



**Patent Information Services  
for SMEs  
in Germany**

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## Division of Tasks in the Field of IP in Germany

- Federal Administration
  - Examining, Granting, Publishing and Administering of IP rights
- States (“Laender”)
  - Promotion of economic development at the regional level
    - Raising of awareness about IP in general,
    - Providing of library services,
    - Assistance in exploiting IP rights, etc.



## Division of Tasks in the Field of Patent Information in Germany

Patent information services are offered and funded by different bodies

- Federal administration:
  - German Patent and Trade Mark Office (GPTO)**
- States („Laender“) and other institutions:
  - Regional Patent Information Centers (PICs)**, completely independent of the GPTO
- Private Sector



## GPTO IP Information Policy

### Fundamentals and objectives

- Division of tasks between the three partners forms the basis of the policy.
- GPTO aims at supporting the other partners in the best possible manner.
- Successful co-operation between partners shall create the greatest benefit for target groups.



## GPTO IP Information Policy

### Basic principles

- Inexpensive provision of IP information as a public infrastructure for the promotion of economic development
- Provision in an up-to-date form
- Co-existence with private information providers



## GPTO IP Information Policy

### Basic principles

- Inexpensive provision of IP information as a public infrastructure for the promotion of economic development
  - Provision of raw data for everybody, no privileged target groups
  - Information products for performing the statutory duties
  - Electronic information products, initially developed for internal purposes

## GPTO IP Information Policy

### Basic principles

- Inexpensive provision of IP information as a public infrastructure for the promotion of economic development
- Provision in an up-to-date form
  - On the Internet in a searchable manner



## GPTO IP Information Policy

### Basic principles

- Inexpensive provision of IP information as a public infrastructure for the promotion of economic development
- Provision in an up-to-date form
- Co-existence and division of tasks between the office and the private information providers
  - GPTO will not provide value-added products generated exclusively for the market.

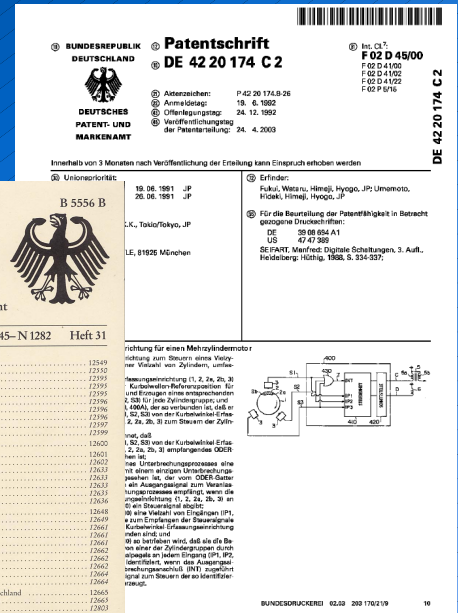
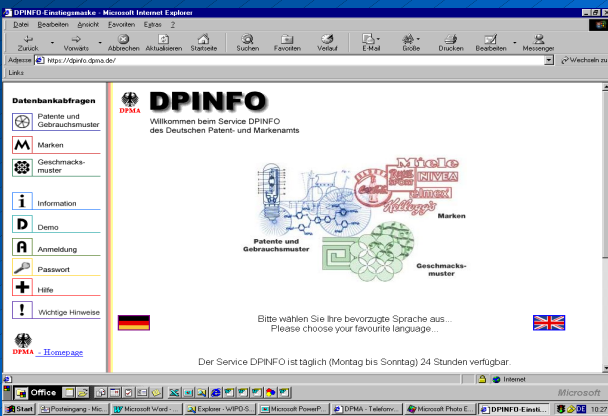
# German Patent and Trade Mark Office



## Information Services of the GPTO

### Products provided on a legal basis

- Patent Gazette
- Patent documents, (paper and CD-ROM)
- Patent Register "DPINFO" (<https://dpinfo.dpma.de>)





Official Publication Platform (<http://publikationen.dpma.de>)

- Execution of statutory publication duties via the Internet
- Platform will be launched on January 1, 2004
- Integrated publication of
  - Patent Gazette
  - Trade Mark Journal
  - Industrial Designs Gazette and
  - patent documentson a single platform
- Paper products abandoned
- German and English user interfaces



## Official Publication Platform

Two versions available

### ➤ PDF Version

⑩ Typeset form as formerly used for paper version

⑩ Downloadable

### ➤ Searchable version

⑩ All bibliographic, procedural and legal status data searchable

⑩ Functionalities and „look-and-feel“ similar to DEPATISnet


# German Patent and Trade Mark Office



## Official Publication Platform Expert Mode

DPMApublikationen - Microsoft Internet Explorer

Datei Bearbeiten Ansicht Favoriten Extras ?

 **Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt** **DPMApublikationen**

Home · Information · Einführung · Links · Impressum · Hilfe

**Patente und Gebrauchsmuster** | Marken | Geschmacksmuster

Recherche Experte Download | Einsteiger | Experte | Assistent | IPC

**Suchanfrage:**

**Verfügbare Felder:**

Veröffentlichungsnummer (PN)

Titel (TI)

Anmeldedatum (AD)

Deutsches Publikationsdatum (PUB)

**Platzhalter:**

? kein oder beliebig viele Zeichen

! genau ein Zeichen

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**Operatoren:**

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**Trefferlistengenerierung:**

Veröffentlichungsnummer  Titel  Erfinder  Anmelder

Veröffentlichungstag  Anmeldedatum  Hauptklasse  Nebenklasse

10  Treffer/Seite

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Fertig Arbeitsplatz

# German Patent and Trade Mark Office



## DEPATISnet (<http://www.depatismet.de>)

- Internet version of in-house DEPATIS system
- German and English user interfaces
- Further development without change of basic concept

DPMA Deutsches Patent- und Markenamt DEPATISnet

Home · What's new · Introduction · Contact · Links · Help · Impressum · Search · IPC

Beginner Beginner | Expert | Ikofax | Family | Assistant

All the following fields are connected by AND. You must at least fill in one field

**Search query:**

Publication number:  DE4446098C2

Title:  Microprocessor

Applicant:  Schmidt GmbH

Inventor:  Lisa Müller

Publication date:  12.10.1999

Bibliographic IPC:  F17D005/00

Application date:  15.05.1998

Search file IPC:  A01B1/02

Search in full text:  Bicycle

**Generation of result lists**

Publication number  Title  Inventor  Applicant

Publication date  Application date  Search file IPC  Bibliographic IPC

Results/page



## Extension of DEPATISnet

### Objectives

- Complete German patent information holdings since 1877
- In the long run:
  - To improve international usability of German patent information
  - Integration of English abstracts



## DEPATISnet Premium

- Service developed for regional Patent Information Centres
- Replacement of CD-ROM in the PICs
- Access only for PICs
- Additional functionalities:
  - Save search profiles
  - Navigate to next or previous document on result list
  - Download complete documents
  - Save user-specific preferences to be set by default

## Web Server for Delivery of Raw Data

- Web server solution replaces delivery of data carriers (except of facsimile data)
- Raw data of all types of IP rights available
- Data available at 0:00 h on publication day
- Available for registered users only (agreement required)
- Flat rate user fee (marginal costs):  
40 € per type of data and week of publication
- Operational since 1 January 2003  
(<https://datenabgabe.dpma.de>)

# German Patent and Trade Mark Office



## Public Search Rooms of the GPTO



**Munich Public Search Room**

## Public Search Rooms of the GPTO

- Comprehensive library services and search tools offered
- No search services provided  
in contrary to regional Patent Information Centres
- Traditional tasks of public search rooms have become  
obsolete due to introduction of official Internet services
- Future focus on IP marketing
- No further extension of search options

# German Patent and Trade Mark Office



## Regional Patent Information Centres (PICs)

- Co-operation with the national Patent Office for more than 125 years
- Run by the States (“Laender”)
- Big differences with regard to duties and services
- Common website  
<http://www.patentinformation.de>





## Regional Patent Information Centres (PICs)

- Primary service offer
  - Library services for end-user
  - Information for patent applicants
- Search services for fee since the '80s
- Since then metamorphosis to service centres in the field of IP Information
- Double nature of PICs today
  - Promotion of industry
  - Supply of commercial services in competition with commercial providers

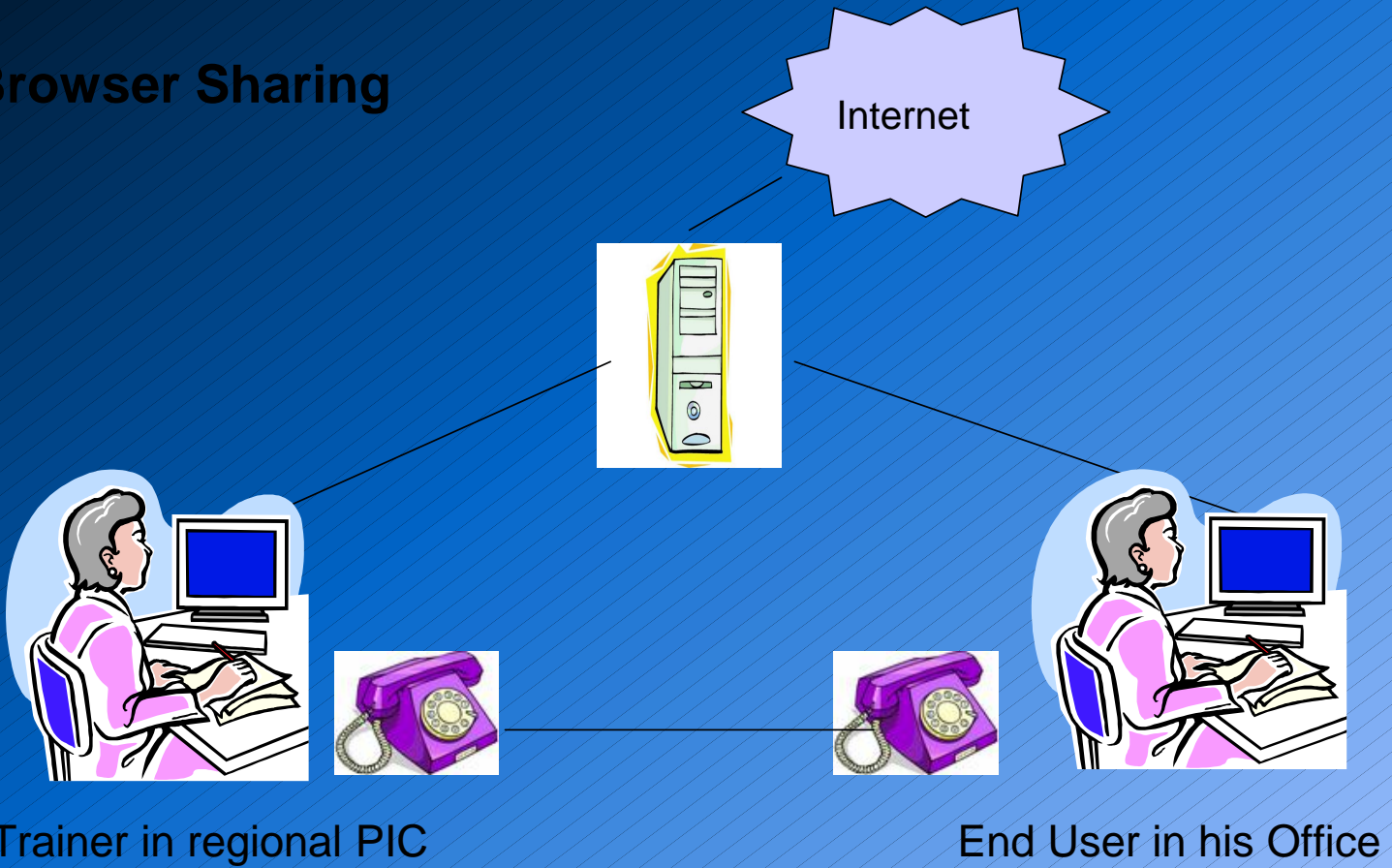


## Regional Patent Information Centres (PICs) Current Activities

- Providing complex search services requiring comprehensive expert knowledge
- Advice and training on performing searches
- Support for filing of IP applications (no legal advice)
- Raising-of-awareness activities for IP
- Support for exploitation of IP rights

## Regional Patent Information Centres (PICs)

### Browser Sharing





## Regional Patent Information Centres (PICs)

### Filing of patent and utility model applications with regional PICs

- 8 PICs are officially determined to receive applications.
- Date of receipt at one of those PICs is considered as official filing date.
- Applications are forwarded to GPTO without any further treatment.
- Receiving service shall strengthen the role of the PICs as contact partner for the national office in the regions.



## Regional Patent Information Centres (PICs)

### Future Development

- Increasing need to cover a significant part of their expenses by own revenues
- Major objective of search services against payment is gaining new IP information users in the respective region

## Regional Patent Information Centres (PICs)

### Future co-operation areas with GPTO

- Raising-of-awareness activities in the field of IP
  - Intensifying training of PIC staff
  - Establishing concepts for raising-of-awareness activities
  - Running activities in co-operation with PICs, etc.
- Regional contact points for e-commerce with GPTO
  - Electronic filing will be operational soon, other options in a not to distant future
  - Regional contact points shall increase the acceptance of e-commerce
  - New attractive services to be offered by PICs



## Commercial Information Providers

- Database providers
- Providers of individual value-added services, e.g. electronic profile services
- Professional searchers (information brokers)



## Professional Information Brokers

- End users are more and more in doubt if they are needing professional assistance
- Key customers are patent attorneys and patent departments of industrial enterprises
- SMEs engage information brokers to a minor extent
- PIC's awareness raising activities lead to new customers for professional searchers



## Conclusions

- Sharing of work between national office, regional institutions and private information providers was effective in the past
- Stimulating effect on quality and availability of services provided for SMEs
- Free-of-charge Internet services attracted new users among SMEs
- Decentralised information supply provided by the PICs creates competition
- Parallel offers by the PICs and private searchers are useful



**Thank you for your attention.**

<http://www.dpma.de>