

Topic 2: Growing transparency of examination in the PCT National Phases

Lutz Mailänder Head, Cooperation on Examination and Training Section PCT International Cooperation Division

> Yaoundé Octobre 8, 2019

Agenda

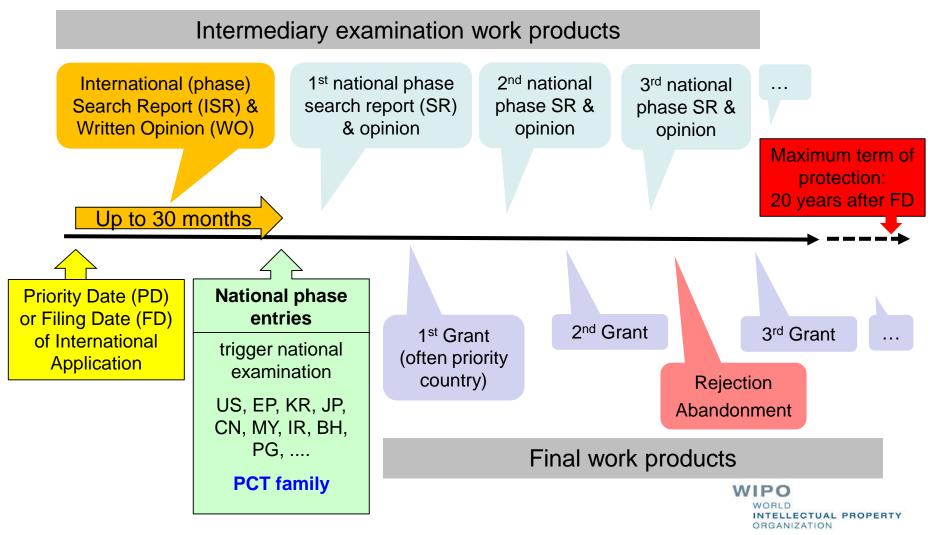
Growing transparency because of work-sharing platforms

- Diversity of examination work-products
 - Visible for other examiners
 - Visible for third parties
- Opportunities and implications for national phase examination
 - Enhancing efficiency and improving quality
 - Regional cooperation cooperative examination
 - Monitoring of quality:

Has an examiner seen what he could have seen?

WIPO WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

Life cycle of a PCT application patent family



Work-Sharing through patent families

- Patent family: same or similar invention was filed in several IPOs, e.g. a PCT application entered several national phases
- **PCT family**: all applications linked through same PCT application number
- Simple family or extended family: may include more than one PCT family (e.g. WO2014136037 has WO2014136055 in SF; WO2015058464 has 31 WO in EF)
- Examination results/work products for members of the patent family may be utilized for improving **efficiency** and **quality** of examination
 - Opportunities for small/under-resourced IPOs

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Types of examination work products

Intermediary or pre-grant work products

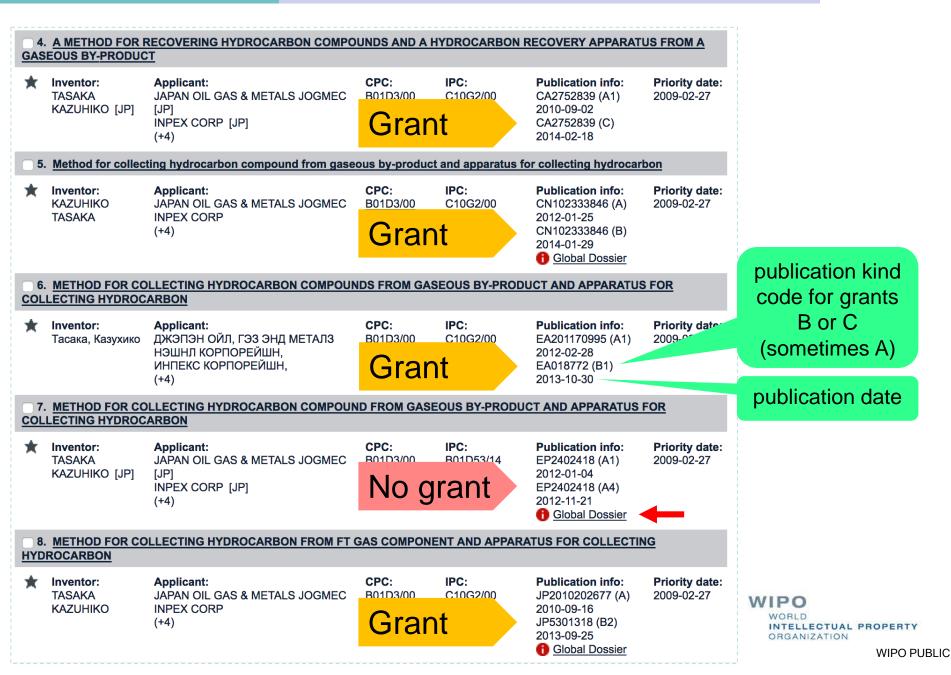
- Search reports
 - basic list of citations (cited by examiner, by applicant)
 - enriched search reports (citation category X, Y, ..; relevant claims;...)

Search strategies

- Written opinions, examination reports
- Communications from applicant to examiner
- Protocols of hearings
- Third party observations
- **Final** work products/results
 - Granted claims; claims after opposition
 - Rejections; withdrawals following substantive reports; abandoned claims
- **Post-grant** work products/results
 - Additional prior art from opposition/re-examination/invalidation
 - Restricted claims
 - Communications between involved parties (3+)

WO2010098129 Inpadoc family table in Espacenet





WO2010098129 Status EP family member

Europāisches Patentamt European Patent Office Office européen des brevets	European Patent Register
4 About European Patent Registe	r Other EPO online services 👻
Smart search Advanced search	Help
EP2402418	All documents: EP2402418 Dossier alert: RSS Kenail
European procedure	
About this file	Zei Refine search ↓ Selected documents ↓ Zip Archive Espacenet Constructions II Report error
Legal status	
Federated register	All documents(38) Search
Event history	
Citations	□ Date Document type
Patent family	
All documents	18.09.2017 <u>Closing of application</u>
	07.06.2017 Application deemed to be withdrawn (translations of claims/payment missing from 01-04-2012)
Quick help –	04.04.2017 Notice drawing attention to the payment of the renewal fee and additional fee
 → Is it possible to download documents? → Is it possible to print a list of all 	21.12.2016 Bibliographic data of the European patent application
the documents? → Can I sort the list of documents?	21.12.2016 Communication about intention to grant a European patent
<u>Is it possible to open one of the</u> <u>documents?</u> Can Lanan multiple documents in	21.12.2016 Intention to grant (signatures)
 <u>Can I open multiple documents in</u> <u>separate windows?</u> Is it possible to print a document? 	21.12.2016 Text intended for grant
Maintenance news +	21.12.2016 Text intended for grant (clean copy)

What is needed for work-sharing?

Comprehensive patent family information, detailed as

- Simple family (all priorities are the same; descriptions are very likely equivalent)
 - Distinguishing PCT families
- Extended family (largest possible family)
- Examination (legal) status information
- Access to examination work products/dossiers
- Platforms which integrate this information user friendly
- Translation tools for work products
- Tools for comparing work products
 - Citations (search reports)
 - Claims
- Information on differing national practices (naming and content of work products; important case law; exclusions; ..)

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

Sources of family information

- **Family building**: family relations are derived from priority and PCT application data
- EPO processes bibliographic data of all publications included in its database and obtained from offices sharing publication data with the EPO (90+ jurisdictions)
- EPO's INPADOC database is major source of such family information, accessible through:
 - Espacenet, EP-Register and CCD (simple and extended families; domestic families)
 - Other free patent information databases, like Depatis, Google Patents, ...
- WIPO's PATENTSCOPE aggregates national phase entry data <u>reported</u> from Designated/Elected Offices (obligation as from July 1, 2017; rule 95)
- WIPO CASE performs family building based on application data shared by 'providing offices'; families are complex families (i.e. share at least one priority)
- Commercial patent databases obtain and use widely INPADOC data, and apply proprietary family building rules and data cleaning, e.g.
 - Clarivate/Derwent: WPI family
 - Questel/Orbit: Fampat family

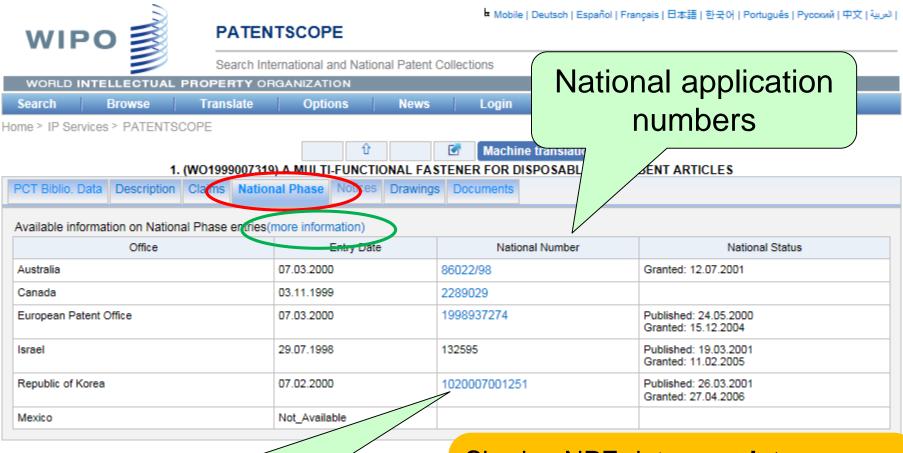
...

Other specialized platforms, e.g. WIPO's Pat-Informed

Source of family information: Espacenet

Europäisches Patentamt European Patent Office Office européen des brevets	Espacenet Patent search	Deutsch English Français Contact Change country ▼	
About Espacenet Other EPO of the oth	online services 🔻		
Search 🛛 Result list 📄 🜟 M	y patents list (0) Query history Settings Help		
WO2007111918 (A2)	Bibliographic data: WO2007111918 (A2) —2007-10	-04	
Bibliographic data Description	★ In my patents list > EP Register -> Report data error	🖨 Print	
Claims Mosaics Original document	HEAT PROCESSING SYSTEMS, APPARATUSES, AND METHODS INFECTIOUS AND MEDICAL WASTE	FOR COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF	
Cited documents Citing documents	Page bookmark WO2007111918 (A2) - HEAT PROCESSING SYSTEMS, APP AND DISPOSAL OF INFECTIOUS AND MEDICAL WASTE	ARATUSES, AND METHODS FOR COLLECTION	
INPADOC legal status INPADOC patent family	Applican Inpadoc ('extended') fam	ily Priorities (here 2 US)
Quick help _	Classification: - international: A61B19/02; A61L11/00; A61M5/32; B09B3/00		
What does A1, A2, A3 and B stand for after a European publication number?	- cooperative: <u>A61B19/0288; A61L1//00; B09B3/0075; B09E</u> <u>A61B2019/024; A61B2019/0294</u> ; <u>A61B2019/0294</u> ; <u>A61B2019/02</u>	create fam	ily relations
What happens if I click on "In my patents list"?	Application number: WO2007US07071 20070322		
What happens if I click on the "Register" button?	Priority number(s): US20060785512P 20060323 ; US20060785548P 20060323		
 Why are some sidebar options deactivated for certain 	Also published as: <u>□ WO2007111918 (A3)</u> → <u>UY30238 (A1)</u> <u>□ US2007224077 (A1</u>) <u>□</u> <u>TW200812650 (A)</u> → <u>PE12992007 (A1)</u> → <u>more</u>	
 <u>documents?</u> <u>How can I bookmark this page?</u> <u>Why does a list of documents</u> with the heading "Also published 	Abstract of WO2007111918 (A2)		
as" sometimes appear, and what are these documents? Why do I sometimes find the abstract of a corresponding document?	Translate this text into i Bulgarian I Patenttranslate powered by EPO and Google	mple family ('equival	lents')
What happens if I click on the red "patent translate" button?	Various embodiments of systems and methods for collection and disposal of infectious and medical waste are disclosed. An embodiment includes a system with a body having a chamber that receives a container of medical waste. The chamber may include a canister that has limited access to the interior of the	34 ²⁰	ORLD TELLECTUAL PROPERTY RGANIZATION
			WIPO PUBLIC

National phase entries in Patentscope

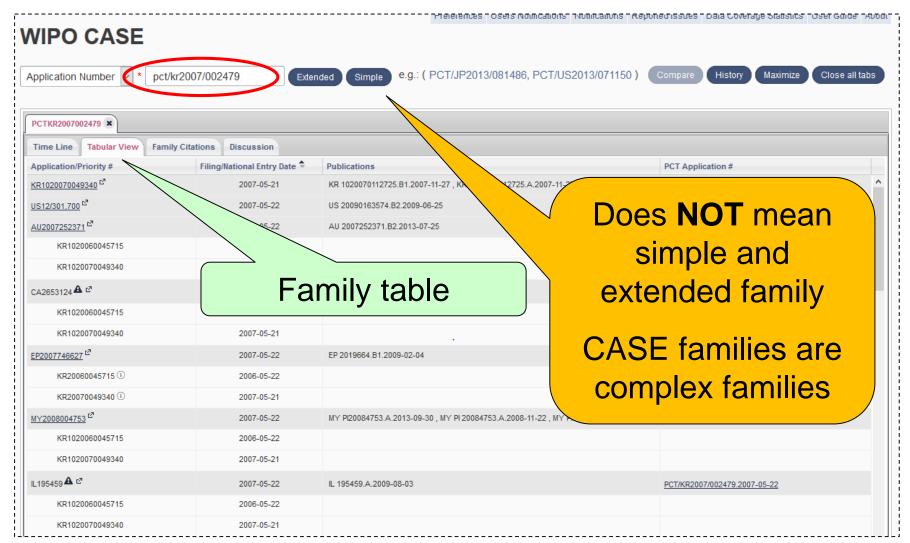


Hyperlinked to national registers

Sharing NPE data **mandatory** as from July 2017

Currently some 60 jurisdictions

WIPO CASE family table



Patent family in Global Dossier (USPTO)

uspto									About Us	Careers Co	ntact Us			
Global Dos	ssier													
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Office WIPO -	Type PCT	Application	PCT/US2014/	/052705	Q 0		Domes	tic 🔹 🕻	ollections	D History	. 0			
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EPOSIPO	🔺 EA	201690475			Extended		US PCT/US14/52705 US 61870089	EA 201690475 A1	06/30/2016					
	🔺 AR	P140103202			family, no		US 61870089	AR 097461 A1	03/16/2016					
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Comparison of family data of 4 samples

	1		1			1
Status as of Jun 3, 2019	EPO Inpadoc	USPTO GD	Patentscope NPE	WIPO CASE	Consolidated	Google
PCT/KR2007/002479	25: AU, BR, CA,	= Inpadoc	18 : AU, CA, CN,	22: AU, BR, CA,	34: AU, BR, CA,	25: AU, BR, CA,
stable composition	CN, CR, EA, EC,		CO , CR, DZ, EA,	CN, CR, EC, EP,	CN , CO, CR, DZ,	CN, CR, EA, EC,
	EP, GE, GT , HK ,		EG , EP, GE, IN, JP,	GE, ID , IL, IN, JP,	EA, EC, EG, <mark>EP</mark> ,	EP, GE, GT, HK, IL,
	IL, JP, 2x KR, MA,		MX, NO, NZ, PH ,	KR, MA, MN , MY,	GE, GT, HK, ID, IL,	JP, 2xKR, MA, MX,
	MX, MY, NZ, SV,		US	MX, SG , SV, VN ,	JP, 2xKR, MA,	MY, NZ, SV, TN,
	TN, UA , US, ZA			US	MN, MX , MY, NO,	UA, US, ZA
	(./.ES)				NZ, PH, SG, SV,	(./.ES)
					TN, UA, <mark>US</mark> , VN,	
					ZA	
PCT/JP2010/001325	12 : AU, BR, CA,	= Inpadoc	7: AU, CA, CN, EA,	13 : AU, BR, CA,	15: AU, BR, CA,	12: AU, BR, CA,
collecting hydrocarbon compound	CN, EA, EP, JP,		EP, US	CN, EP, ID , JP, MY,	CN, EA, EP, ID, JP,	CN, EA, EP, JP,
	MY, 2xUS, ZA			TH, VN , 2xUS	MY, TH, 2x <mark>US</mark> , VN,	MY, 2xUS, ZA
					ZA	
PCT/US2014/052705	13 : AR, AU, CA,	= Inpadoc + IL	13: AU, CA, CN,	13 : AR, AU, BR,	19 : AR, AU , BR,	15 : AP , AR, AU,
composite barrier	CL, CN, EA, EP,		EA, EP, GE , ID, IL,	CL, CN, EA, EP, ID,	CA, CL, CN , EA ,	CA, CL, CN, EA, EP,
	MA, MX, PE, TN ,		MA, MX, PE, UA	IN , MA, MX, MY	EP , GE, ID, IN,	IL , MA, MX, PE,
	US				MA, MX, MY, PE,	TN, US
					TN, UA, US	
PCT/IB2016/000305	21: AR, AU, BR,	= Inpadoc + IL	20: AU, CA, CN,	19 : AR, AU, BR,	30: AR, AU, BR,	21: AU, BR, CA,
mercury based compound	CA, CL, CN, CO,		CO, CR, EA, EP,	CN, CU, DO, EA,	CA, CL, CN , CO,	CL, CN, CO, CR,
	CR, CU, DO, EA,		GE , IL, JP, KR, MX,	EP, ID , IN , JP, KR,	CR, CU, DO, EA ,	CU, DO, EA, EP, IL,
	EP , JP, KR, MX,		2xNI , PE, PH, SG,	MX, MY , PE, PH,	EP, GE, ID, IL, IN,	JP, KR, MX, PE,
	PE, PH, SG, TW ,		UA , US	VN, US	JP, KR , MX , MY,	PH, SG, TW, US
	US				2xNI, PE, PH , SG,	
					TW, VN, UA, US	
	Green Bold: prese	nt in all 4 databases				
	Black Bold: preser	nt only in one databas	se			
	Counts include PC	T applications				

What is available for work-sharing?

Primary sources: National Patent Registers are authoritative sources for

- national legal status (!),
- national family relations (divisions, continuations)
- national publications,
- access to national **dossiers** (public file inspection).
- For some countries, national registers are accessible online and therefore useful for work-sharing:
 - legal status only: AP, AR, CL, GC, ID, MY, PH, SA, ZA, …
 - dossier as well: AU, BR, CA, CN, DE, EP, FI, GB, IL, IN, JP, KR, MX, SE, TW, US, ..
- RSS feeds enable examiners of other offices and other experts to be alerted of changes to status/dossiers
- Many registers enable deeplinking



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Quick Search Advanced Search	Patent (1)	Utility Model (0)	Industrial Design (0)	Trademark	<(0)
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WIPO patent register portal

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What is available for work-sharing?

Secondary work-sharing platforms ("one-stop-shop") aggregate information or enable access to work products from several authoritative sources (Registers)

Espacenet

Includes INPADOC data:

- Very (most?) comprehensive extended and simple family data
- National and regional legal status of jurisdictions sharing such data with EPO

Includes **Global Dossier** (IP5 initiative)

- Access to IP5 Offices' file wrappers/dossiers (One Portal Dossier)
 - always up-to-date because it is retrieved on-the-fly from IP5 national registers
 - Machine translation for non-English documents
 - Status may often be derived from recent dossier documents
 - Inpadoc legal status sometimes include complementary status that cannot be derived from most recent communication
- Access to non-IP5 dossiers of 'providing' Offices of WIPO-CASE

partly operational (AU, CA, ..)

WIPO WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

What is available for work-sharing?

Secondary platforms ...

Espacenet ...

Includes Global Dossier

integrated access to Common Citation Document (CCD):

- viewing <u>and</u> comparing of citations from members of extended and simple families from AP, AU, CA, CN, DE, EA, EP, JP, KR, RU, TW, US, WO,
- comparing: which examiners have seen a particular citation or an equivalent thereof

USPTO Global Dossier

- Website dedicated to Global Dossier (appears to be still under development)
- Access to same dossiers like Espacenet GD (IP5 and CASE 'providing offices')
- presents only extended family information (without WO member); i.e. doesn't permit to view/select only simple family/PCT family
- Integrated application 'Citation List' (under development) to view comprehensive lists of citations from family members (backward and forward); not suitable for 'comparing'

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

Global Dossier at USPTO

uspto									About Us	Careers	Conta	ict Us
Global Do	ssie	er										
Home Public Pair	Co	ommon Cit	tation Documen	t			Current Se	ervice Status S	Service Hours	Help I	Email Us	ß
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What is available for work-sharing?

Secondary platforms ...

WIPO-CASE (non public)

- Accessible only for 'accessing' and 'providing' Offices
- | 'providing' offices share their dossiers with other participating offices
- Includes IP5 dossiers obtained from GD/OPD & AU, CA, GB, IL, IN, NZ, ...
- Family information includes only so-called 'complex' families
 - Proprietary family building based on applications of 'providing' Offices recorded in CASE, and NPEs recorded in Patentscope
- Majority of dossiers are also publicly accessible through Patentscope 'document' tab (labelled as 'Global Dossier') and Global Dossier

PATENTSCOPE

- Access to WIPO CASE dossiers in 'document' tab (labelled as 'Global Dossier')
- Includes PCT family (limited; only NPEs reported to WIPO from Designated and Elected Offices); only visible for WO publications; no separate family building
- No extended or simple families (EPO data are not integrated)
- No citation data

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

'GD' in Patentscope (WIPO CASE data)

WIP	0	PATENT	SCOPE		🖬 Mobile	Deutsch Es	spañol Français 日本語 한국어 Português Русский 中文	العربية 2
		Search Inte	mational and Nati	onal Patent Co	llections			
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lome > IP Servio	1. (IN2	201637003071) CO	MPOSITIONS AN		FOR IDENTIFY	ING A RIS	K OF CANCER IN A SUBJECT	
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25.07.2016		FORM 3					`	
25.07.2016		OTHER	PATENT DOCUME	NT			only NPE family inforr	nation
24.02.2016		CORRE	SPONDENCE				reported to WIPO, and	d only
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28.01.2016		CORRE	SPONDENCE				when viewing the resp	Jective
28.01.2016		FORM-1					PCT)	
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28.01.2016		WO7692	A1				PDF	RTY

···· O PUBLIC

Secondary platforms for work-sharing

- Espacenet, US-Global Dossier, WIPO-CASE and Patentscope are (at the present) complementary to each other
- Shall, in future, cover access to same set of dossiers
- Which one to use then?
 - Better user interface?
 - Searching, viewing, exporting, ...
 - Additional tools (comparing, translations, alerts, ..)
 - Additional information (citations, enriched citations, different types of families, ...)
- Many national registers already enable deep linking
- Do we still need secondary platforms then? Or just a 'federated register' linking to national registers

How different are examination results?

Sample WO2008035580

- 2 JP priorities
- Extended family: 39 members
- Simple family: 35 members

Derived from kind codes of publications recorded in Espacenet

Simple family:

grants in AP, AU, CA, 2xCN, NZ, EA, EP, KR, MA, MX, MY, NZ, TW, UA, US, PH, VN,?

Extended family:

further grants in: 2xJP (priority country)

Pendency: 2-10 years

- 2006-09-20 earliest priority date
- 2008-09-03 JP grant
- 2016-10-26 EP

Still pending in BH, LA,..



Examples of grants: WO2008035580

WO-A1 = AU-B2 = JP-B1

1. A plant cultivation system comprising:

- a nonporous hydrophilic film for cultivating a plant thereon, and

 a feeding means for supplying water or a nutrient fluid to the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film in the absence of a hydroponic tank for accommodating water or a nutrient fluid and cultivating a plant therein.

CA-C

- 1. A plant cultivation system comprising:
- a nonporous hydrophilic film for cultivating a plant thereon;

 a feeding means for feeding water or a nutrient fluid to the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film,

 said feeding means comprising at least one layer which is a water impermeable material layer or a water absorbing material layer,

- said at least one layer is laid and extends under said nonporous hydrophilic film,

 wherein, when said feeding means comprises both the water impermeable material layer and the water absorbing material layer, the water absorbing material layer is disposed between said nonporous hydrophilic film and said water impermeable material layer and in contact with the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film;

 and a drip tube as an irrigation means for supplying water or a nutrient fluid to the feeding means,

 said drip tube being disposed below said nonporous hydrophilic film in a man- ner such that water or a nutrient fluid supplied from the drip tube is fed to the lower surface of the nonporous hydrophilic film.

CA granted heavily modified claim

AU, JP granted initial claims

without any modification

CONTRACTOR OF CO

Examples of grants: WO2008035580

CA-C

1. A plant cultivation system comprising:

- a nonporous hydrophilic film for cultivating a plant thereon;

 a feeding means for feeding water or a nutrient fluid to the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film,

- said feeding means comprising at least one layer which is a water impermeable material

layer or a water absorbing material layer,

- said at least one layer is laid and extends under said nonporous hydrophilic film,

 wherein, when said feeding means comprises both the water impermeable material layer and the water absorbing material layer, the water absorbing material layer is disposed between said nonporous hydrophilic film and said water impermeable material layer and in contact with the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film;

 - and a drip tube as an irrigation means for supplying water or a nutrient fluid to the feeding means,

 said drip tube being disposed below said nonporous hydrophilic film in a man- ner such that water or a nutrient fluid supplied from the drip tube is fed to the lower surface of the nonporous hydrophilic film.



US-B2

1. A plant cultivation system comprising:

- a nonporous hydrophilic film for cultivating a plant thereon,
- a feeding means for feeding water or a nutrient fluid to the lower surface of said

nonporous hydrophilic film in the absence of a hydroponic tank for accommodating water or a nutrient fluid and cultivating a plant therein,

- said feeding means comprising at least one layer selected from the group consisting of a water impermeable material layer and a water absorbing material layer,

which is laid and extends under said nonporous hydrophilic film,

 wherein, when said feeding means comprises both of said water impermeable material layer and said water absorbing material layer, said water absorbing material layer is disposed between said nonporous hydrophilic film and said water impermeable material layer and is in contact with the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film,

 - and a drip tube as an irrigation means for supplying water or a nutrient fluid to said feeding means,

 said drip tube disposed below said nonporous hydrophilic film in a manner such that water or nutrient fluid supplied from said drip tube is fed to the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film:

- wherein said nonporous hydrophilic film is a film which exhibits an electrical conductivity (EC) difference of 4.5 dS/m or less,

- said EC difference being determined by a method comprising contacting water with a saline solution having a salt concentration of 0.5% by weight through said nonporous hydrophilic film, measuring the electrical conductivity of each of the water and the saline solution 4 days (96 hours) after the start of the contact, and calculating the difference in electrical conductivity between the water and the saline solution.



ISR: 2 category A documents only

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT	International application No.			
	PCT/JP2007/067578			
A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER <i>A01G27/00</i> (2006.01)i, <i>A01G1/00</i> (2006.01)i, <i>A01G7/00</i> ((2006.01)i, <i>A01G25/00</i> (2006.01)i	2006.01)i, A01G13/00			
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and I	IPC			
B. FIELDS SEARCHED				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols A01G27/00, A01G1/00, A01G7/00, A01G13/00, A01G25/0				
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documentationJitsuyo Shinan Koho1922-1996Jitsuyo Shinan Koho1971-2007Toroku Jitsuyo	Toroku Koho 1996-2007			
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where	e practicable, search terms used)			
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	Only A docu	mer	nts	
Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the rele	eva			
A JP 2001-292643 A (Taiyo Kogyo Kabushik Kaisha), 23 October, 2001 (23.10.01) Full text; all drawing	Only JP pub	licat	tions	
(Family: none) JP 2003-506051 A (E.I. Du Pont De Nemou	urs & 1-13			
Co.), 18 February, 2003 (18.02.03), Full text; all drawings				
& US 6484439 B1 & WO 2001/010192 & EP 1530896 A2	Z AL		WIPO	
				N PROPERTY
				WIPO PUBLI

EP-A4: Supplementary EP search report



SUPPLEMENTARY PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention. EP 07 82 8221 This report shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report

Application Number

									<u> </u>
			US20070376748 US20070376748			-	NIV LAVAL [CA]) - 23 August 2 OLENO TEXTILES TECH INC [1
				~			1] - paragraph [0013]; figure - *		
US examine	ers		EP20070828221	x			NIV LAVAL [CA]) - 30 August 2	2006	1
Also seen b			US20070376748 US20070376748				1 - 16 November 2006 1 - 16 November 2006		
Ŷ	30 August 2006 * paragraph [00 figures *	(2006-08	8-30)	.3];		-	A01G27/00 A01G1/00 A01G7/00 A01G13/00 A01G25/00 A01G31/02		
	of relevan EP 1 695 615 A1	t passages (UNIV)	LAVAL [CA])			to claim	APPLICATION (IPC)	-	
Category			on, where appropriate	€,		Relevant	CLASSIFICATION OF THE	1	
	DOCUMENTS CON	ISIDERE	D TO BE RELE	EVAN	T				

comparing citations in CCD

WORLD

ORGANIZATION

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Explanations for substantial differences

Examiners may have applied different prior art

- Different prior art searches, i.e. prior art documents
- Different priority dates applied
- Differences in **national legislation** (exclusions) or **case law**
- Individual examiner's views/experience
- Patents do not belong to same simple family, i.e. applicants have sought protection for different subject matter (e.g. continuations/divisions); descriptions most likely differ

Reasons for additional citations/searches

- Lack of trust in other work product, e.g. if
 - ISR with only category A documents
 - ISR including citations of only one single jurisdiction
- Claims amended before or with national phase entry (e.g., if ISRs with X citations)
- Claims amended during national phase examination
- Language skills of examiners
- Familiarity/expertise of examiner with relevant documentation
- Strict prior art disclosure requirement, for example in the US

CONCLUSIONS

- ISR and WO may be very useful for applicants to assess potential success of application before investing in national phase entries
- ISR and WO may be of **limited utility for examiners**, in particular, when claims are amended for national phase entry, and additional prior art searches often appear to be needed in national phases.

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Family table for **PCT NPEs sample cases**

Case studies BH, I	K, MY, TH, BT, PH	D , KH, LA ¥	orkshops	F	G	н		J	ĸ	L	IAI	N	0	
Status: Aug 17, 201	6					Simple F	amilu							
National Application Numbers	PCT Member of Family	Size of Inpadoc Family	Number of Simple Families in Inpadoc Family	Grants	Vithdrawn or Lapsed or Dead or Abandoned	Refused or	Pendina	Earliest priority/first/la st grant dates			Observations Observations ISR (only A?)	Observations lack of unity (in ISR, or national reports)	Supplementary prior art searches in national phases (e.g. EP-A4)	main claims available i English (different, equivalent, equal to VI A1/2? To grants in other jurisdictions?)
BH 20080018 MY 149627A PH 1-2008-502595 TH ?	PCT/KB2007/00247 2 stable composition	24	1	AU, CA, EA, EP, US, JP, CN, 2xKR, UA, MY, MA, MX, NZ, UA, (CR, SV, GT), PH	A Danuoneo	neleorea	BH	2006-05-22 KR(2); 2009-09-18 KR; 2016-01-06 EP		u r annig	only A ISA=KR	no, 2 KR grants are the 2 priorities		MY equal to WO-A1 AU-B different to WO-A1 or substantial difference ('lyophilizing') EP-B a bit narrower US-B only method (a bit narrower than AU) PH has US main claim as composition
BH 20090030 LA 96 MY 147396A PH 1-2009-500273 TH ?	PCT/JP2007/06757 8 plant cultivation	34	7	AP, AU, 2xCN, US, NZ, CA, KR, EA, JP, MA, MX, MY, TV, UA, E(i2g), PH			EP, BH	2006-09-20 JP(2); 2008-09-03 JP; 2014-04-01 TW	2-8+	JP	only A, only JP ISA= JP		EP-A4 CA, US more than ISR add prior art by CA seen also by US;	AU, JP, MY equal to WO-A CA is narrower; US narrower than CA PH molequal to US mo
BH ? KH 2012/0150	PCT/JP2012/00023	16	1	AU, CA, CN, EP, JP, KB, MY, BU,				2011-01-24 JP(2); 2012-02-08 JP;	1-5		only A ISA=EP		JP, KR, US more than ISB	AU, CA, mc equal to ¥ A1
MY 155685A PH 1-2013-501448 TH ?	solid liquid separation		S	ystema		-		mples c	•		g cases at v os, Cambod		•	star), ee
BH 20080005 MY 150185A PH none TH ?	PCT/EP2007/05301 5 energy conversion	19				Ŭ		•			a, Pakistan, I			e and A1
BH 20090006 MY 153238A PH 1-2009-500135 TH ?	PCT/EP2007/05738 Q cryogenic engine	24	V				-	•			nilippines, Vi r PCT nation		•	ent,
BH 20090047 MY 151581A PH 1-2009-501523 TH ?	PCT/FR2008/05010 3 insulated tank	30						eful are t natic pas	- 1 -		k-sharing to	make e	xaminatio	on more
BH 20090066 MY 150324A PH none	PCT/US2008/001119 remote control	7		fficient?										1;
TH ? BH 20090019 MY 151783A PH 1-2009-500417 TH ?	PCT/EP2007/059161 compressed air engine	25		Mo:	stly old		•		naln	hase	e examinatio	n is con	nlatad	
					- 110		Siy tii	arnalio	nai p	nase	<i>c</i> raminatio	1113 0011	ipieteu	
BH 20090028 MY 148768A PH 1-2009-500495	PCT/US2007/07432 Z secure transaction	21	1	AU, US, NZ, TV, GB, EA, MX, MY, UA,	US, PH	EP, KR, JP business method	ВН	2006-09-18 US+EP GB; 2009-01-07 GB; 2014-09-21 TV	3-8		Y, A; only US ISA=US		KR, US more than ISR JP, US more than ISR AU only ISR	AU and US equal an different from VO GB different from AU and U MY appears 2b equal to GB
BH 20080024 MY 150103A PH none TH ?	PCT/FI2007/050357 polyolefin	15	1	AU, CN, CA, KR, JP, EP, MX, MY, RU, FI			вн	2006-06-14 FI; 2010-11-15 FI; 2015-08-05 EP	4-9		X,Y ISA⊧EP		EP-A4 add EP prior art not seen by others AU only ISR	CA, EP and AU different fro WO-A1; subtle differences of EP and AU re catalyst layer details; CA and AU yeru similar but t

Evidence & conclusions derived from sample set

- Large patent families: **10++ members**
 - Many work products from many other national phases can be utilized
- Large fraction of families with grants: >95%
 - Most likely a patent can be granted; but which claims from which country are best?
 - The first foreign grant (PPH; e.g. for the sake of speediness)?
- Wide range of pendencies: 3-10 years after priority filing
 - What is backlog? How long to wait?
- **Granted claims substantially different** from claims granted in other jurisdictions: >60%
 - Careful selection of suitable claim sets
- Granted claims different from WO-A1/2 claims: >90%
- Additional prior art searches in national phases: >90%
 - Take into account for claim selection or decision to await further results
 - Do not solely rely on ISR
- Grants in some, rejections and withdrawals on other jurisdiction: 20%
 - Carefully analyze reasons for rejections/substantial withdrawals

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What are the implications of transparency?

Examination work products are **easily visible**, after application is published, for

- Examiners
- Third parties
- Foreign examination work products are usable for
 - Examiners in national phase
 - Managers to monitor examination quality
 - Third parties to monitor prosecution, examination quality, prepare oppositions,

••••

- Available foreign examination work products cannot be ignored for national phase examination
 - Even examination of PPH requests need to include a check if other work products from further national phases have become available, in particular relevant prior art.



Observations/Conclusions

Duplication/repetition of work is not a bad thing as such

- Improves the overall quality of patents
- For PCT NPEs, examiners should **never** exclusively rely only on ISR/WO
- However, work products become only gradually available and visible
- Awaiting results from other national phases may be an option to enhance quality and efficiency, particularly in under-resourced Offices
- Most recent or last grant is potentially of best quality
 - What does this mean for PPH?
- Currently examination of PCT NPEs starts in many jurisdictions at almost the same time; no coordination
- Cooperative examination would be the ideal way for improving
 - Quality of all patents of a family, and not just those ones granted last, and
 - Efficiency of procedures overall



Observations/Conclusions

- Sharing of application and legal status data (including NPE) still needs to improve, e.g. for regional cooperation
- Family building needs to be expanded, in particular with a view to IPOs in emerging and developing economies
- Patent families are global: Only platforms for work-sharing with global coverage make work-sharing efficient
 - regional solutions are not really useful
- Which work-products from other nation phases to use?
 - 'Trusted' Offices?

Thank you

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