Inventors and Innovators took part in its work.

On November 28-29, 2001, there was held the seminar on enforcement of intellectual property rights for the judiciary within the framework of cooperation between the government of RB and WIPO. The seminar was organized by WIPO together with the Coalition for Intellectual Property Rights and WIPO. About 120 specialists including representatives of legislative and judicial authorities of RB, specialists of legal support from Belpatent, the Association of Patent Attorneys and the Belarusian Society of Inventors and Innovators took part in its work.

The advertising booklet on industrial property protection in RB with the circulation of 1000 copies was issued with the financial assistance of the EPO.

IX. Other relevant matters.

Nothing to report.

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