

CWS/ATR/PI/2015/CZ

Annual Technical Report on Patent Information Activities in 2015 submitted by Industrial Property Office CZ

I. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT BY THE OFFICE

Statistics: changes in terms of application filings and grants with respect to previous year; trends or areas experiencing rapid changes

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

The number of patent applications filed by domestic applicants in 2015 has decreased by 2% compared to 2014. Domestic applicants in 2015 filed 880 applications for inventions, with the greatest number in the fields of measurement and optics, as well as transport and storage.

In comparison with the year 2014, there were changes in patent and utility model activities as follows:

	2015	Compared to 2014
National patent applications	952	- 2 % (972)
Utility model applications	1446	- 3 % (1493)
PCT international applications	22	- 1 % (24)
Grant national patent	749	+ 9 % (688)
Registrations utility model	1356	- 2 % (1388)
Supplementary protection certificate, application	64	+ 14 % (56)
European Patent Office granted	63087	+ 14 % (55195)
IPO CZ received EP translations	4829	+ 6 % (4548)
EP patents valid in CZ	25433	+ 11 % (22977)
National patents valid in CZ	7195	- 8 % (7781)
National utility models valid in CZ	8398	+ 1 % (8349)

Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year

As regards the representation of individual segments, most of patent applications concerned measuring, optics, photography (11,25 %); organic chemistry (10,45 %); transporting, storing (9,55 %); health and amusement (7,84 %); etc.

Regarding utility model applications, most of them came from the sectors of building (11,80 %); transporting, storing (10,85 %); measuring, optics, photography (8,80 %); health and amusement (7,48 %); lighting and heating (6,52 %); personal and domestic articles (4,91 %) etc.

Other matters and useful links (URLs): annual report of the Office, news page, statistics, etc.

Statistics

Since 2000 the Annual Reports and statistics have been available at the Office's website:

<http://www.upv.cz/en/publications/annual-report/annual-report.html>

The Bulletin: <http://www.upv.cz/en/publications/ipo-bulletin.html>

The Office website

The helpdesk [mailto: helpdesk@upv.cz](mailto:helpdesk@upv.cz)

List of news and events:

<http://www.upv.cz/en/ipo/current-news/actual.html>

Electronic filing of applications:

<http://www.upv.cz/en/client-services/on-line-filing.html>

Element of proceedings:

<http://isdv.upv.cz/portal/pls/portal/portlets.rejst.formular?lan=en>

Legislation related to all IP rights

<http://www.upv.cz/en/legislation.html>

FAQ

<http://www.upv.cz/en/information-sources/faq.html>

Search service – patent and utility model databases (IPO, EPO, WIPO) (basic search/advanced search):

<http://www.upv.cz/en/client-services/online-databases/patent-and-utility-model-databases.html>

Use of an electronic classification system to check IPC (International Patent Classification):

<http://www.upv.cz/en/publications/classification-systems/classification-patents.html>

II. SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PATENT INFORMATION CARRIED OUT BY THE OFFICE

Information and support provided by the Office to applicants regarding filing on paper and/or e-filing (instructions, seminars, etc.) - URLs

IPO CZ carries out patent granting procedure resulting from patent application that can be filed by the inventor or by a person, this right was transferred to by the inventor. Patent applications ordinarily follow a set form which must also include a description of the invention and optionally (if necessary) related drawings and so called patent claims. The claims precisely define the subject-matter, for which the protection is requested. Application forms are available in the filing room of the IPO CZ and can also be downloaded from the IPO CZ website. Applications can be filed in person, by post or electronically.

The Office web sites <http://www.upv.cz/en.html> are the rich source of information.

Electronic filing of patent applications:

<http://www.upv.cz/en/client-services/on-line-filing.html>

Element of proceedings:

<http://isdv.upv.cz/portal/pls/portal/portlets.rejst.formular?lan=en>

Search service:

<http://upv.cz/en/client-services/information-services/search-services.html>

Fees and payments:

<http://www.upv.cz/en/client-services/fees.html>

Information on business procedure related to patents:

<http://upv.cz/en/ip-rights/patents.html>

Information on Services:

<http://www.upv.cz/en/client-services/information-services.html>

Publications:

<http://www.upv.cz/en/publications.html>

Patent and utility model databases:

<http://www.upv.cz/en/client-services/online-databases/patent-and-utility-model-databases.html>

Patent classification system:

<http://www.upv.cz/en/publications/classification-systems/classification-patents.html>

Availability of the application dossier in electronic form

The content of the file (element of proceedings) is available at: <http://isdv.upv.cz/portal/pls/portal/portlets.rejst.formular?lan=en>

Classification¹, preclassification² (if applicable), reclassification³ activities; classification systems used (e.g., International Patent Classification (IPC)); matters concerning indexing of patent information

IPC classification, Advanced Level, has been used since January 1, 2006.

All patent documents published since 1970 were reclassified to this edition of IPC classification.

Other classification systems are not used.

Abstracting, reviewing, and translation of the information contained in patent documents

Published patent applications, granted patents, and registered utility models are searchable by date of filing, publication, grant and registration, by priority date, by number of application, patent and registration, by name of inventor, applicant and proprietor and by IPC classification.

Search system in bibliographic data on the web site allows full-text processing.

Other activities

III. SOURCES OF PATENT INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE

Main types of publications of the Office (patent applications, full text, first pages, abstracts, bibliographic data, granted patents, etc.), medium (on paper, on CDs, online - URLs)

Office notices are published weekly in the electronic Official Bulletin of the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic. Notices are also published at the Office's website.

Mass storage media used are hard discs, magnetic tapes for backup and paper.

Official Gazettes: main types of announcements, frequency of publication, medium (on paper, on CDs, online - URL), etc.

The Bulletin contains the following types of announcements:

Lists of patent documents are published in the Official Bulletin of the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic. Starting from 2007 the Bulletin is published weekly in an electronic form only (updated on Wednesdays) and placed at the Office's website (<http://www.upv.cz/en.html>). The standard content of the chapters regarding published patent applications, granted patents and registered utility models is:

- published patent applications arranged according to the number of applications and according to IPC symbols including list of applicants;
- granted patents arranged according to the number of patents and according to IPC symbols including list of owners;

- registered utility models arranged according to the number of registration of utility models and according to the IPC symbols including list of proprietors;
- official decisions, legal status and announcements;
- corrections and alterations.

No prior registration or subscription to view the Bulletin is needed. The information as published should be the authentic one for legal purposes. As from No. 1/2000, the Official Bulletin has been available on the web site of the IPO CZ as an electronic book in PDF format.

Mass storage media used (paper, microforms, optical storage, etc.)

Mass storage media used are hard discs, magnetic tapes for backup and paper.

Information products and patent document collections (coverage, medium, etc.) available to examiners, including external collections and databases

- Internal SyPP2 database – contains all pending as well as decided applications
- Internal database of patent and utility model applications since 1991
- EPO search tool EPOQUEnet – moreover within this tool: external databases BIOSIS, EMBASE, MEDLINE, PUBCHEM, Non-Patent Literature)
- Science Direct database
- Freely accessible databases on Internet

Information products and patent document collections (coverage, medium, etc.) available to external users, conditions of access (e.g., free of charge, subscription, etc.)

National and international patent (paper) documentation (EP, WO, US, DE (including DD), GB, FR, RU, CH)

Paid databases: STN International, DIALOG, QUESTEL and Science Direct

Legal status information (kind of information, coverage, medium, etc.)

Internal and public Patent and utility model databases

Other sources

URLs of web pages of the Office's website that provide access to online publications of patent documents and gazettes, and to other primary and secondary sources of patent information, including patent publication servers and download of bulk patent data:

The Official Bulletin

<http://internet.upv.cz/cs/publikace/vestnik-upv.html> (Czech version - since 2000)

<http://internet.upv.cz/en/publications/ipo-bulletin.html> (English version - since 2007)

The public Czech patents and utility models database – basic search:

http://isdv.upv.cz/portal/pls/portal/portlets.pts.frm?p_lan=English

The public Czech patents and utility models database – advanced search:

<http://isdv.upv.cz/portal/pls/portal/portlets.pta.formular?lok=en>

IV. ICT SUPPORT TO SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES RELATED TO PATENT INFORMATION CARRIED OUT BY THE OFFICE

Specific software tools supporting business procedures within the Office: general description, characteristics, advantages, possible improvements

Within the Office, there are obeyed, maintained and improved several business management systems:

- ISO 9001 – QMS (Quality Management System) helps to assure a constant level of quality of services provided by the Office
- ISO14001 – EMS (Environmental Management System) is used to help organizations to minimize how their operations (processes, etc.) negatively affect the environment (i.e., cause adverse changes to air, water, or land); (b) comply with applicable laws, regulations, and other environmentally oriented requirements, and (c) continually improve in the above.
- ISO 27001 – ISMS (Information Security Management System) specifies a management system that is intended to bring information security under explicit management control. Fields of concerns are Security policy, Asset management, human resources security, access control, incident management system etc.
- OHSAS 18001 – (Occupational Health and Safety Advisory System) helps companies to propose and implement precautions that, wherever possible, remove, reduce risks or isolate employees from them in a workplace. In case this is not possible, working activities have to be planned and managed through organizational precautions so that employees' performance was safe and healthy.

The business process management system (BPMS) internally named ADONIS that describes the office's processes flow structure is also deployed, maintained and improved. Each employee can find information on organizational structure, valid laws, rules and other documents, available applications, databases and information systems.

Hardware used to supporting business processes of the Office

Workstations - HP, processor Intel Pentium 4, Core2Duo, Core I3 and Core I5, RAM 1- 4 GB, HDD 160 - 250 GB. 300 workstations connected in the Office network are of the Office staff direct service. Thereof 50 computers connected in the Office network are intended for the clients of the Office and staff training. MS OFFICE – 2003/2007/2010/2013 software. The Office uses CD, DVD and magnetic tapes as data mediums.

Internal databases: coverage, updates, interlinks with external sources

In-house systems (online/offline)

The Office maintains an in-house search database of national applications of inventions and utility models, granted patents and registered utility models. The database is not accessible to the public but its structure corresponds to the public database. The following CD-ROM search systems are also available: ESPACE collections, Korean Patent Abstracts, Patents of Russia and other national documents collections.

External databases

The Office provides free access to the database comprising the data concerning the published patent applications since 1991, granted patents, European patents valid in the territory of the Czech Republic and the registered utility models at the IPO CZ website <http://www.upv.cz/en/client-services/online-databases/patent-and-utility-model-databases/national-database.html>

The Office regularly uses the Espacenet database that offers free access to more than 90million patent documents all over the world (from 1836 to today). The database is maintained by EPO. The following CD-ROM search systems are also available: ESPACE collections, Korean Patent Abstracts, Patents of Russia and other national documents collections.

The Office also performs searches on the EPOQUEnet (including BIOSIS, EMBASE, PUBCHEM) and the commercial databases as STN International, and ScienceDirect databases (MEDLINE and Non-Patent Literature both accessible via EPOQUEnet), national databases freely accessible in the Internet are used as well (the links to these databases are provided at the Office's web site (<http://www.upv.cz/en.html>)).

Establishment and maintenance of electronic search file: file building, updating, storage, documents from other offices included in the search file

File building

Patent library stores more than 40 million patent documents from more than 20 countries including EPO and PCT documents. The collections of paper documents are arranged according to the IPC classification, the collections of national documents are arranged according to the IPC classification and by numbers. The national documents are also available in electronic version (Internet). The CDs and DVDs with full text and searchable collections are also available.

Updating and Storage, including mass storage media

The data is updated daily and stored electronically (official databases, hard discs, magnetic tapes for backup) and in a paper version.

Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file

The foreign patent documents are stored both in a paper and a digital form (CDs/DVDs, Internet).

Official bulletins of foreign offices are available in an electronic (CDs/DVDs, Internet) or in a paper version (kept in patent library)

Administrative management electronic systems (register, legal status, statistics, and administrative support)

The Office uses the internal information system SYPP2(starting from January 2014) to proceed the applications of patents, supplementary patent certificates, utility models, industrial designs, trademarks and geographical indications. The system has been developed since 2011 as a major upgrade of previous version SYPP which was used from 2004 until 2013. The new application is more flexible, based on Oracle Forms with easier maintaining and more flexible data structure. Data are stored in xml format including the history. The system is also more user-friendly. System is connected with central registers of the Czech Republic (ISZR). The project was co-financed by the European fund for regional development within the EU project Enforcement of Industrial Property Rights. The system enables to maintain official registers of all the industrial property rights. Furthermore it archives all incoming and outgoing communications of the Office, provides the information on the state of proceeding, legal status of registrations and statistical data. The Document Management System (DMS) is integrated as well. The system also processes foreign applications within PCT and the European patents valid in the territory of the Czech Republic. The data are transferred to the electronic Office's Bulletin and to the public search database. The system is compatible with electronic filing recognizing authorized electronic certificates. The on-line filing system was launched in August 2006, the current version of on-line filing system was released in September 2009. Starting from January 2008, the system produces automatic electronic extracts from registers upon online request.

Information services available to the public

The information centre and the helpdesk operate during the working days. They provide the general information concerning the industrial property rights.

Patent information services for the public are provided within the information centre and the public reading room, common questions can be addressed to the helpdesk (helpdesk@upv.cz) and search requests to the search section. The Office received a total 68 patent search requests in 2015. (Since 2014 there has been a change in the methodology of statistical records of searches). A total of 1 187 searches (for patents, designs, trademarks) was provided for the State administrative bodies.

The Office provides full range of brochures and flyers free of charge. They can be downloaded in PDF format from the Office's web site, taken in the office headquarters or sent upon request. The Office publishes its own books and the Industrial Property Journal (6 issues per year) reflecting the current issues of IP rights.

Other matters

V. PROMOTION ACTIVITIES AIMED TO SUPPORT USERS IN ACCESS AND EFFICIENT USE OF PATENT INFORMATION

Patent library: equipment, collection management, network of patent libraries in the country, cooperation with foreign patent libraries

Patent library stores more than 40 million patent documents from more than 20 countries including EPO and PCT documents. The collections of paper documents are arranged according to the IPC classification, the collections of national documents are arranged according to the IPC classification and by numbers. The national documents are also available in electronic version (Internet – interface Search of electronic full files). The CDs and DVDs with full text and searchable collections are also available. The documents can be studied in the public reading room equipped with PC workstations which are available for visitors.

The Office cooperates with Regional Patent Information Centres (PATLIBs) on information product dissemination.

Publications related to different business procedures and patent information sources available to users, for example, books, brochures, Internet publications, etc.

The Office provides full range all IP rights dedicated brochures, leaflets and guides free of charge. They can be downloaded in PDF format from the Office's web site <http://www.upv.cz/en/publications/information-brochures/information-brochures.html>, picked up in the office headquarters or sent upon request. The leaflet and comics books on the topics of patents, trademarks and copyright for children and youth can be downloaded in a special web section for youth. All the materials are distributed to visitors during fairs. The Office publishes its own books.

The Industrial Property Journal reflecting the current issues of IP rights is published six times a year.

Office's initiatives on providing foreign patent information in the local language(s) (e.g., machine translation tools, translation of abstracts)

On the basis of an agreement between the EPO and Google, a development of "Patent Translate", a machine translator of patent documents was completed. The possibility to translate from English to Czech and from Czech to English was made available in the Espacenet within the framework of this activity.

Cooperation with universities, research centers, technology and innovation support centers, etc.

Cooperation with Metropolitan University Prague on training in a bachelor's programme in "Industrial Property" and a master's programme in "International and Regional Relations in Industrial Property" continued. Lectures were held at a number of innovation and technology centres.

The IPO CZ also cooperates with other universities. There are seminars and educational activities (various topics) for students and academic staff organised in Office's premises or in university headquarters. University students are also regularly invited for excursions and guided tours in the Office's premises.

Education and training: training courses, e-learning modules (URLs), seminars, exhibitions, etc.

The IPO CZ regularly organizes wide range of training courses and seminars - such as IP Protection and National (CZ) and International Systems of IP Protection in particular PCT, Intellectual Property Protection in Business (SMEs), Technology Transfer, Enforcement of Intellectual Rights, IP Jurisdiction (administrative and judicial issues), Trademarks and Designs - National and International Legal Protection, Searches in the National and Foreign Patent Databases. All the educational activities are organized for public, mainly for students, academic staff of universities, representatives of SMEs or research institutions and IP professionals. Lectures were also held at a number of innovation and technology centres and companies.

The IPO CZ also participated organizationally and expertly in the preparation of 8 seminars by the Czech Union of Inventors and Rationalizers.

Every year, a two-year distance learning study of industrial property rights begins within the Industrial Property Training Institute – Office's own educational facility. 27 students completed their studies in 2015.

The Office presented its information activities, information and educational products at the following exhibitions and trade fairs:

- 57th International Engineering Fair (Brno, CZ)
- 14th International Trade Fair of Engineering Technologies FOR INDUSTRY 2015 (Prague, CZ)
- 7th Trade Fair for Furniture, interiors and Home Accessories FOR INTERIOR 2015 (Prague, CZ)
- Innovation 2015 (Prague, CZ)
- 43st International Exhibition of Inventions (Geneva, CH)

Other activities

As part of cooperation with the Police and Customs Administration of the Czech Republic, 4 seminars devoted specially to patent databases, design and trademark information were organised.

The IPO CZ continued its activities for children and youth (elementary school pupils and secondary school students). The Office offers to them short training sessions on industrial rights, guided field trips to the Office's headquarters and an example search in patent databases, as well as courses for teachers interested in adding the topic of industrial rights to their curricula. A special section for youth is maintained on the IPO CZ website. The leaflet and comics books on the topics of patents, trademarks and copyright can be downloaded in this section. A new flier for children and youth explaining what is a patent file and what information it contains has been introduced. All the materials mentioned are also available for children and youth during their excursions to the IPO or during the fairs and exhibitions. The IPO also kept on cooperating with the RVP.CZ Methodological Portal, operated by the National Institute for Education to support of teachers.

A presentation of the Amazing Physics Theater group- (UDiF) was held on 4 May 2015 together with a discussion on intellectual property. More than 200 students of secondary schools attended the program.

The Office has been continuing to take part in the project "Hrajeme si hlavou" (Let's play with our mind) which popularises technical fields and motivates students of elementary schools toward technical education.

The Office presented itself at several events for students at elementary schools:

"Science Week at Jaderka", held by the Department of Physics of the Faculty of Nuclear Sciences and Physical Engineering at the Czech Technical University in May. The event was attended by secondary school students from across the Czech Republic. In the program, Office representatives performed the presentation "Ideas in the Net - Get Inspired" and introduced students to the system of industrial property rights, and national and international patent and utility model databases.

The Office was represented by its own stand at the Science and Research Trade Fair, organized by Palacký University Olomouc in June.

The Office had a stand at the "Science Fair" held in Prague in September, where universities, scientific institutions and industrial companies were exhibiting. At the stand were offered informational materials, quizzes and memory games, examples of database searches were also presented. Panels with examples of inventions in various fields were prepared. The fair was attended by 16,000 pupils and students.

The Office took part in the All-University Open Day at the VSB-Technical University of Ostrava in November. Representatives of the Office showed pupils and students databases and search methods, offered quizzes and informational materials. More than 1,500 visitors took part in the event.

VI. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF PATENT INFORMATION

International exchange and sharing of patent information in machine-readable form, e.g., priority documents, bibliographic data, abstracts, search reports, full text information

International and regional cooperation in the exchange of machine-readable patent information in Epidos is realized on Internet. Exchange of CD-ROM and DVD carriers continues. Czech patent documents in paper form were distributed to patent offices of five countries.

The Official Bulletin of the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic is published exclusively electronically as of the beginning 2007. The Official Bulletin is published on a weekly basis (updated every Wednesday) instead of the monthly basis as it was before. The paper version has been discontinued. Electronic version of the Official Bulletin is available since 2000 (Czech version, English version is available since 2007) and accessible at the Office's web site:

<http://www.upv.cz/cs/publikace/vestnik-upv.html> (Czech version)

<http://www.upv.cz/en/publications/ipo-bulletin.html> (English version)

The IPO CZ joined the UIP project to use the results of search work of National Patent Offices of the EPO Member States by the European Patent Office. The UIP project saves work and resources by making available to the EPO national search reports, information on classification and preliminary opinions on the fulfillment of requirements of patentability.

Various courses and seminars were organized for students and representatives of SMEs or research institutions; Groups of university students were accepted for excursions and guided tours for excursions and guided tours in the Office's premises.

Other activities

The Industrial Property Office continued to fulfill responsibilities resulting from the Czech Republic's membership in the European Union especially related to the area of industrial property protection. It participated in the meetings of the EU Council Working Group on Intellectual Property.