

# 1998 ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT OF THE ROMANIAN STATE OFFICE FOR INVENTIONS AND TRADEMARKS ON THE PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITY

## I. Evolution of the patent activities

The patent applications filed with the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks in 1998 according to the Law no.64/1991 reached a number of 1772, 27.4% lower than that of the previous year. From the total number of patent applications 1299 have been filed by domestic applicants and 473 have been filed by foreign applicants, from which 395 by the PCT route.

It is worth mentioning the substantial increase of the requests for the extension of the European patents to Romania which, after the entry into force of the Agreement between the government of Romania and the European Patent Organization on cooperation in the field of patents reached a total number of 1600 in 1998 in comparison with the 449 requests in 1997.

On May 13, 1998, Law no.93/1998 on transitional protection of patents for inventions entered into force which enacted a transitional protection for owners of patents having priority before 21 January 1991 in a State Member of the Paris Union for the Protection of Industrial Property or of the World Trade Organization for inventions having as subject - matter substances obtained by nuclear and chemical methods, pharmaceuticals, methods for diagnostic and medical treatment, disinfectants, food stuffs and spices and new plant varieties, bacteria and fungi strains, new animal breeds and silkworms. According to the law transitional protection shall be granted if the invention is the object of a patent in force in a Member State of the Paris Union for the Protection of Industrial Property or of the World trade Organization, having a priority date before 21 January 1991, the subject matter of the invention has not been patented in Romania, the product to which the patent for invention relates has not been marketed in Romania before 31 December 1993 and the application for the grant of the transitional protection was filed within a six - month period of the date on which this Law entered into force.

The distribution of the patent applications by technical fields reveals that no major changes have been registered in comparison with the previous year, the chemical field having a bigger much share (23.9%). The technical fields with a richer activity in patenting are:

- Pharmaceuticals	177	(10%)
- Organic chemistry	155	(8,8%)
- Engines; Pumps	131	(7,4%)
- Electricity	104	(5,9%)
- Dyestuffs; Crude oil; Oils; Fats	84	(4,7%)
- Measurements; Optics; Photography	81	(4,6%)

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

The official publications of SOIT:

- Official Industrial Property Bulletin - Inventions, issued monthly;
- Official Industrial Property Bulletin - Trademarks, issued monthly;

- Official Industrial Property Bulletin - Designs, issued monthly;
- Official Industrial Property Bulletin - Extended European patent applications and patents, according to the Law no. 32/1997;
- patent specifications - in extenso;
- Romanian Industrial Property Review, six issues yearly.

Since 1996, in-house publishing has been taking place.

As all documents are processed on computer exclusively (computer format) they can be turned into htm and pdf formats and are currently employed in INTRANET and INTERNET publishing.

After the Office implemented the Common Software (CS), the data printed in the Official Industrial Property Bulletin are taken from CS exclusively.

Corel Word Perfect.7 is employed for desktop publishing and Corel Draw for image processing.

In 1998, a CD-ROM prototype called ROPATENT- IMAGES was made, while using only ADOBE Acrobat Exchange 3.1 - Acrobat Reader.

#### IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

In 1998, more than 7,000 patent specifications were scanned and processed by SOIT. After scanning, the files were converted into PDF format and stored in the facsimile database of the Office. These files are integrated into the database employed in in-house search. All the documents are scanned and also integrated into the document database.

The data stored in the said database are used in the examining procedure; they are also the primary source for the production of CD-ROMs on specific topics.

The storage of file content in electronic format has also been initiated.

The database is indexed. Consequently, the facsimile document may be accessed by various ways:

- from the data comprised in the Official Industrial Property Bulletin (1990-to date);
- from the Common Software (1989- to date);
- from the SEARCH database (1990 - to date);
- full-text (1996- to date).

The bibliographic data of the patent applications and the patents are stored in the in-house database. In 1998, both the current data and those referring to filings prior to 1990 were processed.

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

Activities employing the computer system of the Office:

##### V 1. In-house systems

###### V 1.1. Generation, administration and up-keep of the document database.

For in-house search, about 12,000 patent specifications were processed and became ready for exploitation. This database is processed by using Acrobat.

V 1.2. The database comprising the bibliographic data of the patents granted starting with 1991. Said database is available in INTERNET/INTRANET, in the SOIT WEB site as www.osim.ro". Till mid \*98 the database was stored on a server made available by our INTERNET service provider. Afterwards, the database was transferred onto the in-house server of SOIT. Informix Online i.e. SCO-UNIX is employed as SGBD; the search interface is a CGI application.

V 1.3. The in-house database of SOIT comprises the bibliographic data of patent applications and granted patents. That database is employed for in-house search. SGBD Informix Online DSA 7.23 is used to that purpose; the interface is created by means of Hyperscript Tools (object-oriented language), the application is known as "The Common Software".

V 1.4. The CD-ROM index databases accessed by internal users carrying out patent searches in the network are:

ACCESS A IPS CLASS  
ACCESS B BULLETIN  
PRECES CASIS-BIB

The full-text database to be accessed by means of the local PCs having CD-ROM scanners are:

ESPACE-EPA, complete  
PRECES - complete  
ESPACE UK, 1993-1998  
USAPAT, 1994-1998  
CH, 1994-1998  
DK, 1990-1998  
ES, 1990-1998  
SI, 1993-1998  
ESPACE-EPB, complete  
FR, 1992-1998  
DE DEPAROM, 1993-1998  
WORLD, 1991-1998  
AT, 1992-1998  
IT, 1993-1995  
RU, 1996-1997  
OAPI, 1994-1998

## V. 2 External databases

Commercial: QUESTEL  
Free access, in INTERNET  
- IBM page for US patents;  
- ESPECAE-NET;  
- other databases in INTERNET, made available by other industrial property offices.

V 3. The Common Software database stores not only the bibliographic data referring to patent applications and patents but also in information on administration such as the legal status and changes thereupon, transfers of rights, administration of fees a.s.o. There are also means to retrieve and print out information related to administration, namely the legal status and changes thereupon, the transfer of rights, the administration of fees, a.s.o. There are such means to print out data required by administrative decisions, publication, statistics, etc.

V 4. The electronic information system of SOIT (hardware, software computer network) is made up of:

#### HARDWARE

- two ALPHA 2100 A servers, monoprocessor;
- one DIGITAL WORK STORAGE having a storage capacity of 50 GB;
- round 180 PCs of the 486/66 MHz, Pentium 100-200Hz, Pentium II 300 MHz type;
- 18 XEROX 4510, 4520, HP 4 sl network printers;
- 6 scanners;
- 75 Deskjet plus local printers as well as DecWriter 110;
- 3 INFOSERVER 100 to access CD-ROM index in the network;
- 4 Pentium 200 MHz PCs for the INTERNET/INTRANET subsystem. In 1998 a 64 Kb/s telephone line, ASM 31, Decrouter 90 T1 was employed for communication purposes.

The INTERNET/INTRANET Subsystem comprises one mail server, one database server, one fire-wall server, one FTP server.

#### Network

- ETHERNET thin cable network; BNC and HUB 90 connections are employed;
- TCP/IP is the network communication protocol.

#### SOFTWARE

- DIGITAL OS F1 operating system for the ALPHA servers;
- SCO-UNIX driving system for the INTERNET/INTRANET database server;
- SGBD Informix Online DSA 7.23 for the ALPHA servers;
- Windows NT 4.0 and Windows \*95 for client PCs;
- Corel Perfect Office for DTP;
- the Common Software in Hyperscript Tools for client servers.
- Acrobat Exchange to process patent applications;
- Netscape 4 for the use of INTERNET/INTRANET;
- specific software for the CD-ROM collections: MIMOSA, Dataware, etc.

V 5.1. The Common Software comprises bibliographic data and procedural information for both patent applications and patents granted starting with 1990. SOIT makes efforts to keep up this database and to recover data concerning applications filed prior to 1990. Said database can only be searched in-house; Office employees can carry out searches by combining round 80 criteria in various search equations.

V 5.2. The full-text patent database comprises more than 12,000 patent specifications. Said database having PDF files can only be searched by office employees. Search is based on the use of the index search tools of Acrobat .

V 5.3. The WEB site of SOIT comprises the database available for both the public and the Office employees. Initially, the database was entered the data on patents beginning with 1991. From 1999 on, the complete patent specifications, going back as far as 1997, will be made available for public inspection.

V 5.4. The CD-ROM database

#### INDEX

- Access A - IPC Class
- Access B - Bulletin
- PRECES - Casis-Bib

The full-text databases accessed from the local PCs having CD-ROM readers:

- Espace-EPA, complete
- PRECES, complete
- ESPACE UK, 1993-1998
- USAPAT, 1994-1998
- CH, 1994-1998
- DK, 1990-1998
- ES, 1990-1998
- se, 1993-1998
- ESPACE - EPB, complete
- FR, 1992-1998
- DE DEPAROM 1993-1998
- WORLD, 1991-1998
- AT, 1992-1998
- IT, 1993-1995
- RU, 1996-1997
- OAPI, 1994-1998

starting with 1999 a 600 CD-ROM juke-box will be integrated in the system for CD-ROM facsimile search. At the same time, the reading room of SOIT will provide the public searches in these databases.

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

VI 1. Collecting, acquisitions, preparation

SOIT cooperates with 45 patent offices and international organizations involved in industrial property matters; patent documents are exchanged, regularly.

As a result of these changes, in 1998, SOIT was sent:

- 320,000 patent documents (paper)
- 1,300 official journals
- 80 specialized reviews (paper) CD-ROM

over 300,000 patent documents stored on CD-ROMs.

The paper patent documents received by the office are classified sequentially by means of key-cards and afterwards, stored according to the IPC.

The Romanian patent collection comprises 163,892 patent applications and 114,063 patents and is arranged sequentially and also according to the IPC.

## VI 2. Collection Management; document presentation

The National Patent Collection comprises over 16 million documents grouped in national collections (country and year) and arranged according to the IPC or sequentially.

The documents are preserved while observing the legal standards in force.

The storing rooms are equipped with fire protection system, air-conditioning and mobile shelves, in part.

Since 1998, SOIT has had a document preservation-restoration team and an archive section in charge of the protection and exploitation of information stored in during SOIT archives.

The staff of the said team was trained the training courses held by the National School for Archives and their work is supervised by the National Archives Institute.

VI 3. SOIT exchanges documents with the National Library which has a complete collection of the official bulletins issued by SOIT. The Office also exchanges documents with other national offices and regional organizations. At the same time, SOIT is also interested in extending cooperation with other Romanian and foreign libraries, mainly those of other patent offices, aiming at setting up a systematic exchange of information and documents related to industrial property.

Within the framework of a development program, SOIT will develop some Regional Documentation Centres, distributed relatively uniform all over the country.

## VI. 4 Information services available to the public

At its reading room, the Office makes all its documentation available for public inspection, upon request; it provides copies of the patent documents, carries out patent searches and writes surveys from the patent literature.

A range of electronic services (access to the in-house databases) are also rendered by the reading room staff, mainly ACCESS A/B, ESPACE BULLETIN, EP-A full-text, BIB, Patents ASSIST, ASSIGN, local CD-ROM access, aid in using the external database through INTERNET and also use thereof.

By means of its INTERNET site [www.osim.ro](http://www.osim.ro) the Office offers the public access to useful information such as BOPI, patents, national legislation, etc.

VII. In November 1998, two SOIT experts paid a visit to the Finnish patent office to lend technical assistance for the implementation and administration of the Common Software.

SOIT sent 2,000 patent specifications (paper documents) and their bibliographic data (electronic format) to be inserted in the PRECES CD-ROM in 1998.