

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT
ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 1998

Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic

I. Evolution of patent activities:

In comparison with the year 1997 there are following statistical data concerning patent and utility model activities.

	1997	1998
Patent applications	24 958	32 260
- national	224	214
- foreign	1 578	1 612
- PCT designations	23 156	30 434
Patents granted	562	845
Utility model applications	477	402
- national	326	289
- foreign	115	113
Registered utility models	361	322

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

Patent documents are available in paper form as well as published patent application.

The Official Gazette " Vestník " is issued monthly in paper form and contains information on inventions, patent specifications, utility models and topographies of semiconductor products, trademarks and industrial designs and appellation of origin.

MS Office 97, QuarkXpress 3.32 for Windows and Corel Draw 7.0, Photoshop 5.0 is used for the graphic data processing; the photocomposing and printing is carried out by the Office.

The Desk-Top Publishing technology is used for data and image inputs processing, for the Gazette and first pages of the Slovak patent documents.

CD ROM ESPACE PRECES (Patents from the Region of Eastern and Central European States) continued, including also Slovak patent documents.

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

The applications are classifying and reclassifying according to IPC. The WIPO Standards 8 and 10/c are also used for these purposes. Reclassifying is carried out before granting of a patent.

Abstracts of published patent documents are printed on title pages of patent documents and in the " Vestník ". The English translation of these abstracts is sent to the EPIDOS for the CD-ROM ESPACE PRECES production.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep:

The basis of the patent fund is the collection stored on the paper medium. The Office owns the patent documentation from 8 countries (CH, DD, DE, FR, GB, PL, SU, US) with more than 20 years retrospection. Since 1978 the Office has published the applications of the EP and PCT on CD ROM. Nowadays the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic receives the patent documentation from 21 countries, EPO and WIPO, from which the majority of documents is on CD ROMs. The Office receives Patent Gazettes from 35 countries, including EPO and PCT.

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

- Searches carried out in STN databases
- Creating of SK and CS search database of information on granted protection documents, published application and registered utility models was started; the information will also be made accessible through Internet.
- Office automation management system used (data since 1993); contains following databases: patent applications, industrial design applications, authors register, applicants register.
- Following CD-ROM search systems used: ESPACE- ACCESS EP-A, ESPACE- ACCESS EP-B, ESPACE- ACCESS- EUROPE, ESPACE-ACCESS-PRECES, CASSIS-BIB, US PATENT SEARCH, PAJ, DEPAROM-KOMPAKT, PATOS, BREF, GLOBALPat. They are accessible on Ultra Net.
- Administrative databases based on Lotus Notes.

Equipment used: WINDOWS NT 4.0 and CD server; workstations PC Pentium, WINDOWS, Common software

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

The patent collection on various carriers is available to the public and to examiners of the Office and in reading room.

The library provides the public with the following services:

- lending service (patent documents, Gazettes) in the reading room
- reprographic services upon request or on the place
- sale of publications and „Vestník“
- interlibrary lending (regional libraries in Bratislava and Košice)
- searches: state of the art, patent families, names
- CD-ROM workstations available in the reading room
- methodical and consultation assistance for the public

Patent information on the World Wide Web:

- general information, information for applicants about Office activities (seminars, training courses, etc.)
- application forms

- laws
- Annual reports
- in the near future: the Official Gazette "Vestník" and registers

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

Regional co-operation: participation in the joint CD-ROM ESPACE PRECES production (BG, CZ, HU, PL, RO, SK,LT,LV).

International co-operation: international data in English of the published patent applications and granted patents are supplied to the EPIDOS database in electronic form.

Priority documents are provided on CD-ROM.

Patent applications are required in paper form.

VIII. Other relevant matters concerning education and training in, and promotion, including technical assistance to developing countries:

Lectures, training courses, seminars and presentations were organised for the Slovak public; excursion from enterprises and school were accepted.

Office staff members participated in the seminars and conference organized by the EPO, WIPO and JPO.

International seminar on TRIPS in relation to the PHARE- RIPP programme.