



Geneva, February 4, 2000

## INFORMATION NOTE

### The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in 1999

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva, announces the main events which occurred in 1999 in relation to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the results of operations under the PCT for that year.

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1. The PCT system offers inventors and industry an advantageous route for obtaining patent protection internationally. By filing one “international” patent application under the PCT, protection for an invention can be sought simultaneously in each of a large number of countries. Both applicants and Contracting States’ patent offices benefit from the uniform formality requirements, the international search and preliminary examination reports, and the centralized international publication which are provided by the PCT system.

2. **Developments in 1999.** The International Bureau of WIPO received 74,023 international applications filed worldwide,<sup>1</sup> which is 7,016 (10.5%) more than in 1998. The 74,023 international applications had the effect of 3,158,204 national applications, and of 194,447 regional applications which would be equivalent to 2,671,069 applications for patent protection in the member States of the regional patent systems, that is, a notional equivalent effect, in total, of 5,829,273 national applications.

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1. Figures in this information note for international applications filed in 1999 are based on the number of record copies of international applications received, under PCT Article 12, by the International Bureau in 1999 from PCT receiving Offices (including from the Receiving Office Section of the International Bureau).

3. During 1999, six new Contracting States became bound by the PCT (on the dates shown in parentheses):

*United Arab Emirates* (March 10, 1999);  
*South Africa* (March 16, 1999);  
*Costa Rica* (August 3, 1999);  
*Dominica* (August 7, 1999);  
*United Republic of Tanzania* (September 14, 1999);  
*Morocco* (October 8, 1999).

The fact that PCT membership had reached 100 States during 1999 was specially commemorated at the time of the thirty-fourth series of meetings of the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO which took place in Geneva in September 1999.

4. Instruments of ratification of and accession to the PCT were deposited on December 8, 1999, by *Algeria* and on December 17, 1999, by *Antigua and Barbuda*, respectively, bringing the number of States which had acceded to the PCT by December 31, 1999, to 106, as follows:

Albania	Democratic People's	Liberia	Spain
Algeria	Republic of Korea	Liechtenstein	Sri Lanka
Antigua and Barbuda	Denmark	Lithuania	Sudan
Armenia	Dominica	Luxembourg	Swaziland
Australia	Estonia	Madagascar	Sweden
Austria	Finland	Malawi	Switzerland
Azerbaijan	France	Mali	Tajikistan
Barbados	Gabon	Mauritania	The former Yugoslav
Belarus	Gambia	Mexico	Republic of
Belgium	Georgia	Monaco	Macedonia
Benin	Germany	Mongolia	Togo
Bosnia and	Ghana	Morocco	Trinidad and Tobago
Herzegovina	Greece	Netherlands	Turkey
Brazil	Grenada	New Zealand	Turkmenistan
Bulgaria	Guinea	Niger	Uganda
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Norway	Ukraine
Cameroon	Hungary	Poland	United Arab Emirates
Canada	Iceland	Portugal	United Kingdom
Central African	India	Republic of Korea	United Republic of
Republic	Indonesia	Republic of Moldova	Tanzania
Chad	Ireland	Romania	United States of
China	Israel	Russian Federation	America
Congo	Italy	Saint Lucia	Uzbekistan
Costa Rica	Japan	Senegal	Viet Nam
Côte d'Ivoire	Kazakhstan	Sierra Leone	Yugoslavia
Croatia	Kenya	Singapore	Zimbabwe
Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Slovakia	
Cyprus	Latvia	Slovenia	
Czech Republic	Lesotho	South Africa	

5. During 1999, two States became bound by the Harare Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs within the framework of the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO): Sierra Leone, on February 25, 1999, and the United Republic of Tanzania, on August 3, 1999. Consequently, as from February 25, 1999, and September 14, 1999 (the date on which the United Republic of Tanzania became bound by the PCT), respectively, it became possible for PCT applicants to designate those States for an ARIPO patent, as well as for a national patent.

6. On December 1, 1999, the Agreement between the Korean Industrial Property Office and the International Bureau of WIPO in relation to the functioning of the former as International Searching Authority (ISA) and International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) under the PCT entered into force and the Office's appointment as ISA and IPEA took effect.

7. *Meetings.* The Assembly of the PCT Union held its twenty-seventh (12th ordinary) session in Geneva during the period from September 20 to 29, 1999. The Assembly decided to amend the Schedule of Fees to decrease the designation fee, with effect from January 1, 2000, from 150 Swiss francs to 140 Swiss francs, and to decrease the maximum number of designation fees payable, with effect from January 1, 2000, from 10 to 8 (this follows the reduction from 11 to 10, which had already taken effect from January 1, 1999). This means that any designation made under PCT Rule 4.9(a) in excess of 8 does not require the payment of a designation fee. These reductions benefit all applicants since they represent a decrease in the amount of the international fee by up to about 17% (for applications containing eight or more designations).

8. The Assembly also adopted amendments to PCT Rule 4.10 concerning priority claims, in order to bring it into line with Article 2.1 of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS Agreement) administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO), with the result that, with effect from January 1, 2000, it became possible, according to amended PCT Rule 4.10(a) and (b), to claim the priority of an application filed in or for any Member of the WTO that is not party to the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. As provided for in paragraph (d) of Rule 4.10, the European Patent Office and the Japanese Patent Office informed the International Bureau that amended paragraphs (a) and (b) of that Rule were not compatible with the law applied by those Offices, with the result that PCT Rule 4.10, as in force until December 31, 1999, will continue to apply after that date to those Offices for as long as the incompatibility exists.

9. The PCT Committee for Administrative and Legal Matters held its seventh session from November 29 to December 3, 1999. The Committee discussed proposed amendments of the PCT Regulations that relate to simplifying the requirements for entry into the national phase. The proposals had been discussed earlier at meetings of an ad hoc Advisory Group. A number of the proposals arose out of discussions at meetings of WIPO's Standing Committee on the Law of Patents relating to the draft Patent Law Treaty (PLT), which has been designed to streamline and harmonize the administrative and procedural aspects of filing and processing national patent applications. The proposals for amendments to the PCT Regulations are being prepared for submission to an extraordinary session of the Assembly of the PCT Union which is to be held in Geneva from March 13 to 17, 2000.

10. **Seminars.** In 1999, officials of the International Bureau participated in 218 seminars and presentations which dealt with the use and advantages of the PCT and the promotion of accession to it. Those seminars and presentations were held in Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Monaco, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uruguay. They were given to about 8,750 users and potential users of the PCT system in the following languages: Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean and Spanish. They included 23 specialized presentations which were given to more than 800 people on the use of the PCT-EASY software. A special training course on the PCT was also given at the headquarters of WIPO for officials of the industrial property offices of those PCT Contracting States which are developing countries.

11. **PCT Information Line.** The PCT Information Line answers general inquiries about the filing of international applications and the procedure during the international phase under the PCT. Where necessary, inquiries are referred to the authorized officer responsible for the particular application, or to the PCT Legal Division. The PCT Information Line can be contacted as follows:

by telephone: (41-22) 338 83 38  
by fax: (41-22) 338 83 39  
by e-mail: [pct.infoline@wipo.int](mailto:pct.infoline@wipo.int)

12. **Developments in PCT Automation.** Following the general approval, in 1998, by the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO of a 40-million Swiss franc project to fully automate the operations of the PCT, the project, known by the acronym IMPACT (Information Management for the Patent Cooperation Treaty), moved forward in 1999. After an extensive international tendering process, the first part of a contract to develop a comprehensive computer system for managing and administering PCT activities was awarded to a consortium of three companies. Work on the analysis and design component of the project began at the end of 1999. The award of the second part of the contract—the implementation phase—will hinge on the successful completion of system benchmarking tests to determine the viability of the design. The main objectives of the IMPACT Project include:

- to offer further improved services to PCT applicants, and prepare the ground for future fee reductions by lowering PCT operating costs at the International Bureau;
- to render PCT work procedures more efficient and cost effective through the implementation of an automated information and document management system;
- to create and make available to PCT applicants and national Offices electronic filing software;
- to establish generalized solutions for electronic data exchange between the International Bureau of WIPO and the national and regional Offices, as well as the PCT International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities, including electronic publishing and the dissemination of PCT information.

The overall project is expected to be completed in three to four years, with the first components of the new system being delivered towards the end of 2000. For further details, see Press Release PR/2000/203.

13. On January 1, 1999, the PCT-EASY software was generally released for the filing of international applications with those receiving Offices that are prepared to accept international applications containing requests in PCT-EASY format together with diskettes, prepared using the PCT-EASY software, containing a copy of the data included in the request in electronic form, and the abstract part of the international application. The PCT-EASY software facilitates the preparation of international applications and other related documents and enables applicants, through the use of about 200 validation checks, to avoid making mistakes at the filing stage. Out of the 80 receiving Offices under the PCT, 54 have so far notified the International Bureau that they are prepared to accept the filing of such international applications. In addition to regular updates of the PCT-EASY software to take into account changes, such as new PCT Contracting States and changes in PCT fees, a PCT-EASY discussion group was created on WIPO's PCT-EASY website during the course of the year, on which users' comments and questions can be posted and subsequently replied to (see <http://pcteasy.wipo.int/discuss.htm>). The software is available, together with supporting documentation, in Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish, and can be downloaded from the Internet from the PCT-EASY home page (<http://pcteasy.wipo.int>) or the WIPO home page (<http://www.wipo.int>), or can be obtained from the PCT-EASY Help Desk:

by telephone: (41-22) 338 95 23  
by fax: (41-22) 338 80 40  
by e-mail: [pcteasy.help@wipo.int](mailto:pcteasy.help@wipo.int)

For statistics on the filing of international applications using the PCT-EASY software, see paragraph 21.

14. ***Summary of the procedure under the PCT.*** The system of patent cooperation established by the PCT means that, by filing only one international application with one Office, the PCT applicant can obtain the effect of regular national filings in any of the PCT Contracting States being designated without initially having to furnish a translation of the application or pay national fees. The national patent granting procedure and the related high expenses are postponed, in the majority of cases, by up to 18 months (or even longer in the case of some Offices), as compared with the traditional patent system.

15. In addition to designations of PCT Contracting States for the purpose of obtaining national patents, an international application may include designations for regional patents: ARIPO patents having effect in those States party to the Harare Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs within the framework of the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO) which are also Contracting States of the PCT; Eurasian patents having effect in States party to the Eurasian Patent Convention; European patents having effect in States party to the European Patent Convention; and OAPI (African Intellectual Property Organization) patents having effect in States party to the revised Bangui Agreement Relating to the Creation of an African Intellectual Property Organization.

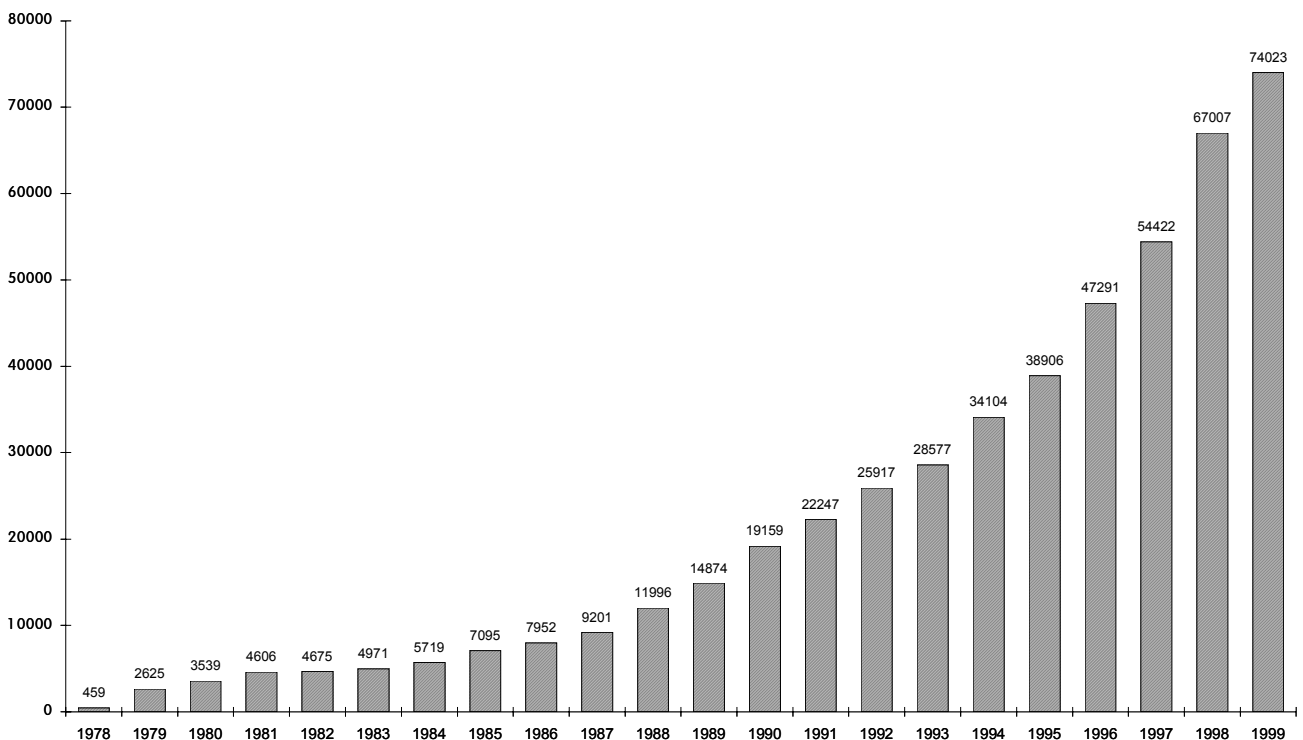
16. Each international application is subjected to an international search carried out by one of the major patent Offices of the world acting as an International Searching Authority under the PCT which establishes a report setting out the relevant prior art. That report is received by the applicant about 16 months after the priority date. The international application is published, together with the international search report, by the International Bureau 18 months after the priority date and is then transmitted to the applicant and the designated Offices.

17. If the applicant requests, and most do so (see paragraph 28), the international application is also subjected later to international preliminary examination under PCT Chapter II, carried out by one of the Offices which act as International Preliminary Examining Authorities, and the entry into the national phase of the procedure is postponed from 20 months after the priority date until 30 months after that date (later time limits apply in some cases). The examination results in a report which includes an opinion as to whether the claimed invention fulfills the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability. The international preliminary examination report is usually received by the applicant about 28 months after the priority date, and is also sent to the designated Offices which were elected under Chapter II.

18. With the international search report and the international preliminary examination report, the applicant is in a much better position to decide whether to proceed with the national patent granting procedure before the various designated patent Offices. If the applicant considers, in the light of those reports, that it is worthwhile to continue seeking patent protection in several countries, he may then decide to pay national fees and professional fees for patent agents abroad, and to incur the cost of preparing translations. This need not be done until 20 months or more after the priority date (that is, eight months later than under the traditional system), or, if the applicant has filed a demand for international preliminary examination in time, until 30 months or more after the priority date (that is, 18 months later than under the traditional patent system). At that later time the applicant is also in a much better position to decide about the need for patent protection having regard to increased knowledge of the technical value and commercial prospects of the invention.

19. **Statistics.** The following graph shows the number of international applications received by the International Bureau in each calendar year since the beginning of PCT operations:

*Number of international applications received since 1978*



20. The following table shows, by country of origin, the number of international applications filed, and the corresponding percentages of the total, in 1999 as compared with 1998:

<i>Country of origin<sup>2</sup></i>		<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
		<b>1999</b>	<b>(1998)</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>(1998)</b>
US	United States of America	29,463	(28,356)	39.8	(42.3)
DE	Germany	10,897	(9,112)	14.7	(13.6)
JP	Japan	7,255	(6,098)	9.8	(9.1)
GB	United Kingdom	4,741	(4,383)	6.4	(6.5)
FR	France	3,633	(3,322)	4.9	(5.0)
SE	Sweden	2,619	(2,554)	3.5	(3.8)
NL	Netherlands	2,153	(2,065)	2.9	(3.1)
CH&LI	Switzerland and Liechtenstein <sup>3</sup>	1,564	(1,293)	2.1	(1.9)
CA	Canada	1,398	(1,315)	1.9	(2.0)
FI	Finland	1,269	(1,092)	1.7	(1.6)
AU	Australia	1,154	(1,048)	1.6	(1.6)
IT	Italy	1,130	(925)	1.5	(1.4)
DK	Denmark	792	(624)	1.1	(0.9)
KR	Republic of Korea	790	(485)	1.1	(0.7)
IL	Israel	729	(672)	1.0	(1.0)
RU	Russian Federation	532	(429)	0.7	(0.6)
BE	Belgium	513	(428)	0.7	(0.6)
ES	Spain	457	(378)	0.6	(0.6)
NO	Norway	436	(394)	0.6	(0.6)
AT	Austria	432	(421)	0.6	(0.6)
ZA	South Africa	281	(n.a.)	0.4	(n.a.)
NZ	New Zealand	242	(178)	0.3	(0.3)
CN	China	240	(322)	0.3	(0.5)
IE	Ireland	167	(150)	0.2	(0.2)
SG	Singapore	144	(127)	0.2	(0.2)
BR	Brazil	126	(114)	0.2	(0.2)
HU	Hungary	115	(122)	0.2	(0.2)
LU	Luxembourg	111	(81)	0.2	(0.1)
IN	India	61	(0)	0.1	(0)
TR	Turkey	56	(30)	0.1	(<0.1)
CZ	Czech Republic	55	(55)	0.1	(<0.1)
PL	Poland	52	(48)	0.1	(<0.1)
GR	Greece	51	(41)	0.1	(<0.1)
MX	Mexico	51	(67)	0.1	(0.1)
SI	Slovenia	33	(23)	<0.1	(<0.1)
HR	Croatia	31	(9)	<0.1	(<0.1)
UA	Ukraine	28	(21)	<0.1	(<0.1)
BG	Bulgaria	27	(18)	<0.1	(<0.1)
BB	Barbados	22	(13)	<0.1	(<0.1)
PT	Portugal	20	(8)	<0.1	(<0.1)

[continued on next page]

2. Figures relate to receiving Offices with which international applications were filed, except that applications filed with regional Offices or with the International Bureau as receiving Offices are included under the applicant's country of residence. Of the total, 10,528 (= 14.2%) were filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) as receiving Office and 2,081 (= 2.8%) were filed with the International Bureau as receiving Office.

3. The national Office of Switzerland also acts as receiving Office for nationals and residents of Liechtenstein.

*Number of international applications filed in 1999 and 1998 [continued]*

<i>Country of origin<sup>4</sup></i>		<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
		<b>1999</b>	<b>(1998)</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>(1998)</b>
SK	Slovakia	18	(22)	<0.1	(<0.1)
BY	Belarus	16	(16)	<0.1	(<0.1)
IS	Iceland	15	(12)	<0.1	(<0.1)
RO	Romania	14	(22)	<0.1	(<0.1)
YU	Yugoslavia	13	(24)	<0.1	(<0.1)
KZ	Kazakhstan	9	(4)	<0.1	(<0.1)
GE	Georgia	8	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	8	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
CU	Cuba	7	(12)	<0.1	(<0.1)
ID	Indonesia	7	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
MC	Monaco	7	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
CY	Cyprus	5	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
LV	Latvia	5	(6)	<0.1	(<0.1)
UZ	Uzbekistan	5	(4)	<0.1	(<0.1)
ZW	Zimbabwe	5	(25)	<0.1	(<0.1)
SD	Sudan	3	(0)	<0.1	(0)
LT	Lithuania	2	(2)	<0.1	(<0.1)
AZ	Azerbaijan	1	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
EE	Estonia	1	(2)	<0.1	(<0.1)
GH	Ghana	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
KE	Kenya	1	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
LK	Sri Lanka	1	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
AM	Armenia	0	(2)	0	(<0.1)
KG	Kyrgyzstan	0	(1)	0	(<0.1)
TT	Trinidad and Tobago	0	(3)	0	(<0.1)
VN	Viet Nam	0	(4)	0	(<0.1)
TOTAL		74,023	(67,007)	100.0	(100.00)

21. Of the 74,023 international applications filed, 9,610 (13%) were prepared using the PCT-EASY software. As more and more PCT users became aware of the software, and of the benefits of using it, there was an increasing share of filings containing a PCT-EASY request as the year progressed, and in the second half of the year, such filings accounted for 18.8% of all PCT filings.

22. In 1999, the average number of designations made per international application was 45.3 (1998: 40.5). This figure is much higher than the number of States for which patent protection will eventually be sought, because the applicants in respect of 58.7% of international applications filed in 1999 (1998: 55.5%) used the possibility of paying the

4. Figures relate to receiving Offices with which international applications were filed, except that applications filed with regional Offices or with the International Bureau as receiving Offices are included under the applicant's country of residence. Of the total, 10,528 (= 14.2%) were filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) as receiving Office and 2,081 (= 2.8%) were filed with the International Bureau as receiving Office.



maximum of 10 designation fees<sup>5</sup> while making as many as all possible designations. Such applicants extend the effects of their international applications to as many States as might later be of interest to them, deferring a decision as to which States they wish to proceed in. Most applicants make designations for regional patents, which designations themselves have effect in a number of States. For example, in 1999, a European patent was sought in 96.6% of all international applications.

23. In 1999, international applications were filed in the following languages:

<i>Language of filing<sup>6</sup></i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<b>1999</b>	<b>(1998)</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>(1998)</b>
English	47,980	(44,458)	64.8	(66.3)
German	11,891	(10,086)	16.1	(15.1)
Japanese	6,827	(5,689)	9.2	(8.5)
French	3,655	(3,392)	4.9	(5.1)
Swedish	881	(899)	1.2	(1.3)
Russian	517	(434)	0.7	(0.6)
Finnish	506	(523)	0.7	(0.8)
Dutch	471	(478)	0.6	(0.7)
Spanish	463	(422)	0.6	(0.6)
Norwegian	246	(236)	0.3	(0.3)
Chinese	208	(177)	0.3	(0.3)
Danish	184	(178)	0.2	(0.3)
Italian	165	(29)	0.2	(<0.1)
Hungarian	9	(2)	<0.1	(<0.1)
Croatian	6	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
Slovenian	5	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
Slovakian	4	(0)	<0.1	(0)
Czech	3	(0)	<0.1	(0)
Arabic	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
Turkish	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,023</b>	<b>(67,007)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>

24. In 1999, the International Bureau as receiving Office received 2,097 international applications from applicants from 53 countries. Those applications included 448, that is, 21.4% of applications received by that Office, which benefited from the safeguard procedure under which international applications are transmitted from another receiving Office to the International Bureau in its capacity as receiving Office while retaining their initial filing date (for example, where they have been filed with a “non-competent” receiving Office, or where they have been filed in a language which is not accepted by the other Office).

25. A copy of the international application is sent to the International Searching Authority competent for carrying out the international search. Where more than one Authority is competent, the applicant chooses the one he would like to carry out the search. The number of international applications which were sent to each International Searching Authority in 1999 is indicated below:

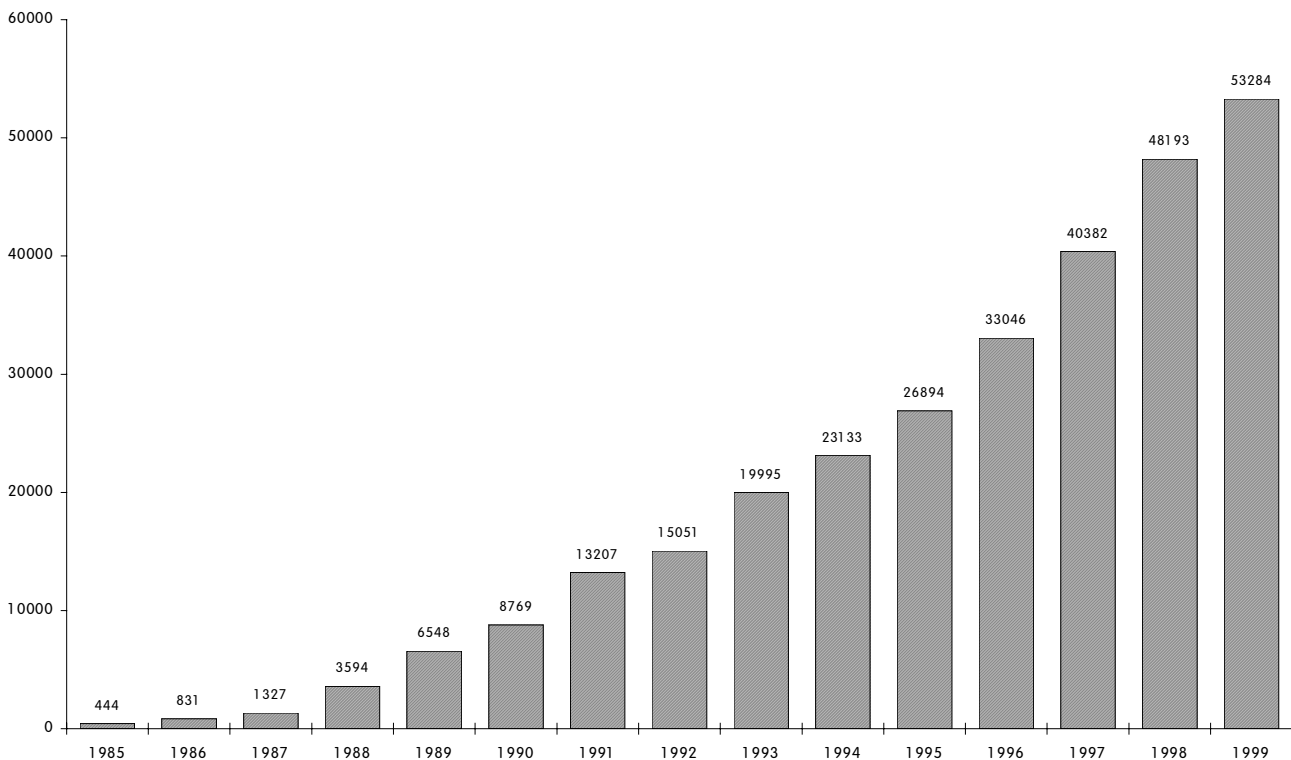
5. With effect from January 1, 2000, the maximum number of designation fees payable is 8.

6. An international application filed in a language other than one of the languages of publication under the PCT will be published as a translation into a language of publication; see paragraph 32.

<i>International Searching Authority</i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<b>1999</b>	<b>(1998)</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>(1998)</b>
European Patent Office	44,713	(39,136)	60.4	(58.4)
United States of America	14,640	(14,597)	19.8	(21.8)
Japan	6,827	(5,690)	9.2	(8.5)
Sweden	4,380	(4,702)	5.9	(7.0)
Australia	1,378	(1,209)	1.9	(1.8)
Austria	965	(591)	1.3	(0.9)
Russian Federation	526	(433)	0.7	(0.6)
Spain	356	(329)	0.5	(0.5)
China	231	(320)	0.3	(0.5)
Republic of Korea <sup>7</sup>	4	(n.a.)	<0.1	(n.a.)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>74,020<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>(67,007)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>

26. The number of demands for international preliminary examination sent to the International Bureau by the International Preliminary Examining Authorities in 1999 amounted to 53,284, which represents an increase over 1998 of 10.6%. The number of demands received in each calendar year since 1985 is indicated below:

*Number of demands received since 1985*



7. The Korean Industrial Property Office started functioning as an International Searching Authority on December 1, 1999.

8. Three of the 74,023 international applications filed in 1999 are not included in this total because international processing had been discontinued.

27. The number of demands sent to the International Bureau by each International Preliminary Examining Authority is indicated below:

<i>International Preliminary Examining Authority</i>	<i>Number of demands</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	1999	(1998)	1999	(1998)
European Patent Office	30,801	26,592	57.8	(55.2)
United States of America	14,218	14,130	26.7	(29.3)
Japan	3,283	2,776	6.2	(5.8)
Sweden	3,007	3,088	5.6	(6.4)
Australia	1,126	1,009	2.1	(2.1)
Austria	418	219	0.8	(0.5)
Russian Federation	244	259	0.5	(0.5)
China	186	120	0.3	(0.2)
Republic of Korea <sup>9</sup>	1	(n.a.)	<0.1	(n.a.)
TOTAL	53,284	(48,193)	100.0	(100.0)

28. The demands for international preliminary examination received in 1999 relate mainly to international applications filed in 1998. Demands are filed in respect of about 80% of all applications.

29. ***Publications under the PCT.*** The *PCT Gazette* contains, in English and French, the following sections:

- Section I: Published International Applications (the bibliographic data, the abstract and any drawing, for each international application published)
- Section II: Notices and Information Relating to Published International Applications
- Section III: Weekly Indexes
- Section IV: Notices and Information of a General Character

The Internet version of the *PCT Gazette* is available, free-of-charge, via the WIPO home page (<http://pctgazette.wipo.int>). In this version of the *Gazette*, Section I is fully searchable, with searches possible by single words, symbols or phrases and by a number of fields. During 1999, it became possible for users of the electronic version of the *Gazette* to link to the European Patent Office's esp@cenet service and view images of published PCT applications (that is, the bibliographic data, description, claims, drawings and abstract) and corresponding international search reports.

9. The Korean Industrial Property Office started functioning as an International Preliminary Examining Authority on December 1, 1999.

30. There are two series of CD-ROMs containing information from the *Gazette*, as follows:

- the monthly ESPACE-FIRST CD-ROMs which are produced by the European Patent Office, in cooperation with WIPO (see also paragraphs 36 and 40);
- the CD-ROMs produced by Bundesdruckerei GmbH, in cooperation with WIPO, issued every week on the day on which WIPO publishes the corresponding international applications (see also paragraph 41).

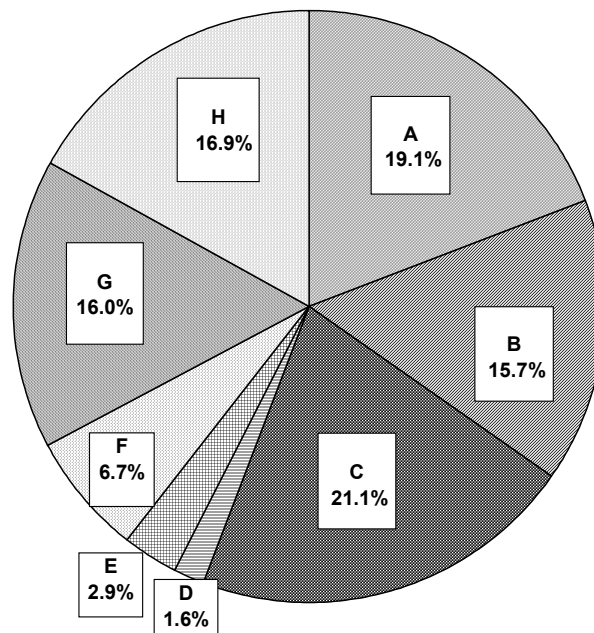
31. In 1999, the *Gazette* included entries relating to the 68,038 international applications (1998: 59,597) which were published in 1999 in the form of PCT pamphlets (in Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Russian or Spanish, depending on the language of filing and/or translation furnished for the purposes of the international search) on the same day as the relevant issue of the *Gazette*. The *Gazette* also included, in Section IV, a substantial volume of information of a general character concerning new Contracting States and the requirements of the various Offices and International Authorities. In August, a bilingual (English/French) index to the 1998 *Gazette issues*, containing over 1,400 pages, was published. In January and July, special issues of the *Gazette* were published (Nos. S-01/1999 (E) and (F) (January) and S-02/1999 (E) and (F) (July)), in separate English and French versions, containing consolidated general information relating to PCT Contracting States, national and regional Offices and International Authorities under the PCT.

32. The number of international applications published in 1999 in each of the languages of publication was as follows:

<i>Language of publication</i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<b>1999</b>	<b>(1998)</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>(1998)</b>
English	47,389	(41,841)	69.6	(70.2)
German	10,565	(9,131)	15.5	(15.3)
Japanese	5,777	(4,879)	8.5	(8.2)
French	3,334	(2,880)	4.9	(4.8)
Russian	406	(394)	0.6	(0.7)
Spanish	389	(350)	0.6	(0.6)
Chinese	178	(122)	0.3	(0.2)
TOTAL	68,038	(59,597)	100.0	(100.0)

33. The main fields of technology to which those published international applications related were chemistry and metallurgy, and human necessities. The chart below shows the breakdown of PCT applications published in 1999 according to the eight main technical fields of the International Patent Classification (IPC) system.

*PCT applications published in 1999: breakdown according to the main technical fields under the IPC*



**Main technical fields (sections) under the IPC:**

A	Human necessities	E	Fixed constructions
B	Performing operations; transporting	F	Mechanical engineering; lighting, heating, weapons, blasting
C	Chemistry; metallurgy	G	Physics
D	Textiles; paper	H	Electricity

34. The *PCT Applicant's Guide*, which contains information on the filing of international applications and the procedure during the international phase, as well as information on the national phase and the procedure before the designated (or elected) Offices, was updated twice in 1999 to include the many changes that had occurred during the year. About 560 updating sheets, per language, were sent to each subscriber in 1999.

35. Twelve issues of the *PCT Newsletter* were published in 1999. This monthly publication provides up-to-date news for users of the PCT. It contains information on the essential items included in Section IV of the *PCT Gazette* and supplements the *PCT Applicant's Guide* with practical advice for applicants and agents, lists of forthcoming PCT seminars, consolidated tables of PCT fees in various currencies, and other items of general interest. It also includes tear-out provisional sheets permitting easy inclusion of certain important changes in the *PCT Applicant's Guide* prior to the issuance of six-monthly updates.

36. In 1999, the International Bureau continued, in cooperation with the European Patent Office, the weekly production of ESPACE WORLD CD-ROMs, which contain, in facsimile form, the full text and the drawings of all international applications and international search reports published each week, as well as the corresponding bibliographic data in coded,

searchable form. All international applications published since 1978 are available in CD-ROM format (a total of 960 CD-ROMs had been produced by the end of 1999).

37. In 1999, a new PCT Wheel, covering priority dates from January 1998 to December 1999, was produced and made available to PCT users via the *PCT Newsletter*. The Wheel, which was created by a firm of patent attorneys in Australia (Davies Collison Cave), enables PCT users to quickly calculate the 18-month due date for international publication, as well as the time limits for submitting priority documents, filing a demand for international preliminary examination, and entering the national or regional phase under PCT Chapters I and II.

38. **Ordering of PCT publications.** PCT publications may be ordered from WIPO, Marketing and Distribution Section, P.O. Box 18, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, fax: (41-22) 740 18 12 or 733 54 28, e-mail: [publications.mail@wipo.int](mailto:publications.mail@wipo.int); electronic bookshop: [www.wipo.int/ebookshop](http://www.wipo.int/ebookshop). Publications of particular interest include:

- the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a five-binder loose-leaf publication of more than 1,000 pages (available in English and French from WIPO, also available from other sources in Chinese, German and Japanese—contact WIPO for details);
- PCT pamphlets containing published international applications (in various languages—see paragraph 32—and containing the title, the abstract and the corresponding international search reports in both the language of publication and English);
- the *PCT Gazette* (available in bilingual (English and French) format) (for electronic version, see paragraph 29);
- the *PCT Newsletter* (available in English);
- booklets containing the text of the PCT and the PCT Regulations (in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish);
- special issues of the *PCT Gazette* (see paragraph 31) (in English and French);
- PCT Wheel (priority dates January 1998 to December 1999).

39. A leaflet entitled *Basic Facts about the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)* is available free of charge in English, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish.

40. The ESPACE WORLD CD-ROMs containing published international applications may be ordered from the European Patent Office, P.O. Box 90, A-1031 Vienna, Austria, e-mail: [infowien@epo.org](mailto:infowien@epo.org). However, CD-ROMs containing the international applications published between 1978 and 1989 can be obtained only from WIPO, at the address indicated in paragraph 38.

41. CD-ROMs containing information from the *PCT Gazette*, which are produced by Bundesdruckerei GmbH, may be ordered from the following address: Bundesdruckerei GmbH, Sparte Elektronische Publikationen, Oranienstraße 91, D-10958 Berlin, Germany.

42. **Internet.** In 1999, more PCT materials were made available on the Internet. The following may now be viewed, free of charge, on WIPO's Internet site (<http://www.wipo.int>):

- *PCT Gazette*
- Information on PCT Information Line
- *PCT Newsletter* (No. 01/1997 to current issue)

- Practical advice which was published in the *PCT Newsletter* between March 1994 and December 1996
- *PCT Applicant's Guide*
- PCT-EASY (software and supporting documentation)
- PCT-related updates
- PCT seminar calendar
- *Basic Facts about the PCT*
- The PCT in 1999
- About the Treaty
- Status of ratifications
- Text of the Patent Cooperation Treaty
- Text of the Regulations under the PCT
- Administrative Instructions under the PCT
- PCT forms
- PCT Receiving Office Guidelines
- PCT International Search Guidelines
- PCT International Preliminary Examination Guidelines
- Direct filing of PCT applications with the International Bureau as PCT receiving Office
- PCT Assembly, documents: 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000
- PCT Committee for Administrative and Legal Matters, documents: 1999

[End]