

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT OF BELGOSPATENT ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 1998

I. Evolution of patent activities

On April 25, 1998, the Regulations on Compiling and Filing an Application for the Grant of a Patent for an Invention instead of those which operated earlier as well as for the first time the Regulations on Compiling and Filing an Application for the Grant of a Patent for a Utility Model entered into force.

In 1998, Belgospatent received 1209 applications for the grant of patents for inventions, of which 910 applications were from national applicants and 299 – from foreign applicants. In comparison with 1997, the number of applications filed by national applicants increased by 158, the number of applications filed by foreign applicants decreased by 111. The receipt of applications from the CIS countries increased and totalled 38. 220 PCT applications entered the national phase in the Republic of Belarus (RB). There were received 6 applications for the grant of an Eurasian patent. After preliminary examination the materials of these applications were passed over to the Eurasian Patent Office. In 1998, the number of petitions for patent examination increased to 932, in comparison with 682 in 1997.

As a result of patent examination, there were taken 640 favourable decisions (501 – to national applicants and 139 – to foreign applicants).

There were registered 656 patents for inventions (517 – to national applicants and 139 – to foreign applicants).

Belgospatent began to accept applications for utility models from October of 1997. In 1997-1998, there were received 73 applications for utility models (70 – from national applicants and 3 – from foreign applicants). There were registered 25 patents for utility models.

In 1998, technical equipment of the Examination Department for Inventions greatly increased that allowed to organize a local network.

The automated system for granting titles of protection entered into force.

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

The Official Bulletin contains data on applications and patents for inventions, patents for utility models and industrial designs, certificates of trademark registration as well as all amendments concerning legal aspects related to the aforementioned industrial property subjects which are published in the part "Notifications". In this part of the Bulletin all headings are given in accordance with the WIPO standard ST.17. Since 1998, the sequence of the Bulletin parts changed and their headings were also given according to the standard ST.17.

Application materials are received and stored on paper.

In Belgospatent there are accumulated data bases (DB) of inventions. On the basis of information stored in DB there have been created and function the following automated systems of information handling:

- the automated system of clerical work for the Preliminary Examination Department (WS for an examiner and WS for an operator);
- the automated system of clerical work for the Examination Department for Inventions (WS for an examiner and WS for an operator);
- the automated system of preparation for imposing official publications (WS for a publication manager, WS for an imposer and WS "Description").

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

The 6th edition of the International Patent Classification (IPC) is used to classify inventions and utility models.

Preparation for issuing a joint regional CD-ROM of the CIS countries is carried out. For this purpose, abstracts of descriptions for patents of RB in Russian and English are put into DB.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

The search file is formed in the following way: a national collection, descriptions of Russian and Eurasian applications and patents for inventions as well as bulletins are stored on paper, whereas materials of leading foreign countries are presented on CD-ROMs (more than 4000 disks) which are received by way of international exchange.

Extensive search in the national DB is carried out on many criteria and its results are provided in the form convenient for a user. Creation of Belgospatent own Web-server is planned. In 1998, Belgospatent received 1276 CD-ROMs from other Offices. The information about them is presented in the Table.

Country	Name of Database	Content of Database	Period	Number of Disks
AT	ESPACE AT	Full texts of patents	1994-Present	61
DE	ESPACE DE	Full texts of patents and applications	1991-1994	181
DE	ESPACE DE-U	Full texts of applications for utility models	1994	9
DE	DEPAROM ACT	Full texts of patents and applications	1995-Present	216
DE	DEPAROM U	Full texts of applications for utility models	1995-Present	73
DE	DEPAROM KOMPAKT	Application, patent and utility models abstracts	1991-Present	8
DE	PATOS	Application, patent and utility models abstracts	1980-Present	5
EPO	ESPACE ACCESS	EPO and PCT application abstracts	1978-Present	45
EPO	ESPACE ACCESS EP-B	EPO patent abstracts	1980-Present	4
EPO	ESPACE ACCESS EUROPE	Bibliographic data of UK, CH, PT and BX patents	For 1998	7
EPO	ESPACE EP-A	Full texts of applications	1978-Present	1,800
EPO	GlobalPat Index	Bibliographic data of EP, CH, DE, FR, UK, US and PCT patent documents	1978-Present	1
EPO	GlobalPat	Front pages of EP, CH, DE, FR, UK, US and PCT patent documents	1971-1997	262
FR	BREF	Application abstracts and images	1978-Present	46
FR	COSMOS	Full texts of applications	1992-Present	217
JP	PAJ INDEX	Application abstracts in English	1994-Present	9
JP	PAJ	Application abstracts in English and images	1995-Present	38
JP	PAJ	Foreign application abstracts in English and images	1989-1997	1
JP	B&Y	Full texts of patents	1995-Present	166
KR		Full texts of applications and patents for inventions and utility models	1998-Present	82
OAPI	ESPACE OAPI	Full texts of OAPI patents	1994	15
RU	PATENTS of RUSSIA	Full texts of patents and applications for inventions	1994-1998	21
US	USA Pat	Full texts of patents	1994-Present	866

US	CASSIS ASSIGN	Patent information		7
US	CASSIS ASSIST	Patent information		7
US	CASSIS BIB	Bibliographic data	1969- Present	10
US	CASSIS CLASS	Numbers of US patents and US Classes corresponding to them	1790- Present	9
US	CASSIS SNAP	Patent information		3
WO	ESPACE WORLD	Full texts of PCT applications	1978- Present	898
WO	PCT GAZETTE	Bibliographic data of PCT applications	1998	27
WO	JOPAL	Bibliographic data of journal articles	1981-1997	7
WO	IPC: CLASS	1-st to 6-th editions of IPC	1995-1997	2

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

In Belgospatent there functions the automated system of searching in the national DB of inventions. Searches are also fulfilled through CD-ROMs. For searches when carrying out examination of inventions. Searches are also fulfilled through CD-ROMs. For searches when carrying out examination of inventions remote data bases and non-commercial files of INTERNET are used. There are used IBM-compatible computers, from 1286 to Pentium II 300, combined by a local network Microsoft, a network protocol NetBEUI, TCP/IP; 3 servers Windows NT. At the work stations there are applied OS Windows 95/3.11, MS Office 95, DBMS-MS SQL 6.5, Visual FoxPro 5.0.

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

The Republican Scientific and Technical Library is the only multibranch scientific and technical library in RB which 23-million collections contain patent and standard technical documentation, industrial catalogues, scientific and technical literature.

The Republican Collection of Patent Documentation numbers more than 21 million copies of patent documents. Patent documentation of 69 countries and 6 international organizations is presented in it. The sources of completing this Collection are:

- the international exchange with Patent Offices of foreign countries and international organizations;
- the publishing organizations of Rospatent;
- Belgospatent;
- Belpochta [Belpost];
- MicroPatent LLC (the USA).
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As a donation to the Library, the Patent Office of Japan sent and has continued to send data bases which contain accepted applications of Japan and abstracts of laid open applications of Japan for 1994-1999.

The year 1998 was marked by the transition of the Library to the replenishment of its collections with patent documents on CD-ROMs. In 1998, there were received 8 million documents on 2000 CD-ROMs. In this connection, there are solved questions as to keeping and using the collection on CD-ROMs for information support of patent research.

One of the main directions in the activity of the Library is to serve users of information. To achieve this purpose, there are used stationary forms (specialized reading rooms and places of giving out literature) as well as non-stationary forms (provision of information products and services for remote users).

In the Library there are 3 specialized reading rooms for work with patent documentation where readers can get acquainted with documents on paper, microforms and CD-ROMs, with new documentation received weekly. About 170 thousand users visit the Library during a year. Of them, 23 thousand use patent documentation.

At users' service there is copying equipment to produce copies of documents from any kinds of carriers.

The Library is the centre of patent information service in RB. It provides its readers and remote users with the following services: preparation of bibliographic annotated lists of documentation and literature newly received, information letters about publications of patent documents received, selections on a definite subject; holding of subject exhibitions and exhibitions of new literature received; serving of Belgopatent specialists in accordance with the system of selective dissemination of information and so on .

In 1996 – 1998, in the Library there was made up and published a retrospective index "The History of Development of Inventive Activity in Belarus" which appeared the first index with such contents in the country.

Being the scientific and methodical centre for the network of scientific and technical libraries of RB in all directions of their activity as well as for standardization, information and patent departments in questions as to replenishment and use of their collections, the Library renders methodical and practical assistance to them, namely: works out measures for improving professional skills, holds seminars, gives methodical consultations to individuals and groups of users, publishes methodical materials, etc.

There was created and is being supplemented a reference guide to library information resources on science and technology of RB (an electronic version) in which information about the structure, volume and location of patent collections of RB enterprises and organizations is collected.

The work on organizing regional scientific and technical libraries – affiliates of the Republican Scientific and Technical Library including creation of patent collections and rendering of methodical and practical assistance to them started.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information

By way of international exchange Belgopatent receives patent documentation from 41 countries and 4 international organizations both on paper and on CD-ROMs.

As previously, applications for the grant of patents were received on paper but it is planned to receive them on electronic carriers too.

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

In 1998, 8 examiners received training in the subject departments of the Federal Institute of Industrial Property (Moscow).

Belgopatent specialists took part in the work of certain WIPO Standing Committees, the 32nd and 33rd sessions of meetings of the WIPO General Assembly as well as in regional seminars of WIPO on using rights to intellectual property and on licensing.

The EPO organized training seminars for specialists whose work is connected with industrial property protection.

In 1998, 10 officials of Belgopatent trained in different seminars at the expense of the EPO.