

C. PCT 1514

July 20, 2017

Madam,
Sir,

Utilization of the WIPO CASE Platform

1. This Circular is addressed to your Office in its capacity as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). It invites your Office to consider making your national search and examination reports available through WIPO CASE and to set up systems to make effective use of reports from other national Offices as a part of your standard national application processing arrangements.

Background

2. The WIPO CASE platform is intended to improve the efficiency and quality of patent search and examination in participating Offices, and to allow third parties to evaluate patent applications. Through the platform, providing Offices make available their search and examination reports to other Offices and, optionally, to the general public. Other Offices, and the general public, can then access the search and examination reports from patent applications and related patent family members where Offices have made the information available.

3. WIPO CASE is effectively integrated with a variety of document databases, including PATENTSCOPE. As a result, international search reports and international preliminary reports on patentability are automatically available in relation to any published international application. However, the value of the system would be greatly enhanced if it were able to deliver national search and examination reports from a wider variety of providing Offices and the results were used by a larger number of accessing Offices.

4. The Meeting of International Authorities under the PCT, at its twenty-third session, held in Santiago, Chile, from January 20 to 22, 2016, discussed a working document titled "Effective Work Sharing Beyond International Reports: Utilization of the WIPO CASE Platform" (document PCT/MIA/23/2). At that session, several Authorities which had, up to that time, not joined WIPO CASE, or which had not joined WIPO CASE as both accessing and providing Office, stated their intention to do so in the near future.

5. Since that meeting, the WIPO CASE platform has been more completely integrated with the IP5 One Portal Dossier system, allowing exchange of documents in either direction with the IP5 Offices (European Patent Office, Japan Patent Office, Korean Intellectual Property Office, State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China and the United States Patent and Trademark Office). The providing and accessing Offices are currently as follows:

Code	Office	Providing Office		Accessing Office
			Public Access	
AU	IP Australia	X	X	X
BN	Brunei Darussalam Intellectual Property Office	X*		X
CA	Canadian Intellectual Property Office	X	X	X
CL	National Institute of Industrial Property	X*		X
CN	State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China	X	X*	X
EP	European Patent Office	X	X	X
GB	Intellectual Property Office	X		X
IL	Israel Patent Office	X		X
JP	Japan Patent Office	X	X	X
KR	Korean Intellectual Property Office	X		X
US	United States Patent and Trademark Office	X	X*	X
WO, IB	International Bureau of WIPO	X	X	
AZ	State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patents of the Republic of Azerbaijan			X
CR	Register of Industrial Property			X
EA	Eurasian Patent Organization			X
EG	Egyptian Patent Office			X
ID	Directorate General of Intellectual Property			X
IN	Intellectual Property India			X
KH	Department of Industrial Property			X
LA	Department of Intellectual Property			X
MN	Intellectual Property Office of Mongolia			X
MY	Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia			X
NZ	Intellectual Property Office of New Zealand			X
PG	Intellectual Property Office of Papua New Guinea			X
PH	Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines			X
PT	Portuguese Institute of Industrial Property			X
SG	Intellectual Property Office of Singapore			X
TH	Department of Intellectual Property			X
VN	National Office of Intellectual Property of Viet Nam			X

X*: Not operational yet

6. Providing Offices are encouraged to make their national search and examination reports available to the general public. WIPO CASE allows providing Offices to determine which dossier information may be made available to the public and which information can be accessed only by other participating Offices. The dossier information which is determined to be publicly available can be provided for the public via PATENTSCOPE and IP5 Global Dossier Systems.

Using the WIPO CASE Platform

7. Providing Offices can make their documents available to the WIPO CASE system in the following ways:

(a) Periodically (e.g. weekly or monthly) upload the relevant data and documents to a secure WIPO CASE server. The documents are then hosted by the International Bureau on behalf of the Office and made available via WIPO CASE to all other participating Offices. Documents are only used for the purpose of WIPO CASE and are stored and managed separately from all other WIPO platforms and services.

(b) Host the relevant data and documents on a local server at the IP Office and make them available to WIPO CASE via secure web services over the Internet. WIPO may also offer technical assistance to Offices to develop the web services or to deploy WIPO systems (WIPO Publish) for local hosting of the data and documents.

8. Accessing Offices can access documents from the WIPO CASE system in the following ways:

(a) Log in to the WIPO CASE web portal to search, view and download dossier information from other Offices.

(b) Using secure web services, integrate the WIPO CASE services into the local workbench or IT system used by patent examiners at the Office.

Responses to this Circular

9. The International Bureau invites the Offices which act as International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities under the PCT to consider making greater use of the WIPO CASE system, both by making their national search and examination reports available through WIPO CASE and by setting up systems to make effective use of reports from other national Offices as a part of their standard national application processing arrangements.

10. Offices which wish to make greater use of the WIPO CASE system are invited to contact William Meredith, Director, IP Office Business Solutions Division, Global Infrastructure Sector (email: William.Meredith@wipo.int) to discuss the technical options which would be appropriate to their Office.

Yours sincerely,



John Sandage
Deputy Director General