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February 2, 2007

Madam,
Sir,

The purpose of this circular is to inform you of recent enhancements to the PCT-related information available via WIPO's PatentScope Internet portal.

It is recalled that, since April 2006, PCT international applications have been published in electronic form only and are available in a variety of formats for viewing, printing and download via PatentScope Search. The International Bureau continues to monitor use of the service and to enhance it based on the feedback and demand of users.

PCT National Phase Entries

As previously described in circular C.PCT 1087, PatentScope now contains national phase entry notifications from many offices. As of January 2007, 27 offices had supplied national phase entry information to the International Bureau. The system now contains 1,441,000 national phase entry notifications for 583,000 different international applications. For certain offices, PatentScope includes an Internet hyperlink from the national phase entry to the online database of the relevant office where detailed status information and national language translations can be viewed.

In addition, a search index has been developed that will allow users to search for PCT applications that have entered the national phase in a given office. This feature is undergoing final testing and will be ready shortly.

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Forms issued by the International Bureau

Following the successful implementation of the electronic dossier for processing of PCT International Applications at the International Bureau (IB), forms issued by the IB can now be made available via PatentScope. Upon demand, the forms concerning submission or transmittal of priority documents (Form PCT/IB/304), and recording of changes (Form PCT/IB/306) are now available for all PCT International Applications filed since January 2006. It is hoped that the easy availability of these forms will assist designated offices in their processing of international applications in the national phase, as well as providing additional information to the general public.

PatentScope Graphics

The PatentScope search results have also been enhanced to include the ability to generate a graphical view of search results. This feature is available by clicking on the “graphics” icon on the search results page and can be used with the results of any search on the PatentScope database. The results are presented as four graphical charts organized by year of publication, country of origin, applicant name and IPC subclass.

While this feature is not intended to provide sophisticated analysis tools, it will enable users to quickly review their search results and to view overall trends.

Full-text search

For several years, the International Bureau has made available the full-text of PCT international applications for online search in PatentScope and the former PCT Electronic Gazette. Until recently, the service was limited to international applications published since 1998.

Following the implementation of in-house optical character recognition (OCR) software at the IB, the complete collection of PCT international applications published since 1978 has been converted to searchable text format. Applications published in English, French, German or Spanish will be searchable using keywords in the description and/or claims text so that PCT searches can now be both broader and more precise. The full-text OCR will be progressively added to the PatentScope search indexes during the first quarter of 2007. The IB is currently investigating ways of extending the same functionality to all publication languages.

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I should like to thank offices for their cooperation, particularly in supplying national phase information to the International Bureau. Comments and enquiries regarding these services should be addressed to Mr. William Meredith, Head, Patent Information and IP Statistics Section by e-mail (*PatentScope@wipo.int*) or by facsimile (+ 41 22 338 84 95).

Yours sincerely,

Francis Gurry
Deputy Director General