

STATE PATENT OFFICE OF UKRAINE
ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT
ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES
1998

I. Evolution of patent activities:

– Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants with respect to the previous year:

Year	Applications filed	Patents granted
1997	6400	9220
1998	7087	4497

– Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year: organic chemistry, biotechnology, electronics.

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

The main publication of the State Patent Office of Ukraine (SPOU) is the Official Gazette "Promyslova Vlasnist' (Industrial Property. Inventions. Utility Models. Industrial Designs. Marks for Goods and Services. Plant Varieties)" and descriptions of patented inventions and utility models. The SPOU also prints the protective documents (certificates) of industrial property rights.

The Official Gazette contains the following announcements concerning inventions and utility models:

- invention applications filed and accepted (bibliographic data, claims arranged after the IPC);
- patents of invention and utility models granted (bibliographic data, claims arranged after the IPC);
- changes in the full name and/or address of the patent owner;
- extension of term of a utility model patent;
- renunciation of the patent in part or completely by the patent owner;
- invalidation of the patent due to failure to pay the maintenance fee;
- complete or partial cancellation of the patent by a decision of the Appeals Board or the court;
- transfer of rights and licensing contracts;
- statements filed by the patent owners undertaking to grant authorization to exploit the patented invention (utility model) to any person;
- issue of a copy of the protective document (patent certificate);
- correction of obvious errors in the announcements of applications filed;

- correction of obvious errors in the announcements of grants;
- correction of obvious errors in the descriptions of patents;
- other amendments concerning registration of patents for inventions (utility models).

Besides, current numerical and classification indexes of applications filed and patents granted were published in the Official Gazette. The 1998 Annual Index containing, in addition to the above mentioned number and classification indexes also name indexes of inventors and patent owners, was issued.

In 1998 there appeared 6 issues of the Official Gazette containing, in particular, data of 2207 applications filed and accepted for consideration and of 6111 patents of invention and utility models recorded in the State Register of patents for inventions and utility models. 5808 descriptions of patented inventions and utility models were published during 1998.

The State Science and Technical Library and 17 Regional Centres of Science, Technical and Economic Information were supplied both with the Official Gazette, containing announcements on patents, and Ukrainian patent specifications free of charge by the SPOU. These publications are also distributed on subscription basis.

- Text processing and office automation:

In 1998 the database of the “Inventions” automated system was being updated with bibliographic data of the applications for Ukrainian patents for inventions. As of 31.12.98, the database of the system contained bibliographic data of nearly 50 thousand invention applications.

Software enabling input of claims into the database with the implementation of WIPO Standard ST. 32 has been developed. At present, it is possible to enter chemical and mathematical symbols with their simultaneous visualization on the screen “as presented by the applicant”. The software supports automatic formation and printing, without manual makeup, of the sections of the Official Gazette “Promyslova Vlasnist” and of patent (utility model) certificates. Software for support of invention and utility model applications processing was implemented. Software for complete automation of the functions of the State Register and processing of license contracts was developed.

The invention data backup was performed on rewritable high-capacity magneto-optical discs.

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

The 6th edition of the IPC, with application of hybrid systems, was used by the SPOU for the classification of its patent documents. No reclassification was carried out.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

Since 1 July, 1997 the patent information base with its reference and retrieval system, comprising the search file used for the substantive examination of invention applications, has been in operation. In compliance with the Concept of the formation of the patent information base with its reference and retrieval system developed by the SPOU the search file contains the following patent documentation: the national patent documents and the EAPO Official Gazette on paper carrier, the patent documents of EPO (since 1978), PCT (since 1978), USA (since 1975), Russia (since 1994) on CD-ROM. Besides, the examiners have at their disposal PAJ (since 1976), patent specifications of Japan (since 1994), and a collection of GLOBALPat CD-ROMs. The total number of CD-ROMs available for the use of the examiners is about 6600. In particular, during 1998, 1626 discs were added to the search file.

The foreign patent documentation for the search file is mainly received under exchange arrangements and as technical assistance, particularly under the TACIS project.

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

At present, the "Inventions" automated system runs in a local area network including a dedicated server with the software operating under Windows NT 4.0 and 45 workstations. The workstation software operates under Windows 95. Laser printers are connected in the LAN and the workstations are equipped with scanners and matrix printers.

An iXOS Jukebox Server for support of four Pioneer DRM-5004x CD-ROM Changers was installed.

No external databases were used by the SPOU in 1998.

VI. Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public (related to facilities, e.g. for lodging applications, registering trademarks, assisting clients with search procedures, obtaining official publications and registry extracts):

The available collection of the SPOU's in-house reading room was formed by the Official Gazette "Promyslova Vlasnist", patent specifications of Ukraine, principal Ukrainian periodicals, legal and methodical literature, including proceedings of international industrial property seminars, and the publications of Patent Offices received by mutual exchange. At present the collection comprising the national patent documentation, the Official Gazettes of 38 foreign Patent Offices and 2 international organizations, patent specifications on paper, microfiches or CD-ROMs published by 9 national Patent Offices and 2 international organizations have been transferred to the Public Patent Documentation Fund, the SPOU's public industrial property library, which will be put in operation in 1999.

In order to make the official publications of the SPOU available to the general public, the State Science and Technical Library and the Regional Centres of science, technical and economic information (there are 17 such Centres all over Ukraine) are supplied with the Official Gazette free of charge by the SPOU. These publications are also distributed on subscription basis.

The Official Gazettes containing patent information issued by 41 industrial property offices and international organizations received by the SPOU were made available to the patent attorneys of Ukraine.

Registry extracts were provided on request.

No automated information services for the general public were available.

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information

In 1998 the SPOU received Official Gazettes containing patent information from 38 national industrial property offices, EAPO and EPO in the framework of mutual exchange of information and documentation. Besides, WIPO provided the SPOU with its Official Gazette "PCT Gazette". As regards the exchange of patent documents, the SPOU was sending patent specifications on paper to 7 industrial property offices (AT, CA, DE, JP, PL, SK, RU) and receiving patent documents on CD-ROM from 9 Offices (AT, CH, DE, EP, FR, JP, RU, US, WO), on paper from 2 Offices (PL, SK) and on microfiche (CA, DD).

Filing of applications is allowed on paper only.

In order to implement the "Statement of Principles Concerning the Changeover to Electronic Data Carriers for the Exchange of Patent Documents" the SPOU during 1998 participated in the project for the development, with technical and financial assistance of the EPO, of a joint CD-ROM of the CIS countries.

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

In 1998 the SPOU organized training and instruction methods support at the Patent Science Department, a specialized department of the Kyiv Inter-Industry Institute for the Staff Upgrading in the New Trends in the Development of Engineering and Technology. This Institute is a branch of the Kharkiv State Polytechnical University and provides a two-year course of extra-mural training. 18 staff members of the SPOU and NDCPE (Examination Body) specializing in innovation activity management and marketing graduated in the year under review, and another group of 20 persons was in the second year of studies. 25 staff members of the SPOU were enrolled for the first year of studies.

In 1998 the upgrading of the Intellectual Property and Law Institute (IPLI) was performed, and it was transformed into the State Institute for Training Specialists in the Field of Intellectual Property within the State system for the protection of intellectual property rights. Training programs for the Institute were developed. A group of examiners of NDCPE (5 persons) attended the London English language school supported by the British Embassy in Ukraine. Another group of 36 persons (the SPOU and NDCPE staff members) has taken an upgrading course of English under a contract between the SPOU and the Inter-regional Academy of Staff Management and another contract between the latter and the EPO under the TACIS project.

22 staff members of the SPOU and NDCPE have improved their knowledge in computer science in the Inter-regional Academy of Staff Management. 3 persons have attended the Microsoft courses on Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 and 4 persons have taken courses on the basics of Internet.

26 seminars dealing with intellectual property protection, among them 8 international and 3 regional ones, in particular, the international seminar "Intellectual Property Objects: the Questions of Licensing" jointly organized by WIPO, the SPOU and the National Academy of Sciences and a workshop "Drafting of Claims of a Patent Application" in cooperation with the EPO were held during the year under review. The SPOU's specialists participated in the international and regional events organized by WIPO and the EPO, such as the sessions of the PCIPI Working Groups and Executive Coordination Committee of WIPO, the First Plenary of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies and its Working Groups, the EPIDOS Annual Patent Information Conference, in the Regional seminar on INPADOC as also in the First Meeting of the Coordination Council and the Special Working Group of the project for creating the joint information product of the CIS countries on CD-ROM.

In 1998 the SPOU's experts attended the seminar "Industrial property on the Internet" organized by the EPO and got familiarized with patent information activities of the French and German Patent Offices.

Within the framework of international cooperation the Presidents of the EPO and of the German Patent Office visited the SPOU, the discussions during the visit focused, in particular, on the problems of development of the SPOU's patent information base, on the ESPACENET system newly created by the EPO, the prospects of development of a joint patent information product of the CIS countries on CD-ROM.