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STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES¹

submitted by the

EURASIAN PATENT OFFICE

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

¹ – 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

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EURASIAN PATENT OFFICE**I. Evolution of patent activities:**

Number of filed Eurasian applications increased with respect to the previous year from 1259 to 1275. 1103 of these were filed as international applications under the PCT, 74 - with patent offices of the Contracting States of Eurasian Patent Convention and 90 applications - directly with the EAPO. In 2001, the time for examination of Eurasian application (from the filing to the granting date) increased to an average of 651 days.

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

In 2001 EAPO continued issuing its official publications using its own publishing facilities for all prepress processes. The unified publication technology involves scanning, optical character recognition, editing, and blueprint make-up. All data used for publications (including bibliographic data in Russian and English, pages in facsimile mode, full-text descriptions, first pages, blueprints etc.) is stored in one database (IPDL HIVE system, developed on outsourcing basis for EAPO). Information is extracted from the database by client software in necessary formats. The client software also provides broad automation of everyday operations at every workplace of the publication department. More than 7300 Eurasian documents were stored in IPDL HIVE system's database at the end of 2001.

Printing of the EAPO publications is performed by other companies on contractual basis.

In 2001 the EAPO has issued the following official publications:

Publication	Contents	Technology used	Media
Gazette “Inventions (Eurasian applications and Patents)”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eurasian applications • Eurasian patents • Indexes for Eurasian applications and patents • Changes of the legal status • Other announcements of the Office 	Press printing	Paper
Annual Index to the Gazette “Inventions (Eurasian applications and Patents)”	Indexes by: patent document number, IPC classification, name of inventor, name of the holder	Press printing	Paper
Descriptions of inventions in Eurasian Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full descriptions (facsimile) • First pages • Bibliographic data 	CD-R recording/ printing/ photocopying	CD-ROM (paper upon request)
Eurasian Patent Specifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full descriptions • First pages • Bibliographic data 	CD-R recording/ printing/ photocopying	CD-ROM (paper upon request)
Legislative, Normative, Methodical and Inquiry documentation of EAPO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official legislative, normative and methodical documents in force • Other information related to the functioning of the Eurasian patent system 	CD-R recording	CD-ROM
Annual Report of EAPO	Report on activities of the Organization and of the Office	Press printing	Paper

All above-mentioned information is published in Russian, with the exception of Eurasian Patent Specifications CD-ROM that contains reference bibliographic data and claims in English as well, and Annual Report with text both in English and Russian.

In addition, EAPO issued several non-periodical publications on paper and CD-ROMs regarding activities of the Organization and Eurasian patent legislation.

Announcements of the Office of legal and normative kind are published in Gazette "Inventions", more general announcements can be also found at Web-site of EAPO at www.eapo.org.

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

When patent application is filed, according to filing procedure the applicant provides abstract in required format. This abstract is published with bibliographic data of the application in the Gazette, at first pages of application and corresponding patent and on

CD-ROM "Descriptions of inventions in Eurasian applications". Abstracts are published in Russian only; claims are translated into English as well for purposes of electronic publication.

From the 2Q of 2000 the EAPO uses IPC⁷ classification system both in examination and publication activities. Reclassification of the documents affected by the IPC⁶ revision was started in 2000. Applications filed with bibliographic data in IPC⁶ are being reclassified to IPC⁷ on the filing stage. By the end of 2001 about 25% of stored Eurasian patent documents required reclassification to IPC⁷. The documents in the EAPO library fund that have classifications other than IPC are not reclassified.

Bibliographic data for applications and patents and full texts of patents are stored in database storage of IPDL HIVE system. All documents are automatically indexed on upload to the database. Full text search and patent documents retrieval using various criteria (IPC class, other bibliographic data, keywords in title, abstract, claims or full text) can be performed using client software or via Web interface. The search engine allows to use Russian and English morphology to obtain more integrate search results. IPDL HIVE system also allows extracting data in required format for further loading of it to other external search systems.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

In 2001 EAPO further developed the search database of patent and non-patent documentation (EAPATIS).

The search database is formed on the basis of technology of extracting bibliographic information and abstracts from electronic carriers, converting the data to the unified standard, indexing data and loading it to the EAPATIS database. By the end of 2001 the search database contained more than 10 million documents, including abstracts and bibliographic information:

Patent documentation of Austria (1990-2001), Australia (2000-2001), Benelux countries (1991-2001), Bulgaria (1991-1995), Canada (1999-2001), Czech Republic (1991-1995), Denmark (1990-1997), France (1978-2001), Germany (1991-2001), Hungary (1991-1995), Italy (1993-1995), Japan (1976-2001), Poland (1991-1995), Romania (1990-1995), Russia (1994-2001), Spain (1990-1997), Switzerland (1990-2001), United Kingdom (1979-2001), USA (1790-2001), African organization of intellectual property (1992), European patent office (1978-2001), WIPO patent documentation (1978-2001), GlobalPat CD-ROMs (1999-2000), EAPO patent documentation: applications and patents published in 1999-2001, backfile of patents 1996-1998).

The search database contains also bibliography of patent-associated literature from JOPAL CD-ROM (1981-1997).

The searches in the patent library can be performed using the combination of following search criteria: patent number, publication date, IPC class, keywords, applicants names, patent holders names and inventors names.

Update of the search file is performed on regular basis, as soon as new data is available. The data is stored on a dedicated server (bibliographic data, abstracts, claims, full text of selected documents) and removable information carriers.

Full-text descriptions on optical discs can be accessed using specially developed unified browser adapted to all types of information formats and carriers available in EAPO.

Besides that, the IPDL HIVE system search file is used in the EAPO publication department to perform searches in Eurasian patent documents (See Chapter III of this Report).

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

In-house systems.

1. Automated search system for stocks of patent and non-patent information (EAPATIS). The system is designed for online information support of examiners and specialists of EAPO and provides a unified access to legislative, normative and reference information of EAPO, patent and non-patent documentation stored on CD/DVD-ROMs, subscription fund and also literature obtained by mutual exchange. The system has broad search abilities and built as an Intranet-system based on the local area Web-server.

In 2001 new functionality of EAPATIS was introduced. The feature of interaction with administrative management system Common Software allowed examiners to initiate search in EAPATIS using standard Common Software interface. The feature of metasearch in external IPDLs that can be accessed via Internet (Esp@cenet, JOPAL, databases of USPTO, IBM, JPO and others) allows to use external sources of patent information together with own search file in one search query.

Equipment and software used: PC CPU 2x350 MHz, RAM 916 MB, HDD SCSI 4x34.1 Gb, external array 4x34.1 Gb.

2. IPDL HIVE system. The system supports publication process in EAPO. It offers reliable storage of all materials used for publication, automation of the most of publication tasks, structured access to the stored patent information via client software or Web interface, multiplex search in bibliographic data and full texts considering languages (Russian and English) morphology and provides statistics on documents stored and on publication process.

Equipment and software used: SUN Enterprise UE250 CPU 2x300MHz, RAM 384 MB; Solaris 2.6; Informix Internet Foundation 2000; Redlab Russian Text Datablade; complementary PC CPU 450MHz; Windows Nt 4.0 Server; Microsoft IIS 4.0; Scanner Fujitsu M - 30 99 GH.

3. Administrative management system Common Software. The system is used by all examination divisions of EAPO. It supports all technological stages of consideration of EAPO applications (applications filed from the Contracting States, applications filed directly and PCT applications) and provides broad statistics.

New functionality of Common Software developed in 2001 includes: automated creation and forwarding of orders for patent search in Federal Institute of Industrial Property of Russian Federation; integration with EAPATIS system (see p.1 above); new server of statistics and applications.

Equipment and software used: SUN Enterprise UE3500 CPU 2x250MHz, RAM 1,25 GB; Solaris 2.5; Storage Array D1000 4x18.2 GB; SPARCstorage Library Model 8/400; Solstice Backup 5.0.1; Informix Dynamic Server 7.3; HyperScript Tools v.1.1.x/1.5.

External databases.

The EAPO experts are also using access to EPOQUE I/II /BNS databases provided by the European Patent Office for examination purposes via dedicated workstation (*PC Dell OptiPlex Gn 166 MHz, OS/2 Warp 3.0, Router Bay Networks BayStack AccessNode, ISDN terminal CentreCom MR 820TR; ISDN line 64 kbps*).

The EAPO employees widely use Internet resources (*512 kbps fibre-optic channel Internet connection*) for carrying out searches and interaction with public searchable databases supported by other patent offices (WIPO, Canada, Australia, European Patent Office, Japan, United States of America and others).

All described services except EPOQUE I/II /BNS can be accessed via local area network (*10/100 Mbps, 90 PCs, 30 personal/network printers*).

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):

Planning and collecting of the EAPO library fund is carried out based on the requirements in patent and non-patent (patent-associated) documentation and literature of EAPO examiners and specialists. Patent documentation on optical disks (more than 17 million documents on 7500 disks) is stored in the fund and received from WIPO, EPO, Austria, United Kingdom, Germany, USA, Russian Federation, Canada, Japan and other countries and institutions. The library fund also contains patent and non-patent documentation from GlobalPat, INSPEC and JOPAL CD-ROMs. Non-patent documentation is represented by periodicals received by subscription, Gazette "Inventions (Eurasian applications and Patents)" of EAPO, annual reports of IP offices, reference publications and other documents obtained by mutual exchange from the Contracting States of Eurasian Patent Convention, National Offices, EPO and WIPO. The periodicals and other publications on paper, received by the office are regularly reviewed, selected articles are scanned, processed with OCR software and placed into local searchable databases, accessible via LAN.

The library fund also contains legislative, normative and reference documentation, including Eurasian patent legislation, normative-methodical and reference documentation, publications about Eurasian Patent System and WIPO standards. An inventory of external sources of patent and non-patent documentation and patent and scientific libraries, accessible via Internet was compiled to satisfy information demands of examiners.

Automated system of interlibrary sharing of EAPO provides: registration of incoming documentation and literature, preparing, storing and managing the machine-readable patent information fund, control and registration of fund, control over usage of information sources, access to electronic sections of database fund, information-searching services for examiners and specialists of EAPO and preparation of EAPO patent documents for publication in Internet.

The System is developed for Internet/Intranet access and runs on the separate local area Web-server based on Windows NT 4 and IIS 4.0 platform.

EAPO closely interacts with All-Russian Patent and Scientific Library on the basis of the Agreement on complex patent-information and library services cooperation.

Subscription to the official publications of the office - Gazette "Inventions (Eurasian applications and Patents)", CD-ROMs with full descriptions of inventions (both applications and patents) and CD-ROM with legal, normative, methodic and reference documentation of the EAPO is open to public. In 2001 EAPO had more than 100 subscribers in Russia and CIS. As a development of the EAPO information services it is planned to organize access to the searchable databases of Eurasian patent documents for Internet users. It is also planned to organize access to search file of EAPO for national IP offices of the Eurasian patent Convention Contracting States for examination purposes via Internet by the end of 2002.

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

In 2001 EAPO continued its activities in the field of international and regional co-operation on patent documents exchange. The EAPO official publications (Gazette and CD-ROMs) were sent to more than 40 countries, as well as to WIPO and EPO. Paper versions of electronic publications were available upon request as well but no orders were received for paper versions in 2001.

The library stock of EAPO is formed with full-text descriptions of inventions, bibliographic data and abstracts, patent-associated and non-patent information provided by International Bureau of WIPO, EPO and patent offices of Austria, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan and other countries (see Chapter IV of this Report for more details).

In compliance with Eurasian legislation, filing of applications is allowed on paper only. Post-filing stages of patent information processing include scanning into dedicated database, optical character recognition, editing, translation, proofreading and loading of the final version into dedicated database for further use in necessary formats. Exchange of priority documents is carried out on paper only, but changing over to facsimile images on electronic carriers is intended in nearest several years.

In 2001 EAPO started receiving data from IP offices of Australia, Canada, France, Switzerland, and United Kingdom on basis of agreements of mutual exchange reached in 2000.

EAPO is participating in the Regional CD-ROM (CISPATENT) project that is carried out to publish patent documents of EAPO and CIS countries on electronic media. It is planned to start regular issuing this joint CD-ROM product in early 2002.

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

In 2001, the second phase of the project of technical co-operation with the national IP offices of the Contracting States of Eurasian Patent Convention was completed. The first phase of this project (completed in 2000) involved provision of national offices with workstation, modem and annual subscription to dial-up Internet access via local providers and also creation of Web sites of the national offices at the EAPO Web portal at www.eapo.org. The results of one-year use of dial-up access in most of the offices participating in the EAPO project were found unsatisfactory as long as connections had proved to be very slow and unstable because of poor quality of local telephone network infrastructure. Thus, in 2001, in the frames of the second phase of the project, the dedicated 64 kbps lines for Internet access were installed in each office. In number of offices some additional works such as Local Area Network (LAN) mounting, e-mail servers setup etc. were carried out. Appropriate training on technical matters and use of various patent resources in Internet was made for the offices' staff

as needed. Besides that the Web sites of the national offices were further developed in 2001; development, hosting, technical procedures of information update were provided by EAPO.

In December 2001 EAPO participated in intergovernmental exhibition dedicated to 10-th anniversary of Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) where general information on the Office and official publications of the EAPO was presented at joint exposition of Rospatent and EAPO.

In May 2001 the regular seminar on information technologies for specialists of the national IP offices of the Eurasian patent Convention Contracting States was organized and carried out by EAPO in Doushanbe, Tajikistan. This annual seminar was aimed to acquaint participants with the newest IT technologies applied in EAPO, Rospatent and other IP offices, to exchange opinions on the common problems in this field, to share experience in automation of various activities in the IP sphere.

The Administrative Council of the Eurasian Patent Organization at its 11-th session in October 2001 adopted the decision to create Standing working group on information technologies of EAPO and to hold the first session of this working group in 2Q of 2002. This working group is aimed to initiate, co-ordinate and report on progress of joint IT projects, share experience of successful projects and to discuss other relevant matters.

EAPO organizes trainings for specialists of the national IP offices of the Eurasian patent Convention Contracting States on regular basis. In 2001 14 specialists from 8 states visited EAPO. An individual program was developed for each specialist in order to satisfy the requirements of the national offices and specialist's personal requests.

In order to extend the technologies developed in EAPO it was decided to publish a collection of articles where all existing in EAPO technologies and systems will be described in detail. The book will also contain articles dealing with the concept of automation of patent office, criteria to be considered on IT projects start-up, statistics on the systems used etc. The work on the materials for this collection was started in 2001, publication is planned in 3Q 2002.

EAPO examiners participated in regular trainings on information systems used in the Office (EAPATIS, Common Software, HIVE, Internet resources etc.) organized by IT divisions of EAPO. Experts of IT divisions of EAPO took part in 2001 in 9 events in IT field (trainings, sessions, seminars, conferences) organized by WIPO, EPO and other patent offices abroad. Significant assistance in this field was rendered to EAPO by the European Patent Office.

IX. Other relevant matters.

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