



WIPO Sub-Regional Workshop on Patent Policy and its Legislative Implementation

Topic 7: The Main Multilateral Legal Instruments in the Field of Patents and Their Impact on National Patent Legal Framework

The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

The PCT System for Worldwide Filing of Patent Applications

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Special Agreements in the Field of Patents

(international treaties within the framework of the Paris Convention (Article 19) for the protection of industrial property)

- The Strasbourg Agreement (concerning the International Patent Classification - IPC)
 - Provides a common classification for inventions, including published patent applications, utility models and utility certificates
 - IPC is a hierarchical classification system in which the whole range of technology is divided into a number of sections, subclasses and groups
 - This classification is indispensable for the retrieval of patent documents in the search for prior art
 - Important for patent issuing authorities, inventors, R&D Units for considering the novelty of an invention or determining the prior art in a particular area of technology

Special Agreements in the Field of Patents

(international treaties within the framework of the Paris Convention (Article 19) for the protection of industrial property)

- The Budapest Treaty (Treaty on the International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure)
 - Intended to facilitate the disclosure of inventions that involve a microorganism or the use of a microorganism when disclosure is impossible or difficult to accomplish in writing
 - In such cases the disclosure requirement can be met through the deposit of a sample of the microorganism with a specialized institution
 - Budapest provides that a deposit of a microorganism with any « international depository authority » suffices for the purposes of patent procedure before the national patent offices of all Contracting States and before regional patent offices that have declared that they recognize the effects of the Treaty.
 - Thus eliminates need to deposit in each country in which patent protection is sought

Special Agreements in the Field of Patents

(international treaties within the framework of the Paris Convention (Article 19) for the protection of industrial property)

- The Patent Law Treaty (PLT)
 - The aim of the PLT is to harmonize and streamline formal procedures in respect of national and regional patent applications and patents
 - Provides a maximum set of requirements which the Office of a Contracting Party may apply. (NB: with the significant exception of the filing date requirements)
 - This means that a Contracting Party is free to provide for requirements which are more generous, but not more restrictive from the viewpoint of applicants and owners

Special Agreements in the Field of Patents

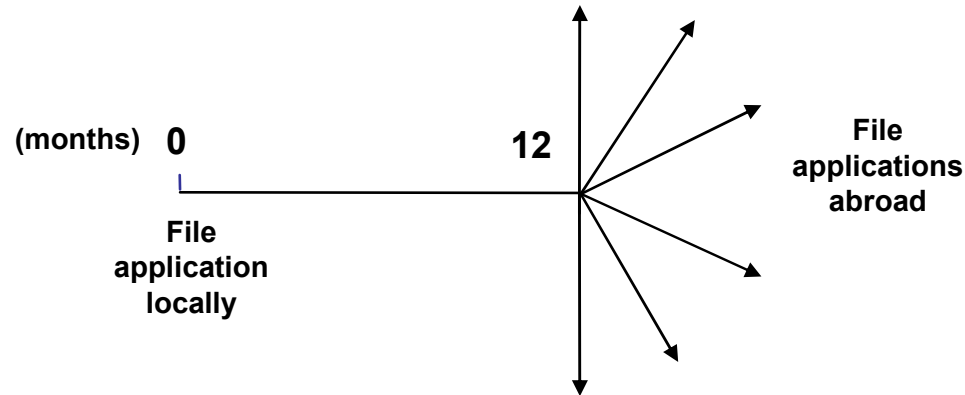
(international treaties within the framework of the Paris Convention (Article 19) for the protection of industrial property)

- The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
 - The filing of an “international application” has the same effect of a national filing in each Contracting Party to the PCT
 - Provides a streamlined procedure in those Contracting States by establishing a single international procedure for certain operations to process patent applications (international phase)
 - Thus gives the applicant possibility of one single procedure with a single set of formality requirements during the international phase in accordance with the PCT Regulations

Overview

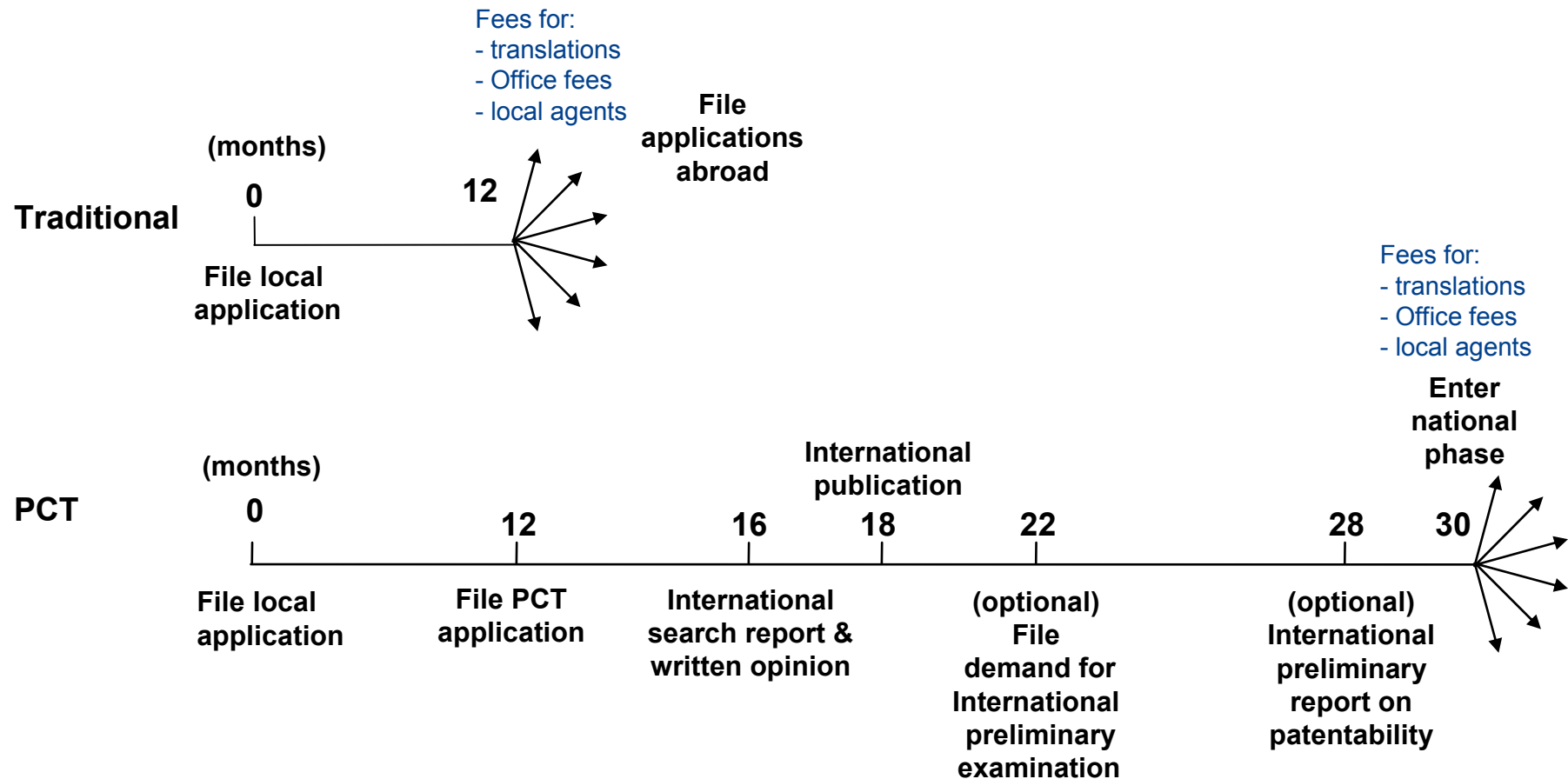
- What is the PCT?
- Some figures
- The PCT procedure
 - International phase
 - National phase
- The PCT as a strategy for filing foreign applications
- Advantages of the PCT
- Recent developments
- Where to get more information?

Traditional patent systems



- Local patent application followed within 12 months by multiple foreign applications claiming priority under Paris Convention:
 - multiple formality requirements
 - multiple searches
 - multiple publications
 - multiple examinations and prosecutions of applications
 - translations and national fees required at 12 months
- Some rationalization because of regional arrangements:
ARIPO, EAPO, EPO, OAPI, GCC

Traditional patent system vs. PCT system



The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) (1)

- Was signed in June 1970, in Washington, D.C., and became operational in June 1978 with 18 States
- Has currently 146 Contracting States
- Is administered by WIPO as are other international conventions in the field of industrial property, such as the Paris Convention
- Is a mainly procedural international treaty facilitating certain steps in the process of obtaining patents internationally

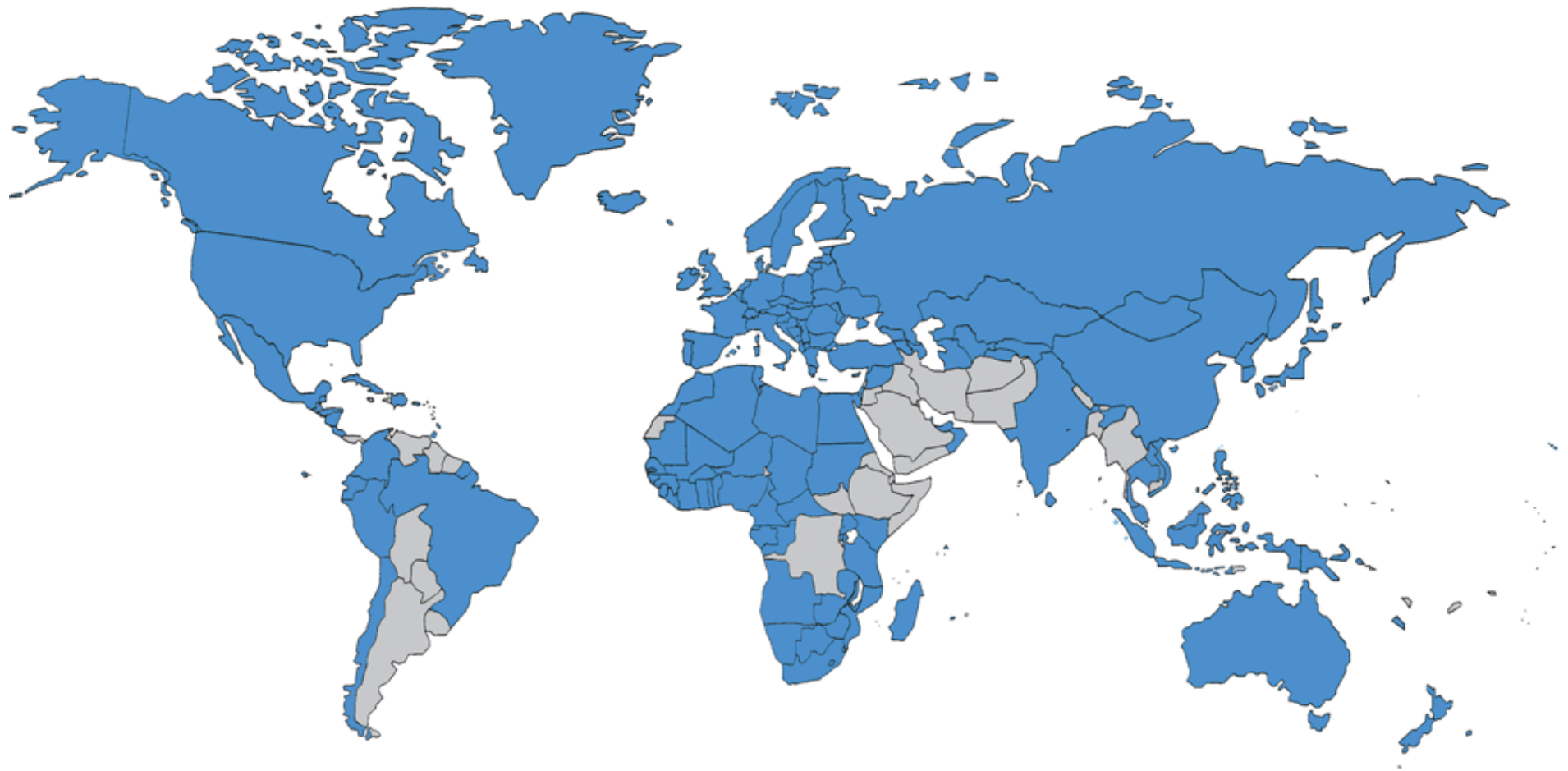
The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) (2)

- Establishes a procedure for the filing and processing of a single patent application which has legal effect in the countries which are Treaty members
- Simplifies the procedure for obtaining patent protection in many countries, making it more efficient and economical for:
 - users of the patent system (applicants and inventors)
 - patent Offices

Some general remarks on the PCT system

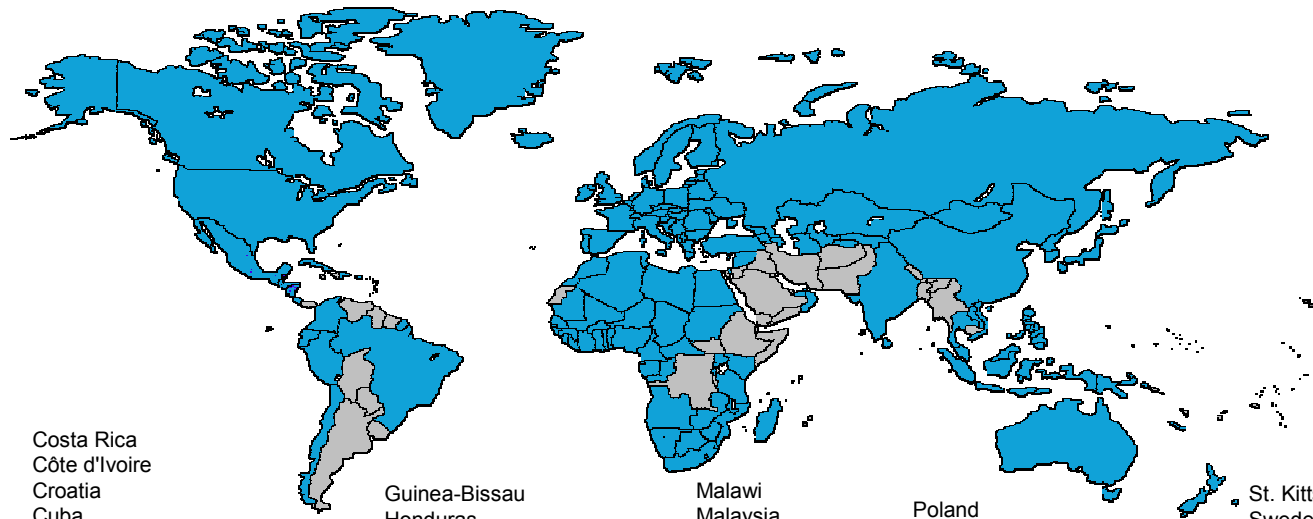
- The PCT system is a patent “filing” system, not a patent “granting” system. There is no “PCT patent” or “global patent”
- The decision on granting patents is made exclusively by national or regional Offices in the national phase
- Only inventions may be protected via the PCT by applying for patents, utility models and similar titles
- Design and trademark protection cannot be obtained via the PCT. There are separate international conventions dealing with these types of industrial property protection (the Hague Agreement and the Madrid Agreement and Protocol, respectively)

The PCT Today



WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

146 PCT States



Albania
 Algeria
 Angola
 Antigua and Barbuda
 Armenia
 Australia
 Austria
 Azerbaijan
 Bahrain
 Barbados
 Belarus
 Belgium
 Belize
 Benin
 Bosnia and Herzegovina
 Botswana
 Brazil
Brunei Darussalam (24 July 2012)
 Bulgaria
 Burkina Faso
 Cameroon
 Canada
 Central African Republic
 Chad
 Chile
 China
 Colombia
 Comoros
 Congo
KR-14
 14.10.10

Costa Rica
 Côte d'Ivoire
 Croatia
 Cuba
 Cyprus
 Czech Republic
 Democratic People's Republic of Korea
 Denmark
 Dominica
 Dominican Republic
 Ecuador
 Egypt
 El Salvador
 Equatorial Guinea
 Estonia
 Finland
 France
 Gabon
 Gambia
 Georgia
 Germany
 Ghana
 Greece
 Grenada
 Guatemala
 Guinea

Guinea-Bissau
 Honduras
 Hungary
 Iceland
 India
 Indonesia
 Ireland
 Israel
 Italy
 Japan
 Kazakhstan
 Kenya
 Kyrgyzstan
 Lao People's Dem Rep.
 Latvia
 Lesotho
 Liberia
 Libyan Arab Jamahiriya
 Liechtenstein
 Lithuania
 Luxembourg
 Madagascar

Malawi
 Malaysia
 Mali
 Malta
 Mauritania
 Mexico
 Monaco
 Mongolia
 Montenegro
 Morocco
 Mozambique
 Namibia
 Netherlands
 New Zealand
 Nicaragua
 Niger
 Nigeria
 Norway
 Oman
Panama
 Papua New Guinea
 Peru
 Philippines

Poland
 Portugal
 Qatar
 Republic of Korea
 Republic of Moldova
 Romania
 Rwanda
 Russian Federation
 Saint Lucia
 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
 San Marino
 Sao Tomé e Príncipe
 Senegal
 Serbia
 Seychelles
 Sierra Leone
 Singapore
 Slovakia
 Slovenia
 South Africa
 Spain
 Sri Lanka
 Sudan
 Swaziland

St. Kitts and Nevis
 Sweden
 Switzerland
 Syrian Arab Republic
 Tajikistan
 Thailand
 The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
 Togo
 Trinidad and Tobago
 Tunisia
 Turkey
 Turkmenistan
 Uganda
 Ukraine
 United Arab Emirates
 United Kingdom
 United Republic of Tanzania
 United States of America
 Uzbekistan
 Viet Nam
 Zambia
 Zimbabwe

Countries not yet PCT

Afghanistan

Andorra

Argentina

Bahamas

Bangladesh

Bhutan

Bolivia

Burundi

Cambodia

Cape Verde

Democratic Republic of
Congo

Djibouti

Eritrea

Ethiopia

Fiji

Guyana

Haiti

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Iraq

Jamaica

Jordan

Kiribati

Kuwait

Lebanon

Maldives

Marshall Islands

Mauritius

Micronesia

Myanmar

Nauru

Nepal

Pakistan

Palau

Panama

Paraguay

Samoa

Saudi Arabia

Solomon Islands

Somalia

South Sudan

Suriname

Timor-Leste

Tonga

Tuvalu

Uruguay

Vanuatu

Venezuela

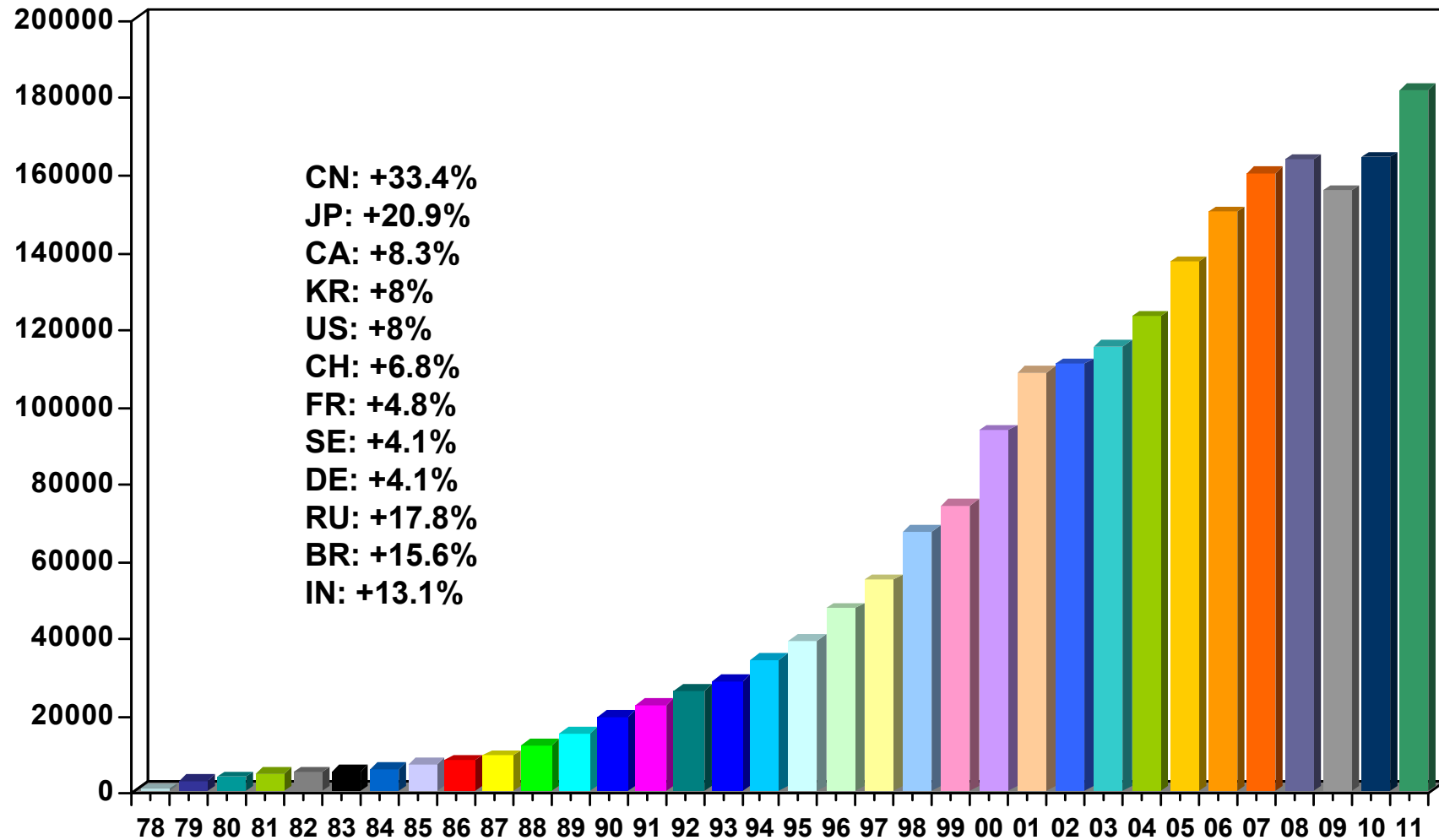
Yemen

(48)

Evolution of PCT use

	1991	Year 2001	2011
Countries	31%	60%	74%
Filings Abroad	10%	44%	54%
Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	72%	89%	93%
Population	28%	80%	87%
R&D Expenditure (R&D)	94%	99%	99%

PCT Applications



+10.7% in 2011

KR-17
14.10.10

Top PCT Applicants 2011

1. ZTE Corporation—CN (2826)
2. Panasonic—JP (2463)
3. Huawei—CN (1831)
4. Sharp—JP (1755)
5. Bosch—DE (1518)
6. Qualcomm—US (1494)
7. Toyota—JP (1417)
8. LG Electronics—KR (1336)
9. Philips—NL (1148)
10. Ericsson—SE (1116)
11. NEC—JP (1056)
12. Siemens—DE (1039)
13. Mitsubishi Electric—JP (834)
14. BASF—DE (773)
15. Samsung Electronics—KR (757)
16. Nokia—FI (698)
17. IBM—US (661)
18. HP—US (591)
19. 3M—US (563)
20. Hitachi—JP (547)

Top University PCT Applicants 2011

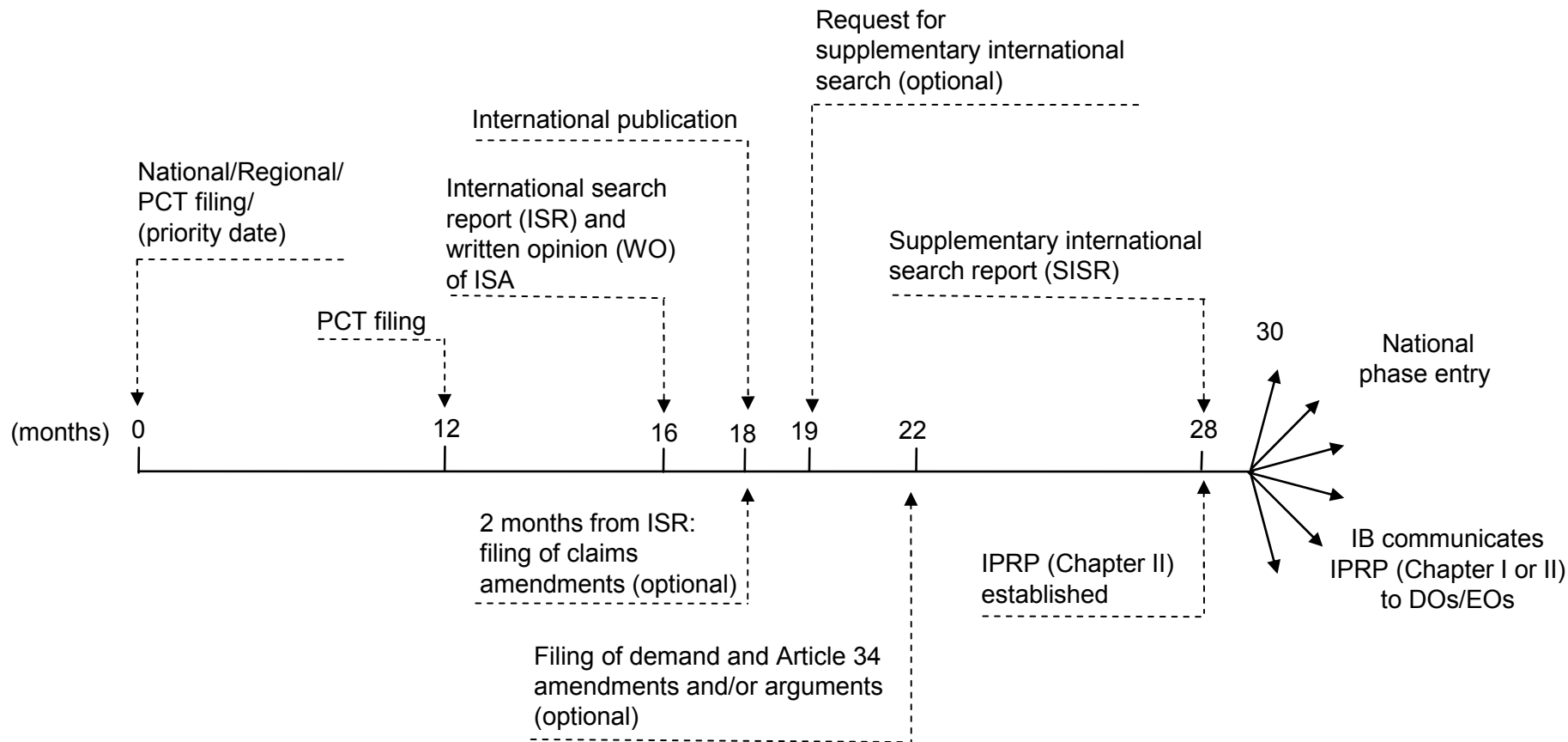
1. University of California
2. MIT
3. University of Texas (127)
4. Johns Hopkins
5. Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
6. Seoul National University
7. University of Tokyo
8. University of Michigan
9. Cornell University
10. Harvard University
11. University of Florida
12. Columbia University
13. Leland Stanford University
14. Kyoto University
15. University of Pennsylvania
16. Isis Innovation Limited
17. Korea University
18. Cal Tech
19. Osaka University
20. Arizona State University



The PCT Procedure

- International phase

PCT PROCEDURE



Who may file a PCT application?

- The applicant can be any natural person or legal entity (for example, the assignee, the inventor)
- It is possible to indicate different applicants for different designated States (Rule 4.5(d));
 - if the US is designated, the inventor(s) must be indicated as applicant(s) for the US, or, in case of a deceased inventor, the legal representative, heir(s), etc.
- At least one of the applicants must be a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State (Rule 18.3)

Where to file the international application?

- With a competent receiving Office (RO)
- An Office is competent if at least one applicant is a national of or resident in the State for which the Office acts
- Such Office may be
 - a national Office
 - the International Bureau of WIPO (RO/IB), or
 - a regional Office

For details, see PCT Applicant's Guide, International Phase, General Information, Annexes B1 and B2

Who can act as agent?

- Any person (attorney, patent agent, etc.) who has the right to practice before the RO can act as agent and automatically has the right to practice before the IB, the International Searching Authority (ISA) and the International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) (Article 49);
- Sub-agents may be appointed by agents (Rule 90.1(d)).
- Where the International Bureau is the receiving Office, see Rule 83.1*bis*

The PCT International Searching Authorities

- Currently, the Patent Offices of
 - Australia
 - Austria
 - Brazil
 - Canada
 - China
 - Finland
 - Japan
 - Republic of Korea
 - Russian Federation
 - Spain
 - Sweden
 - United States of America
 - European Patent Office
 - Nordic Patent Institute

- Appointed but not yet operational: the Patent Offices of Egypt, India and Israel

The International Searching Authority

- Checks unity of invention
- Checks title and abstract
- Searches claimed invention
- Authorizes rectification of obvious mistakes in the application
- Establishes international search report (ISR) and/or declaration that no international search report will be established
- Establishes a written opinion of the ISA opinion on novelty, inventive step (non-obviousness) and industrial applicability of the claimed invention

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	JP 50-14535 B (NCR CORPORATION) 28 May 1975 (28.05.75), column 4, lines 3 to 27	7-9, 11
X	GB 392415 A (JONES) 18 May 1933 (18.05.33) Fig. 1 page 3, lines 5-7 Fig. 5, support 36	1-3
Y		4, 10
A		11-12
X	GB 2174500 A (STC) 5 November 1986 (05.11.86) page 1, lines 5-15, 22-34, 46-80; Fig. 1	1-3
Y		4
A	US 4322752 A (BIXTY) 30 March 1982 (30.03.82) claim 1	1
A	GREEN, J.P. Integrated Circuit and Electronic Compass, IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin, October 1975, Vol. 17, No. 6, pages 1344 and 1345	1-5

Symbols indicating which aspect of patentability the document cited is relevant to (for example, novelty, inventive step, etc.)

Documents relevant to whether or not your invention may be patentable

The claim numbers in your application to which the document is relevant

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	<u>Claim(s) 3-15</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>Claim(s) 16</u>	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	<u>Claim(s) 8, 10-12</u>	YES
	Claims	<u>Claim(s) 3-7, 9, 14-16</u>	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	<u>Claim(s) 3-16</u>	YES
	Claims	_____	NO

2. Citations and explanations:

INDEPENDENT CLAIM 3

Document US-A-5 332 238, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses (cf. relevant passages indicated in the ISR) a device from which the subject-matter of **INDEPENDENT CLAIM 3**

Document US-A-5 332 238, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art,

Reasoning
supporting the
assessment

Patentability
assessment
of claims

INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
ORGANIZATION

International Preliminary Examination

- Optional procedure
- Generally requested to overcome negative observations in the written opinion of the International Searching Authority
- Allows the applicant to amend description, claims and drawings
- Allows the applicant to file arguments
- Applicant may request an oral interview with the examiner
- An international preliminary examination report (also called international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter II)) is established



The PCT Procedure

- National phase

General national requirements

Art. 22(1) and 39(1)(a)

- Requirements:
 - Translation, if applicable
 - Payment of national fee
 - Copy of international application in particular circumstances only
- Time limit under Art. 22(1): 30 months from the priority date
 - For additional time, see PCT Applicant's Guide, national phase summaries
 - For exceptions, see www.wipo.int/pct/en/texts/reservations/res_incomp.html
- Time limit under Art. 39(1)(a): 30 months from the priority date
 - For additional time, see PCT Applicant's Guide, national phase summaries

Special national requirements allowed under the PCT (Art. 27 and Rule 51*bis*.1)

- Time limit under Rule 51*bis*.3:
 - If requirements are not fulfilled within the time limit for entry into national phase under Art. 22 or 39:
 - Invitation by DO
 - At least 2 months from the invitation
- Some examples:
 - Appointment of agent
 - Assignment documents
 - Translation of application in more than one copy

Documents which may normally not be required

- If the applicant filed declarations under Rule 4.17
 - Documents relating to the identity of the inventor
 - Documents relating to the applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent
 - Documents relating to the applicant's right to claim priority
- Copy of a priority document if the document was filed within the time limit under Rule 17.1
- Translation of the priority document



The PCT as a Strategy for Filing Foreign Applications

Strategies (1)

- Early or late filing in the priority year
- Automatic designation of all States bound by the PCT at the international filing date
- Withdrawal of certain designations to avoid automatic withdrawal of priority application (JP, KR) or signature requirements (US)
- Final decision by management or client needs to be made only prior to entry into the national phase
- Filing of a demand for international preliminary examination
 - to ensure a 30-month time limit for all designated States
 - only if needed to overcome any objections in international search report and written opinion of ISA through amendments/arguments
- 8 or 18 months more time during which improved translations can be prepared for entry into the national phase

Strategies (2)

- Gain time to
 - better identify possible markets
 - find partners (licenses)
 - better evaluate the technical value of the invention
- Increased chance for obtaining stronger foreign patents
- The final version of the claims is drafted when the commercial value of the invention is better known
- Early entry into the national phase - early issuance of patent
- Better information about possible conflicting applications by competitors prior to national entry, enabling adjustment of filing strategy and negotiating position
- International publication does not inform third parties before which designated Offices patent protection will be further pursued



Advantages of the PCT

- A unique procedure
- Greater flexibility
- Further features

Advantages of the PCT: a unique procedure

- One application, in one language, filed with one Office, replaces multiple foreign filings until entry into the national phase
- Permits last minute foreign filing (before expiration of priority year)
- International filing date has the effect of national filing date in all designated Offices
- Uniform formal requirements accepted by all designated Offices
- Greater home control of the prosecution
- Decision on foreign filings can be postponed up to 30 months from the priority date at minimal cost
- Enables assessment of economic value of the invention and the chances of obtaining a patent before entering national phase

Advantages of the PCT: greater flexibility

- Keep options open by making all possible designations for all types of protection
- Various possibilities for withdrawal
- International publication can be prevented or postponed until as late as 15 days before the actual publication date – conditional withdrawal possible
- Further expenses can be avoided simply by no longer prosecuting the application or not entering the national phase
- Amendments made during the international phase have effect in all designated/elected States
- More time for better quality translation for the national phase
- Better planning of the expenditures for the national phase

Advantages of the PCT: further features

- Postponing national filings costs earns interest on capital
- Fee reductions in national phase in certain national Offices
- More straightforward and rapid national patent granting
- Less restrictive unity of invention requirements permit a reduced number of applications in the US
- Provisional protection after publication at 18 months from the priority date (in countries which afford such protection)
- 90% reduction in PCT fees for applicants from certain Contracting States



PCT-SAFE and e-Services developments

Contents

- PCT e-Services
- E-mail authorization
- Retrieval of priority documents via Priority Document Access Service (DAS)
- PCT e-payment
- PCT Online Document Upload
- Future developments
- Further information

PCT e-Services

- In May 2010 the PCT-SAFE Unit was renamed the PCT e-Services Unit.
- The Team's mandate now includes customer support for additional services.
- The PCT e-Services Team offer support for the following services:
 - PCT-SAFE and PCT e-filing
 - WIPO Certification Authority – certificate issuance and administration
 - DAS - new
 - PCT e-payment – new
 - PCT Online Document Upload – new
- The Team will be supporting additional PCT e-Services in the future.

E-mail authorization

- It is possible to request that certain notifications be sent to the Agent/Applicant via e-mail:
 - In electronic form only, or
 - In electronic form with a paper confirmation copy.
- The e-mail address is indicated on the PCT-SAFE Names page.
- A validation check is made to ensure that the e-mail address given is in a valid format and that there is only one address per field.

E-mail authorization: PCT-SAFE

Details concerning Agent

Legal entity Natural person

Name: DAVIS Registration No. 44-111

First Name: Catherine

Country or territory: US United States of America Telephone: (+1-301) 557-3054

Address: 2500 Virginia Avenue, N.W. Facsimile: (+1-301) 557-3060

City: Washington e-mail: catherine@davispatent.com

The competent PCT Authorities are authorized to use this e-mail address, if the Authority so wishes, to send notifications issued in respect of this international application:

as advance copies followed by paper notifications

exclusively in electronic form (no paper notifications will be sent)

Same address as the first-named agent.

OK Cancel

- Indicate a valid e-mail address.
- Select the type of e-mail notification required (electronic only or advanced + paper confirmation).
- The e-mail authorization checkboxes will only be activated once a valid e-mail address has been indicated.

Retrieval of priority document via DAS

- In certain cases it is possible to request that the International Bureau retrieve a copy of an earlier application, in electronic form, via the Priority Document Access Service (DAS) to meet PCT priority document requirements.
- Currently, the service is only available for earlier filed national applications if filed with AU, ES, GB, JP, KR, US and international applications filed with the RO/IB.
- The Office with which the earlier national application was filed is known as the Office of First Filing (OFF).
- The Office that retrieves the document is known as the Office of Second Filing (OSF).

Main steps for the use of DAS

- Request the OFF to make the earlier application available via DAS.
- File the PCT international application and request the IB to retrieve the priority document via DAS by checking the appropriate box on the request form.
- Go to the DAS portal and grant access permission to the IB to retrieve the priority document.
[this step is best taken before the PCT international application has been filed to ensure that the IB can retrieve the priority document before the expiration of the 16 month time limit].
- The IB retrieves the priority document via DAS and sends a confirmation of retrieval to the applicant by means of the form PCT/IB/304.

Requesting DAS p-doc retrieval

Details of Priority Claim of Earlier Application

National Regional International (PCT)

Country: US United States of America

Filing date: 10 October 2009 15

Number: 61/274,654

The International Bureau is requested to obtain from a digital library a certified copy of the above-identified earlier application.

The receiving Office is requested to obtain from a digital library a certified copy of the above-identified earlier application and transmit it to the International Bureau.

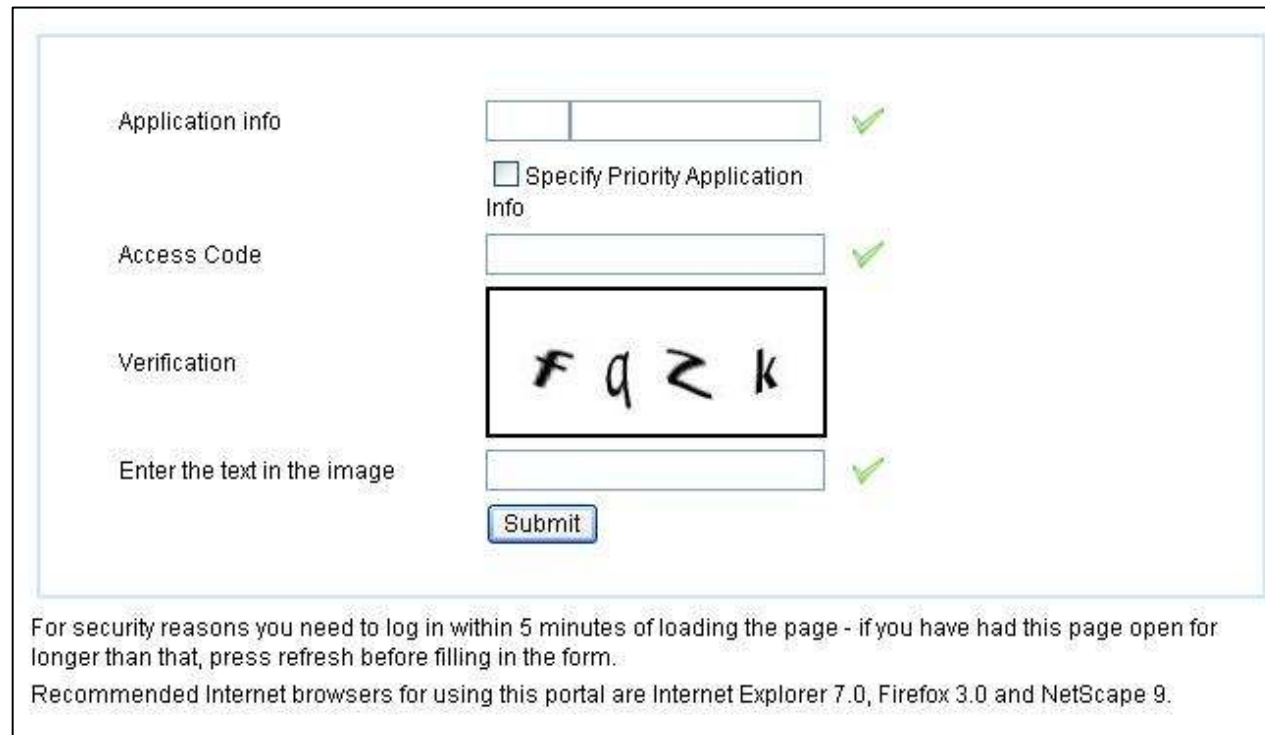
The receiving Office is requested to prepare and transmit to the International Bureau a certified copy of the above-identified earlier application.

The receiving Office is requested to restore the right of priority

OK Cancel

- Select the checkbox on the Priority details page for the corresponding priority claim.
- DAS retrieval is currently possible for national applications filed with the following Offices: AU, ES, GB, JP, KR and US.
- DAS retrieval is currently possible for PCT applications filed with RO/IB only.

DAS – log in



The screenshot shows a login form with the following fields and elements:

- Application info:** Two input fields for country code and application number, with a green checkmark to the right.
- Specify Priority Application Info
- Access Code:** One input field, with a green checkmark to the right.
- Verification:** A rectangular image containing the handwritten text "F q z k".
- Enter the text in the image:** One input field, with a green checkmark to the right.
- Submit:** A blue button located below the input fields.

For security reasons you need to log in within 5 minutes of loading the page - if you have had this page open for longer than that, press refresh before filling in the form.
Recommended Internet browsers for using this portal are Internet Explorer 7.0, Firefox 3.0 and NetScape 9.

- Log in to DAS by indicating the earlier application information (country code and application number), the access code and the captcha text.

DAS - Granting access permission

Priority Document Access Service

You are logged into the secured Priority Document Access Service - Test version. **Test** [Log out](#)

Priority Document: IL 192774

Query Pdoc Update Access Control List Update Control Code Update Applicant Email

Access Control List

Select	Office code ^	State or Office of second filing ^	Access Granted on ^
<input type="checkbox"/>	AU	IP Australia P.O. Box 200 Woden ACT 2606	Mar 3, 2010
<input type="checkbox"/>	CA	Canadian Patent Office The Commissioner of Patents Ottawa Ontario K1A 0C9	Mar 3, 2010
<input type="checkbox"/>	CN	6 Xituchenglu, Jimen Bridge, Haidian District, P.O. Box 8020, Beijing 100088	Jun 10, 2010
<input type="checkbox"/>	EP	Phoenix Support Help Desk Att. C. Hamm, Room S00G12, P.O. Box 5818 NL- 2280 HV Rijswijk	Oct 23, 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	ES	Paseo de la Castellana 75, 28020 Madrid	Oct 23, 2009
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FI	Arkadiankatu 6A FIN-00100 Helsinki	Oct 23, 2009
<input type="checkbox"/>	FR	Service de l'Examen des Demandes PCT 97, boulevard Carnot F-59040 Lille Cedex	Mar 23, 2010
<input type="checkbox"/>	GB	United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (an operating name of the Patent Office) Concept House, Cardiff Road Newport, South Wales NP10 8QQ	Apr 16, 2010
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	IB	Bureau international de l'OMPI 34, chemin des Colombettes Geneve 20 12111	Mar 3, 2010
<input type="checkbox"/>	JP	403 Kasumigaseki 3-chome, Chiyoda-ku, TOKYO 100-8915	Mar 23, 2010
<input type="checkbox"/>	KR	Government Complex-Daejeon 139 Seonsa-ro, Seo-gu Daejeon 302-701	Oct 23, 2009

- Select the Office (IB) to grant permission to retrieve the priority document.

PCT e-payment

- Certain types of PCT fees can be paid to the RO/IB or the IB by credit card:
 - ❑ to the RO/IB – filing fees for a new PCT international application.
 - ❑ to the IB – fees for a supplementary international search (SIS).
- For a new application filed with the RO/IB, select the method of payment ‘credit card (e-payment)’ and provide a valid e-mail address for the person authorized to make the credit card payment.
- Once the fees have been processed by the RO/IB examiner, an e-mail will be sent to the address provided on the Payment page. That e-mail will contain a link to a secure webpage where the credit card details for the payment of the fees for the application can be entered.

PCT Online Document Upload

- A service for submitting post-filing electronic documents via a web interface to the IB and RO/IB after they have started processing an application (receipt of Form PCT/IB/301).
- Documents that may be uploaded: e.g. general correspondence, Rule 92*bis* changes, declarations, translations.
- Only PDF documents can be uploaded via the service (sequence listings for supplementary international search purposes accepted as .zip, .txt and .app files).
- It is recommended that **PDF-text** documents be uploaded, i.e., documents created in MS Word (or other word processor) and then printed to PDF.
- The IB recommends the use of text string signatures on accompanying letters, e.g., "/ John Smith /".
- **NOT** to be used for the initial filing of international applications.

PCT Online Document Upload

	Document Type	File Name ↕	File Size	view/download
	Notice of Withdrawal	92bis.pdf	9 KB	
	General Correspondence	General corresp.pdf	9 KB	

- An e-mail confirming that the documents have been uploaded is sent to the address indicated at the start of the transaction.
- User Guide with full details available in the PCT Service Center.

Future developments

- Secure online file inspection
 - Create a user profile in order to be able to have access to a variety of PCT services (this may be extended in the future to other WIPO services) that may require a user login or secure access.
 - Using the user profile and a valid digital certificate for authentication the authorized agent/applicant would be able to access his/her unpublished PCT international application data.

Further information

- PCT-SAFE home page <http://www.wipo.int/pct-safe>
- DAS home page
http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/priority_documents/
- PCT Service Center home page
http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/service_center/



Where to get information?

Where to get information?

- For further information on the PCT, see
www.wipo.int/pct
- For general questions on the PCT, contact the PCT Information Service:
 - ☐ Telephone: (+41-22) 338 83 38
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