ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES BY ROSPATENT

1998

I. CHANGES IN PATENT ACTIVITIES

Changes with respect to registration applications as against the previous year

New Rules governing the drafting, submission and review of a patent application for an invention, and Rules governing the drafting, submission, and review of an application for a utility model certificate became effective in 1998. The outgoing rules have been amended to make the above procedures consistent with the laws of the Russian Federation, and to incorporate the expertise gained as a result of using the rules and amendments being superseded. The new rules for the drafting, submission, and review of a patent application for an invention no longer require for most inventions invention claims with their two distinct parts: restricting and distinguishing. The new Rules call for a search with respect to the invention claim following commencement of application examination in substance.

Trends and Areas of Rapid Changes as against the Previous Year

Inventions

As against the previous year in 1998 the number of invention applications filed by applicants who are Russian nationals amounted to 108.9%, while the number of applications filed directly with ROSPATENT by foreign applicants effectively remained at the 1997 level at 100.5%.

Table 1 summarizes the 1997-1998 data reflecting the filing of applications for Russian patents by domestic and foreign applicants.

Table 1

	1997	1998	%1998 vs 1997
Applications for RF patents directly with ROSPATENT	19992	21362	106.9
including national applicants	15106	16454	108.9
including foreign applicants, in	4886	4908	100.5
the countries of the former USSR	418	373	89.2
outside the former USSR	4468	4535	101.5
Of the total number, the number of applications filed following the PCT procedure and converted to national status	3228	3391	105.0

Despite a certain decline in 1998 in the number of application filings for sections A and C (by 9.7 and 1.9%, respectively) most of the applications were filed for Section C – "Chemistry and Metal Science". The number of application filed for Section F- "Mechanics; Lighting; Heating; Motors and Pumps; Arms and Ammunition; Controlled Explosions" grew by 15.8%, for Section B – "Miscellaneous Processes; Transport" – by 12%, for Section H – "Electricity" – by 9.4%, for Section G – "Physics" – by 8.4%. For the other Sections of the IPC the number of applications filed has also increased as against the previous year.

Table 2 summarizes distribution of the invention applications filed in 1997 and 1998 among the International Patent Classification Sections.

IPC Section	**1997**	**1998**	**%1998 vs 1997**
A	3897	3518	90.3
B	3172	3553	112.0
C	3732	3662	98.1
D	192	200	104.2
E	1363	1411	103.5
F	2055	2379	115.8
G	2060	2233	108.4
H	1410	1542	109.4
Misc.	2111	2864	135.7
Total	19992	21362	106.9

The number of patents granted to Russian applicants showed a 25.1% decline, while foreign applicants were granted a slightly higher number of patents, a 1.3% increase

Table 3

	1997	1998	1998/1997 (%)
Patents granted - Total	45,975	23,762	51.7
Including - in exchange of inventors' certificates	16,283	447	2.7
Including - on new applications, of which:	29,692	23,315	78.5
- to Russian patent holders	25,644	19,215	74.9
- to foreign patent holders	4,048	4,100	101.3

Table 4 shows the distribution of patents issued in 1998 over the IPC Sections

Table 4

IPC Section	1997	1998	1997/1996 (%)
A	5,388	4,738	87.9
B	6,160	4,372	71.0
C	5,738	4,513	78.7
D	436	278	63.8
E	2,191	1,804	82.3
F	3,660	2,984	81.5
G	3,797	2,850	75.0
H	2,322	1,776	76.5
Total:	29,692	23,315	78.5

Utility Models

Table 5 contains the information on utility model applications filed , while Table 6 summarizes information on utility model certificates granted with breakdown by IPC Sections. The data in Table 5 shows a general increase (15.6%) in the number of applications filed for a utility model. This was accompanied by an increase in the number of utility model applications filed by Russian nationals (by 16.1%). The number of certificates issued for this type of legal protection tends to increase, by 18.9% in 1998, as an example. Table 6 suggests that while the general increase in the number of utility model certificates granted in 1998 was visible across all IPC Sections, it was most significant in Section F- "Mechanics; Lighting; Heating; Motors and Pumps; Arms and Ammunition; Controlled Explosions" by 45.4 %, for Section H – "Electricity" – by 43.6%, for Section G – "Physics" – by 40.4%, for Section B – "Miscellaneous Processes; Transport" – by 35.1%, for Section E – "Construction, Mining" – by 30.6%.

Table 5

	1997	1998	1998/1997 (%)
Utility model applications filed - Total	2,356	2,723	115.6
Including - by Russian applicants	2,304	2,675	116.1
Including - by foreign applicants	52	48	92.3
Utility model certificates granted	2,339		135.2

Table 6

IPC Section	1997	1998	1998/1997 (%)
A	487	617	126.7
B	576	778	135.1
C	95	113	118.9
D	28	32	114.3
E	235	307	130.6
F	370	538	145.4
G	312	438	140.4
H	236	339	143.6
Total:	2,339	3,162	135.2

II. MATTERS CONCERNING THE GENERATION, REPRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SOURCES OF PATENT INFORMATION

Publications, Printing, and Copying

In 1998 ROSPATENT generated the following information:

- 43,559 invention related publications, including
  - 23,365 patent claims
  - 19,856 application claims
  - 338 claims of inventions previously unpublished
- 3,162 publications of utility model descriptions

Upon requests from users patent documents were duplicated both in the form of full-year sets and as individual IPC categories. Table 7 reflects the relative volume of orders for full-year sets of descriptions of inventions on paper medium as against CD-ROM over the last 5 years. The table suggests that a decline in the number of orders for information on paper medium was accompanied by a corresponding increase in the orders for CD-ROMs.

Table 7

Medium Type	Number of full-year sets				
	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
CD-ROM	40	67	78	93	107
Paper	71	43	35	19	16
Total	111	110	111	112	123

Apart from full-year sets (covering all IPC categories) information on paper medium covering individual categories was provided to 218 organizations

In 1998 users received 15 complete reference data bases and 34 subject-matter oriented data bases on CD-ROM.

In the past year work has been done to replenish the patent depositories by copying fragments of the domestic library of invention descriptions using any set of search criteria (attributes) such as IPC categories, years, organization names, etc.) A total of 60,000 documents were generated in that manner.

The total number of paper copies of documents issued in 1998 was around 300 thousand.

Main Communications of the Office in the Field of Patent Information

Official Publications in 1998 included the following titles:

- *Inventions (Applications and Patents)* Gazette – 36 issues;
- *Utility Models, Industrial Designs* Gazette – 12 issues;
descriptions of inventions for patents – 25,032 descriptions with a total number of printed paper copies of 706,299
- annual indexes to Gazettes;
- "Russian Patents" CD ROMs with official information on Russian Federation inventions;
- front pages of utility model descriptions contained in Russian Federation certificates;
- official Russian text of International Patent Classification, the edition currently in effect;
- Progress and Activity Report of the Russian Agency for Patents and Trademarks;

In 1998 ROSPATENT's information products, in addition to official publications, included the following printed matter:

- *Inventions of the World* abstract journal – 67,116 copies as requested by 400 organizations;
-Electronic version of the *Inventions of the World* journal on computer diskettes and CD-ROMs – over 80 sets;
- *Patent Practice* abstract journal, with two supplements, a total of 12 issues;
- *Industrial Property Issues* monthly periodical;
- CD ROMs with Russian Federation invention abstracts and claims (also available in English);

In 1998, in addition to a wide variety of CD ROM based information products, research commenced into developing major networks and automated patent search and information systems to be used by major manufacturers maintaining their own R&D divisions locally and in the remote access mode.

40 titles of text books, regulations, and guides in industrial property protection, to a total printing of 10770 copies, were published in 1998 to provide legal support and guidance to information generation and exchange activities

Mass Storage Media Used

Data are mainly stored on paper carriers. In recent years, a sizable proportion of the information received and produced has also been stored on optical discs. Archive information and information which is not part of the Minimum Documentation under the PCT is also stored on microform.

Word processing and Office Automation

In 1998 about 30% of routine patent applications and all of the routine utility model certificate applications were input into automated data bases through scanning and subsequent conversion to machine-readable form.

All of ROSPATENT's official bulletins are published by automated systems relying on data bases. In 1998 hardware setup for the above automated systems was completed. Data processing and input are handled by 130 work stations equipped with state-of-the-art computer hardware.
Literature references and text are input in two modes, as follows:

- direct key-boarding for poorly legible documents and for text with multiple chemical equations;
- Scanning and digitizing of crisp equations and abstracts.

Equipment used for the Generation of Patent Information

Automatic publishing systems facilitate fully automatic production of mock-ups from formatted text, relying upon state-of-the-art computers connected to fast, high resolution scanners and printers.

Desk top publishing and printing systems are used for duplication.

III. MATTERS CONCERNING ABSTRACTING, CLASSIFYING, RECLASSIFYING AND INDEXING OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Abstracting, Reviewing, Translating

The practice of including into published patent documents the abstracts prepared by applicants was continued in 1998.

Abstracts produced and issued by patent experts are used to prepare for publication of information with respect to issued Russian Federation patents.
Translation into English of abstracts of granted Russian Federation patents continued in 1998.
Abstracts of granted Russian Federation patents in Russian and English continued to be issued, as follows:

- in Russian – full texts on paper and on CD ROM;
- in English – full texts on CD ROM;
- in both Russian and English – abstracts only on CD ROM.

On user request, subject-oriented reviews are prepared on the basis of patent and scientific/technological documentation collections available in ROSPATENT, and foreign patent documents are translated into Russian.

Classification and Reclassification Activities

On the basis of the International Patent Classification (IPC), an IPC symbol is assigned to each application filed with the Federal Institute for Industrial Property.
The IPC is also used in preparing patent documents for the publication in ROSPATENT Gazettes.
The FIIP State Patent Examination File (SPEF) is organized to reflect the IPC categories, both for patent and non-patent information.
Following entry into force of the sixth edition of the IPC the SPEF collection of domestic patent documents was reclassified.
ROSPATENT has participated in the preparation of the seventh edition of the IPC
Following the entry into force of the sixth edition of the IPC on January 1, 1995, the SPEF collection of domestic patent documents was reclassified.

The following work was done in this respect in 1998:

- requests for the IPC revision with detailed proposals were prepared with regard to the technical fields covered by the following subclasses: G10B, G01M, G21B.
- reports and reviewers' comments were drafted for IPC revision for C286 (C22C), C330 (D06P), C347 (B23P);
- comments were issued on the following projects of foreign offices: C275 (B08B), C276 (B23K), C329 (C08K) and C364 (06L);
- comments were issued for the revision of the introduction to the IPC, as were comments on verification of back references and changes to the subclasses assigned to ROSPATENT;
- changes were issued for the Table of Contents for the B233 subclass within the C347 Project, as were proposals for inclusion of new terms within the C286 and C330 Projects in the IPC Catchword Index.

Hybrid Indexing Systems

Hybrid systems, which constitute the IPC's principal part, are widely used to describe patent documents to reflect the additional information with respect to the technical object.

Bibliography and Full Text Processing for Search Purposes

For search purposes bibliography is keyed-in, while full texts are keyed-in or scanned-in, to be subsequently converted to machine-readable form, which is used to build a data base, where search can be made based on free text or on format (subject matter) fields.

IV. SEARCH FILE ESTABLISHMENT AND UPKEEP

File Structure

The structure and the contents of the file are determined by its mission and the tasks following from it. The contents of the State Patent Examination File (SPEF) are subject to Rule 34 of Regulations under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).

Structurally the SPEF is organized into domestic patent documentation section and the foreign patent documentation section comprising the current information portion and historic information, as well as the patent associated literature including special technical literature in the form of books and periodicals. The SPEF patent documentation is arranged by IPC heading, within a heading - by country, within a country - by year of publication, and within a year - in numerical order.

Domestic patent documentation includes descriptions of inventions in the USSR (from 1924 onwards), descriptions of inventions and utility models of the Russian Federation (applications, patents, certificates), official bulletins of the USSR and the Russian Federation. Domestic patent documents are stored as a systematic set and a numeric set.

Foreign patent documents (the current set and the historic set) are organized following the IPC. Full-text foreign documents are accompanied by abstracts in Russian.

Updating

Annually the current portion of the file is updated through addition of domestic and foreign patent documentation. As of January 1, 1999, the SPEF comprised a total of 16.4 million patent documents.

Storage

In 1998 the SPEF receive 393397 copies of descriptions on paper, including 73400 domestic descriptions and 319997 foreign ones, and 940 thousand copies of patent documents on CD ROM. The SPEF continues to receive the bulk of its documents on paper.

Documentation of Other Offices Maintained and/or Considered as Part of the Existing Search File

In 1998, the file on paper was replenished with documents from 10 leading countries of the world and three international organizations included in the “minimum documentation” requirement (USSR, Russian Federation, USA, Great Britain, France, Germany, Switzerland, Japan, Australia, Canada, WIPO, EPO, EAPO)
The information on discs added in 1998 to the CD ROM file as having been received by other offices included 12 new patent data bases. By the late 1998 the total number of CD ROMs amounted to 5090, and their break-down by country is given in Table 7.

Table 8

Statistics for Incoming CD ROMs from Patent Offices of Foreign Countries											
AT	CH	GB	EP	WO	EP WO abstr.	EP WO CH FR DE US GB	US	JP abstr.	JP full text	DE	OAPI
12	11	12	308	867	50	135	204	9	118	39	16

V. ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF COMPUTERIZED AND OTHER MECHANIZED SEARCH SYSTEMS

In-House Systems

In 1998 a prototype search system was developed for Russian patent documents using the Excalibur Retrieval Ware 6.6 software package. The search system has been set up to mesh with the Internet-Intranet architecture. Internal users will access via the Intranet local system. External users will access via Internet (specifically, via ROSPATENT's web site URL http://www.rupto/ru, and the PATENTS link).

The data base includes Russian patent documents published in 1994 through 1998 (patents, invention applications, utility model certificates) with text (literature, abstracts, claim, description) and graphical information (drawings, tables and desk-top published graphics). The data base comprises the "Russian Patents" information which gets incorporated in the data base as new CD ROMs become available. The system offers the following utilities:

- search
  - ✓ based on free text
  - ✓ based on format fields
- viewing of retrieved documents and of imported graphics
- printing of documents selected
- copying of documents onto disk.

The number of fully operational data bases available to the public at large in 1998 was 89, of which 77 were CD ROM based.

External Databases

In 1998, ROSPATENT continued using online the remote databases provided by *Questel-Orbit* company, as well as patent databases accessible via Internet.

The Office experts take full advantage of free access available via the EPO's web-site to the patent databases of most offices members of WIPO.

Administrative Management Systems

The single most important objective for 1998 was integration of new structural units within the Federal Institute of Industrial Property in the current hardware and software environment. To this end several new segments of the Local Area network were created, as were about 130 automated workstations. Several software packages were developed and commercialized to interface a number of ROSPATENT's divisions with ADB, an automated application data bank..

The ADB functions include reception and registration of applications, application-related workflow management, collecting application examination fees, collecting annual maintenance fees, generating reference, reporting and statistical data, administering the FIIP staffing table, preparation of bibliographic data for the purposes of publishing the information on applications and protection documents.

The ADB runs on *OS PIK 6.0* operating system.

At present drafting of official publications is almost entirely automatic. The online automatic publishing system was designed to reliably deposit in the technological data base (TDB) all information to be published.
Full automation has also been extended to the printing of all official bulletins, invention descriptions, front pages for utility models, sheets of the State Register, protection instruments for inventions and utility models, with TBD information used in the process.

Equipment Used

Hardware:

- *RM600 s*erver
(RAM - 512 MB, processors - 4, external memory - 54 GB, *VT320* monitors - 100 units);
- *Compaq Proliant 1000* server
(RAM - 128 MB, processors - 1, external memory - 3.5 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant 5000 s*erver
(RAM - 256 MB, processors - 2, external memory - 38 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant 6000* server
(RAM - 128 MB, processors - 4, external memory - 24 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant 7000* server
(RAM 256 MB, processors –2, external memory 27 GB)
- *Compaq Proliant 2500* server
(RAM - 32 MB, processors - 1, external memory - 8 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant 2500* server
(RAM - 128 MB, processors - 1, external memory - 12 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant 2500 s*erver
(RAM - 64 MB, processors - 1, external memory - 9 GB);
- *Compaq Proliant6000 server*
(Ram – 64 MB, processors – 1, external memory – 3 GB)

- *Compaq 486, 586, P MMX, PII* workstations - 350 units.

Switching equipment:

ISDN MAX 200Plus c (8/4) WAN PCMCIA Typell-Typel; SmartSWITCH 6000; 3Com CoreBuilder 3500

Software:

- *SINIX, Novell, Windows95, Windows NT* operating systems.

Data carriers:

- *DATA 8mm, DLTtape III* magnetic tapes.

VI. ADMINISTRATION OF THE INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY OFFICE LIBRARY AND SERVICES AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC

Planning, Administration, Computerization

The Russian Patent and Technology Library (VPTB), reporting to ROSPATENT, is one of the largest patent documentation and information centers in the world. The VPTB, administratively a part of the Federal Institute of Industrial Property, functions as an in-house and public library open to a wide range of patent information users in Russia.
The library building has some 2,000 m^2 of floor space, with its reading rooms capable of seating over 300 readers (including 14 computerized workstations), more than 950 m^2 of other reader-service areas and over 4,500 m^2 in storage facilities.

Collecting, Procurement, Preparation

The primary activity of the VPTB is the establishment of the State Patent Collection. The main sources of this State Patent Collection, accounting for 98 per cent of all new materials, are official publications of ROSPATENT and patent documents received via international exchange with patent offices of foreign countries and other information centers. Once received, the documents are registered, classified and grouped for storage.

Collection Management, Storage

The Library collection is arranged following a geographical/systematic/numerical principle. File storage facilities used depend on the type of data carrier:

- patent documents on paper are stored in cassettes on shelves;
- microforms are stored in metal boxes in film library file-folders (microfilms) and in metal safes (microfiches);
- CD ROMs are stored in racks;
- electronic data are stored in computer databases.

At present, the Library holdings of patent documents and literature total about 105 million copies of documents on different media, including 73.5 million items of foreign patent documentation, and about 6 million items of domestic documents. Some documents had been reorganized and some converted to CD ROM form.

Inter-Library Exchange, Resource Allocation, National Network of Patent Libraries

In 1998 government-owned patent information was available from:

- the Russian Agency for Patents and Trade Marks
- intersectoral designated focal points for technical information (IDFPTI)
- libraries (national libraries owned and operated by the administrative divisions of the Russian Federation, and local multi-purpose technical libraries) (MPTL).

According to information in public domain, the Russian Federation operates 70 IDFPTI's, of which 67 carry patent documents of Russia (USSR) and foreign nations through the early 1990s. MPTL's only carry patent information of Russia (USSR). Russian centers of information tend to produce and store their patent related information in machine readable form.
In its capacity as the focal point of the Russian network of science and technology information centers and libraries collecting patent documents, the VPTB continued providing methodological support to patent information units and agencies.

About 1000 users of patent information subscribe to VPTB's services.

Information Services Available to the Public (Including Automated Services)

In order to provide better services to the reader, the Library has set up the following general and specialized reading rooms:

- Patent Documentation of the Pacific Rim Countries;
- Patent Documentation on Microform;
- Information and Bibliographic Services;
- CD ROM Databases.

The Library and its services are free of charge for all categories of users. In addition to its traditional services, the year 1997 saw the VPTB working on facilitating readers' access to databases. The number of implemented and operational databases reached 89, while the number of CD ROM databases amounted to 77.
In addition to that, in order to extend the range of its patent information services, the VPTB has provided a number of information services for which a fee is charged, e.g.:

- producing subject-oriented compilations of patent documents- 12688 documents;
- Gazettes-based subject search – 1604 documents;
- search in computer databases – 72 inquiries;
- search for analogs – 176 documents;
- copying patent documents – about 300,000 copies.

A computerized data base, which became known as the Local Patent Collections, was put on line in 1998 to provide a focal point for taking inventory of patent related information available from the Russian Federation's local libraries.
The Russian Libraries in Internet Program supported financially by the Soros Foundation assisted the library of the Russian Patent Office in getting access to Internet.
Work was underway to computerize the basic information handling and library maintenance processes, such as an integrated system to manage patent documents on different media. The ultimate objective is to develop a single depository for patent documents supported by an efficient document tracking system and using Internet as a multi-purpose information access environment.

VII. MATTERS CONCERNING EXCHANGE OF PATENT DOCUMENTATION AND INFORMATION

International or Regional Cooperation in Exchanging Machine-Readable Information

In 1998, ROSPATENT carried out international exchange with patent offices of 57 countries, six international organizations and *Derwent* company. New agreements have been signed with the patent offices of Georgia and Tajikistan for exchange of patent documents. The volumes of incoming foreign descriptions primarily depend on the scale of activities of national patent offices and international organizations. The leading positions in this respect belong to Japan, United States, Germany, EPO and WIPO. In 1998, within the framework of international exchange, ROSPATENT received from abroad 4,585,400 patent documents and sent to foreign patent offices 1,760,900 domestic invention descriptions.

In 1998, ROSPATENT continued to exchange with the International Patent Documentation Center machine-readable bibliographic information on currently registered invention-related patent documents and to supply, following the established procedure, data for *INPADOC* magnetic tapes.

Media Used for Exchange of Primary Documents

Various types of data carriers (paper, microfiche, optical disc) continued to be used in 1998 for exchange of patent documents, with an on-going active process of optical discs being phased in and all other media being phased out.

ROSPATENT received from foreign patent offices:

- 51 sets of invention descriptions on paper;
- 5 sets of invention descriptions on microform;
- 121 sets of invention descriptions on optical discs.

ROSPATENT sent to foreign patent offices:

- 9 sets of invention descriptions on paper;
- 3 sets of invention descriptions on microform;
- 58 sets of invention descriptions on optical discs.

Allowed Media for Application Filing

In 1998, as before, only paper carriers were allowed for filing applications with ROSPATENT. Under Rule 92,4 of the Regulations to the PCT, wire, telex, and facsimile messages are allowed for filing purposes, provided, however, that the paper original follows within 14 days of the initial transmission.

Implementation of the Declaration of Principles for the Transition to Electronic Data Media for the Purposes of Patent Document Exchange

In 1998, ROSPATENT continued to produce optical discs with full-text Russian patent documents , together with abstracts in English, and to send them, free of charge, to other patent offices by way of international exchange. More countries started to receive Russian patent documents on CD ROM. CD ROM discs have recently become available containing abstracts to Russian patents in English and Russian.

Phase 1 has been implemented of a project to produce, with assistance from the European Patent Office (as part of the *TACIS* program), a joint regional information product on CD ROM involving twelve CIS countries. The work done in 1998 generated proposals from ROSPATENT to produce mixed mode discs. Commercial production of discs is expected to commence in 2000.

A workable solution was found in 1998 to the problem of accessing a collection of Russian CD ROMs by individual users and by multi-user groups including remote users.

Preparations have been completed to convert to machine readable form the Russian bank of descriptions of inventions (over 6 million pages).

VIII. OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING EDUCATION AND TRAINING, PUBLICITY, USE OF PATENT INFORMATION, INCLUDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Training Courses for Russian and Foreign Nationals

ROSPATENT system includes a Russian Training Institute of Intellectual Property (RIIP) which has the status of a higher education institution. Within the framework of the existing comprehensive program of training, retraining and skills development, 139 people were re-trained in 1998, and 137 persons upgraded their skills
A full time law school was opened in 1998 offering a 4 year course. The post graduate school enrolled 50 students in 1998.

In 1998 the Patent Office Library held a session of its standing workshop to discuss the need to create a unified patent/information environment for the patent information handling entities, libraries, and services of Russia, the CIS countries and the countries of the Baltic sea.

Consulting services were available on an on-going basis for patent information specialists from the Russian Federation, the CIS countries, and the Baltic states.

Publicity Activities

Special emphasis was placed on promoting public awareness of ROSPATENT information resources and operational capabilities. To this end, a number of information aids were published, including a guide entitled *Patent Documentation Collections on CD ROM and Computer Databases of the Russian Patent and Technology Library*, four issues of *Information Flash*, eight *Bibliographic Indexes on Intellectual Property Protection, the Russian Law on Utility Models*.

Regular training sessions were organized for the Library readers, which included 3 workshops on patent documentation and six seminars for library users on the issues of inventions and patent practice, and 8 fact - finding excursions for students of Moscow's universities.
To attract enrollment in the RIIP, seminars were organized in a number of high schools of the city of Moscow and the Moscow region.

Research into New Technological Trends

In 1998 ROSPATENT's divisions carried out research into the following areas:

- legal protection of examination of industrial property targets;
- the use of computers in information technologies;
- the economic problems of inventing, licensing, and patenting;
- forecasting and research in patent information, applied search systems.

Assistance in Converting Receiving Offices to the Use of Electronic Media to Facilitate Exchange of Patent Documents

ROSPATENT in its capacity as coordinator for future production of unified CIS discs in 1998 offered consultations to the participating countries to harmonize format and submittal procedure for standardized information product; additionally, training was offered to the officers of patent agencies of the CIS countries in the use of data bases.