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ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1999

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

ROMANIA

An annual series of reports on the patent information activities
of members of the Standing Committee on Information Technologies

*
– The term “patent” covers utility models and SPCs.
– Information related to design patent activities reported by industrial property offices issuing design patents is included in the series of documents SCIT/ATR/ID.

STATE OFFICE FOR INVENTIONS AND TRADEMARKS

Annual Technical Report 1999

1. Evolution of Patenting

In 1999, a number of 1,403 patent applications were filed with the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks under the Patent Law (Law no. 64/1991); said number is 20.8% less than the number of applications filed in the previous year. Among the applications filed in 1999, 1,061 were filed by Romanian applicants and 342 by foreign applicants, 286 being PCT applications that entered the national phase.

There was also a tendency towards decrease in the number of patents, namely 1,050 in 1999 in comparison with 1,818 in 1998.

According to the Agreement on patent cooperation between the Government of Romania and the European Patent Organization, the number of requests for the extension of the European patents to Romania reached 3,136 in 1999 as compared to 1,660 in 1998, that was an increase by 190%.

A more intensive patenting was perceived in the following technical fields:

- Pharmaceuticals, health care 201 (14.3 %)
- Organical chemistry 119 (8.5 %)
- Electricity 86 (6.1 %)
- Measurement; Optics; Photography 80 (5.7 %)
- Engines; Pumps 75 (5.3 %).

The Official Publications of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks

- Official Industrial Property Bulletin - Section Inventions, monthly issue;
- Official Industrial Property Bulletin - Section Trademarks, monthly issue;
- Official Industrial Property Bulletin - Section Industrial Designs, monthly;
- Official Industrial Property Bulletin - Section European Patent Applications and Patents with Extended Effects, under the law no.32/1997;
- Patent Specifications - in extenso
- Romanian Industrial Property Review, six numbers per year.

There are also three CD-ROMs in Romanian as follows:

RO-BULETIN is a disc issued quarterly; it cumulates, in an electronic format, all the sections of the Official Industrial Property Bulletin. The last annual disc provides a full collection of All the official bulletins issued by the office in a year; optionally, the disc may also store the Romanian Industrial Property Review. Search means are provided. The necessary programs are delivered together with disc, free of charge.

RO-PATENT-IMAGES is a disc offering the facsimile collection of all the patent specifications published by the office in a year. Search means are provided. The necessary programs are delivered with the disc, free of charge.

RO-INDEX is a disc making possible the identification (by means of the bibliographic references) of the patents published by the Office starting with 1994.

CD-ROMs made in cooperation with other offices:

ESPACE-PRECES - a disc which stores the facsimiles of the patent specifications published by the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks and other national offices: Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia.

ESPACE ACCESS PRECES - a disc which stores all the bibliographic references of ESPACE PRECES, it is the search means by means of which the facsimiles of the patents in the PRECES Collection are identified using the patent number, the international Class, filing data, the date of publication, keywords in the title or abstract, etc.

TRACES - a disc which stores all the data on the trademarks registered in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia. Complex documentary searches using various criteria such as: applicant, trademark, class, words from the classes of goods or services, etc can be performed.

Starting with 1996, the whole publication process has been carried out at the office (for both publications on paper and on CD-ROM).

As all the documents are processed in electronic format exclusively, they can be converted into htm and pdf format and are employed for publication in INTRANET and INTERNET.

After having implemented the Common Software (CS), the data published in the Official Industrial Property Bulletin are taken from the CS exclusively.

Corel WordPerfect 8 is employed for desktop publishing and Corel Draw for image processing.

IV. Collections of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks

In 1999, at the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks there were scanned and processed more than 10,000 patent specifications (round 70,000 pages); after having been scanned the files were converted into PDF format and stored in the facsimile database of the Office. Said files were integrated into the database employed for in-house search. Some of them – from the patent no. 105544 to date – are also present in the INTERNET in the Romanian patent search database.

All the modifying documents are also scanned and integrated in the document data database. Said data are employed in the examination procedure and are also a primary source for making topic-oriented CD-ROMs.

Storing the file content in electronic format was also continued.

The facsimile documents can be accessed in different ways, namely:

- from the data printed in the Official Industrial Property Bulletin (1990 to date)
- from the Common Software (1989 to date)
- from the SEARCH database (1970 to date)
- full-text (1996 to date).

The bibliographic data of the patent applications and patents are stored in the in-house databases. In 1999, both current data and data related to filings until 1970 were processed.

V. The activities involved in providing electronic documentary search making use of the computer system of the Office consist of:

V.1. In-house systems

V.1.1. Generation, administration and updating of the document data database. About 12,000 patent specifications (21,000 documents up to now) were processed and made available for in-house search. Said database is processed by means of the Adobe Acrobat Exchange v.3.1. with Acrobat Reader for end-users.

V.1.2. The database comprising the bibliographic data of the patents granted starting with 1970. This database is available in the INTERNET/INTRANET in the WEB page of the Office at "www.osim.ro". The database and the INTERNET page are generated and administered by the information officers of the Office.

V.1.3. The in-house database of the Office which stores the bibliographic data of the patent applications and patents granted starting with 1989. Said database is employed for in-house search. SGBD Informix Online DSA 7.23 is used, the interface is created by means of Hyperscript Tools (object-oriented language), the application is called "*Common Software*".

V.1.4. CD-ROM index databases, accessible to in-house users searching in the network:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| - Access A | IPC Class |
| - Access B | Bulletin |
| - Access Preces | Casis_Bib |

Full-text databases accessible from the local PCs provided with CD-ROM reader:

- Espace - EPA, complete	Espace - EPB	- complete
- Preces, complete	FR,	1992-1998
- Espace UK, 1993-1998	DE DEPAROM,	1993-1998
- USAPAT, 1994-1998	World,	1991-1998
- CH, 1994-1998	AT,	1992-1998
- DK, 1990-1998	IT,	1993-1995
- ES, 1990-1998	RU,	1996-1997
- SI, 1993-1998	OAPI,	1994-1998
- GLOBALPAT		

V.2. External database

Commercial:

- Questell
- STN

Free of charge in the INTERNET:

- IBM page for US patents
- ESPACE - NET
- other databases in the INTERNET, made available by other industrial property offices.

V.3. The Common Software database stores not only the bibliographic data related to patent applications and patents, but also administration information such as the legal status and its changes, the transfer of rights, the administration of fees, etc. There are also utilities for mining data necessary for administrative decisions, publication, statistics, etc.

V.4. The electronic information system of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks - hardware, software and network:

HARDWARE

- 2 ALPHA 2100 A servers, one processor unit.
- 1 Digital Work Storage disk unit with a capacity of 80 GB storage space;
- round 40 PCs, 486 / 66 MH, 100 - Pentium 100-200 MHz, 40 - Pentium II 300 MHz;
- 18 network printers Xerox 4510, 4520, HP 4 Si;
- 6 scanners;
- 75 local printers Deskjet plus, Dec Writer 110 i;
- 3 INFOSERVER 1000 for network search in CD-ROM index;
- Juke Box JVC system for 600 disks with 4 readers connected to the in-house network by our own server;
- 4 PCs Pentium 200 MHz for the INTERNET / INTRANET subsystem.

In 1998 we employed for communication a telephone line of 64 Kb/s, an ASM 31 modem, DECbrouter 90 T1. The INTERNET / INTRANET Subsystem comprises a mail-Server, a database server, an FTP server.

NETWORK

- the network is of the ETHERNET thin cable type. It makes use of connections of the BNC type and an HUB 90.
- TCP/IP as network communication protocol.

SOFTWARE

- DIGITAL OSF 1 operating system for ALPHA servers;
- SCO-UNIX operating system for the INTERNET / INTRANET server;
- SGBD Informix Online DSA v.7.23 for ALPHA Servers;

- Windows NT 4.0 and Windows 95 for client PCs;
- Corel Perfect Office for DTP;
- Common Software processed by Hyperscript Tools for client PCs;
- Acrobat Exchange for patent processing;
- Netscape V.4 for INTERNET / INTRANET;
- CD-ROM specific software: MIMOSA, Data Ware, etc.

V.5. Activities in the field of electronic search systems and other mechanical search systems

V.5.1. The Common Software database stores bibliographic data and procedure data about patent applications and patents, starting with 1990. The Office has been busy updating this database by storing current information and recovering data on files previous to 1990. This database may be searched only by in-house searches; searches are based on more than 80 criteria than can be combined in search equations.

V.5.2. The full-text database stores 21,00 patent specifications. This database with PDF files can be searched by in-house users. Search is performed by means of the index-search utilities of Acrobat Reader.

V.5.3. Database available for both the public and the in-house users, in the WEB page of the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks. It stores the data on patents starting with 1970.

V.5.4. CD-ROM databases:

INDEX

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| - Access A | IPC Class |
| - Access B | Bulletin |
| - Preces | Casis-Bib |

The full-text databases accessed from the local PCs provided with CD-ROM readers:

- Espace - EPA, complete	Espace EPB,	- complete
- Preces, complete	FR,	1992-1998
- Espace UK, 1993-1998	DE DEPAROM,	1993-1998
- USAPAT, 1994-1998	World,	1991-1998
- CH, 1994-1998	AT,	1992-1998
- DK, 1990-1998	IT,	1993-1995
- ES, 1990-1998	RU,	1996-1997
- SI, 1993-1998	OAPI,	1994-1998

Since 1999 a juke-box for 600 CD-ROMs has been integrated in the system for search in the CD-ROM facsimile collections.

All the collections can be accessed by both in-house users and the public for patent searches.

VI. Management of the Patent Collection and services for the public (related to applications, search assistance, ways of getting the official publications and access to registration documents).

VI.1. Collection, acquisition, preparations

The State Office for Inventions and Trademarks exchanges documents with more than 45 patent offices and international industrial property organizations.

As a result of the international exchange the Office received in 1999:

- 350,000 patent documents (on paper)
- 1,300 official bulletins
- 80 specialized reviews (on paper /CD-ROM)
- more than 300,000 patent documents (on CD-ROM)

The paper patent documents, when filed, are registered in sequential order in a key-card and afterwards are classified according to the International Patent Classification.

The collection of Romania comprises 163,892 patent applications and 114,063 patents and is arranged both in sequential order and according to the international classification.

VI.2. Management of the collection, preservation of documents

The national patent Collection comprises more than 16 million documents grouped in patent collections of specific countries and years and ordered sequentially or according to the international classification.

The documents are preserved according to the legal standards in force.

The storing rooms are protected against fire; they have an air-conditioning system and are provided with shifting shelves, partially. In 1998 the Office set up a team for the preservation and restoration of documents and a bureau for the National Industrial Property Archives in charge of protecting and using information contained in the OSIM Archives.

The team was trained by attending the restoration courses organized by the National School of Archives and its activity is under the control of the National Archives.

VI.3. The State Office for Inventions and Trademarks makes exchanges with the National Library which has a complete collection of the official bulletins printed by the Office. OSIM also exchanges documents with other national patent offices and regional organizations as well as with the WIPO library.

OSIM is also interested in cooperating with other Romanian libraries and especially with libraries of other offices aiming at organizing a regular exchange of information and documents in the field of industrial property.

Within the framework of its development program OSIM set up six regional documentation centers all over the country, enlarging the area of patent information dissemination in the territory.

VI.4. Public information services

In its Reading Room OSIM makes available for the public all the documentary material it has and, upon request, makes copies of the patent documents, patent searches and surveys of patent literature. On order, it carries out searches related to infringement risks in the territory of Romania.

The Reading Room also offers the public computer-based services involving access to the in-house databases, Access A/B, Espace Bulletin, EP-A full-text, BIB, Patents ASSIST, ASIGN, local CD-ROM Search, assistance and use of external databases in INTERNET.

In its INTERNET page - www.osim.ro - the Office also allows public access to a series of useful information such as the Office Industrial Property Bulletin, patent specifications, national legislation, etc.

Some of the documents of the Office were arranged on shifting shelves for a most secure storage of the documents.

In 1999, an Anti-Disaster Plan has been initiated aiming at setting out procedures for the prevention of disaster in the collections, the behaviour during disaster, post-disaster action.

VII. OSIM produces the ACCESS-PRECES and the ESPACE-PRECES disks Together with the offices from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Slovakia. The bibliographic data are transmitted to EPIDOS and integrated into this system.

The disk ESPACE-PRECES replaced the information dissemination on paper.

At the same time, the specialists of the office generated databases for Romanian patents, accessible in the INTERNET. The descriptions are published in pdf format; a search mechanism is provided (www.osim.ro).

The document exchange is further employing paper, mainly. Paper also represents the legal carrier for filing patent applications.

VIII. In 1999, the State Office for Inventions and Trademarks carried out intensive promotion in the national territory (seminars on topics specific of the industrial property protection, infringement, electronic search).

The Office participated in international fairs organized in Geneva and Bucharest and also in some important national fairs.

In 1999, OSIM sent about 5,000 patent specifications, on paper, and the corresponding bibliographic data in electronic format to ARCANUM and EPIDOS to be included in the CD-ROM PRECES.

The Office published in INTERNET the database of the patents granted in Romania; the patent specifications are published as facsimile and searches can be performed using criteria such as the class, the patent number, the inventor, the applicant, the patent owner; the patents have been published since 1992 and the database is updated monthly.