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ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT

2001

ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES*

submitted by

POLAND

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.

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 2001

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I. Evolution of patent activities

1. In 2001, the major fact took place in Polish legislation in the field of industrial property protection- the new Act “ Industrial Property Law” came into effect on 22 of August. This Act regulates relations in the scope of inventions, utility models, industrial designs, trademarks, geographical indications, topographies of integrated circuits and rationalisation projects, as well as tasks and organisation of the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland.
2. In 2001, the number of applications and notifications was over 20 000 ahead of the previous year.

In 2001, the Polish Patent Office received:

- 3 111 patent applications in the national procedure; 2 202 of them being domestic applications and the remaining 909 - foreign applications;
- 66 545 notifications of designations of Poland in international patent applications filed abroad under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT); 3435 such applications of preceding years entered the national phase at the PPO. At the same time, acting as the Receiving Office, the PPO received, under the PCT, 98 Polish patent applications for seeking protection in foreign countries (i.e. 7,6% less than in 2000);
- 1 095 utility model applications filed with the PPO in the national procedure. They were mainly domestic applications – 1 057. Like in preceding years, the number of foreign applications remained at a low level and amounted to 38;

In recent years a downward trend in the total number of utility model applications has been noticed;

- one application concerning a topography of an integrated circuit. Protection was granted for two solutions, filed earlier.

II. Matters concerning the generation, reproduction, distribution and use of primary and secondary sources of patent information

1. In 2001, the following publications were issued :

a) periodicals:

- „Biuletyn Urzedu Patentowego” (“Patent Office’s Bulletin”) - 2 6 Nos, i.e. 18 004 copies,
- „Wiadomosci Urzedu Patentowego” (“Communications of the Patent Office”) - 12 Nos, i.e. 7 665 copies,
- „Informacje Urzedu Patentowego”(“Patent Office`s News”) – 12 Nos,i.e. 6 655 copies
- „ Wykaz patentów na wynalazki udzielonych przez Urzad Patentowy RP w 2000 roku „ („Index of patents granted in the Polish Patent Office in 2000 “) - 2 volumes i.e. 180 copies,
- „Wykaz wzorów uzytkowych na które Urzad Patentowy RP udzielił prawa ochronnego w 2000 roku”(“Index of utility models which were granted legal protection in the Polish Patent Office in 2000”) - 1 volume, i.e. 80 copies;
- “ Official Bulletin” 3 Nos, i.e. 32 648 copies (appears from 31 October 2001).

b) non periodical, brochure publication :

- Polish patent specifications 2 300 titles, i.e. 111 288copies,
- “Annual Report of the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland, 2000”
- 200 copies,
- 7 th edition of “ International Patent Classification”;
Sections : G, H and Guide ; - 750 copies,
- “Prawo wlasnosci przemyslowej – komentarz (“Industrial property
law - commentary” - 1000 copies,
- “ On Industrial Property Law” - 500 copies.

2. In 2001, the following services were performed and supplied to users:

- a) 313 000 pages of xero-copies of Polish and foreign patent documentation were performed upon individual users’ requests , and supplied;
- b) 13 194 microfiches of patent specifications were performed and sent for the needs of international exchange (to 9 countries).

3.The following carriers for storage of patent documentation were used: CD-ROM discs, DVD, paper, microfilm, microfiches, with gradual decrease of the microform and paper proportion.

4.In 2001, like before, works connected with text processing at all stages of the procedures for the grant of exclusive rights were performed in the network with the use of information contained in the Uniform Patent Data Base (BAZPAT). Basic records in the data base were created directly upon receipt of applications and then supplemented regularly with the information on the decision taken. Text processing was realised in 2001 mainly with respect to:

- keeping necessary computer data cards in order to obtain information on the current stage of processing of each case;
- automatic filling in of appropriate documentation, including prints and forms necessary at the stage of correspondence with the applicant;

- preparation of automatic data composition for official publications of our Office.

Publication system of the Office enables production of all publications of the Office in its own capacity. The publishing process was mainly based on DTP system and covered preparation of data contained in the BAZPAT data base, or a word processor, as well as composition of the introduced text under COREL VENTURA 7 program. The basis for the montage were laser printouts. Printing was performed by offset machine with the use of copy printers. Publications were bookbinded in the last phase.

Moreover, silver microfiches of Polish patent specifications and their diazo copies were produced in microfilm.

III. Matters concerning abstracting , classifying , reclassifying and indexing of technical information contained in patent documents

1. In 2001, 7 615 abstracts of specifications, including 6 426 abstracts of patent applications and 1 189 abstracts of utility model applications were published in the „Patent Office’s Bulletin”(BUP).
2. In 2001, the VII th edition of the IPC was applied in the PPO , both at the stage of classifying new applications and on currently published patent documents .
3. Within the frames of classifying and reclassifying in 2001 patent applications and patent utility model applications were reclassified from Int. Cl.6 into Int.Cl.7 before publication in “Patent Office’s Bulletin “ - (Nos. 5/2001 -26/2001 and 1/2001 – 4/2002).

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

1. In 2001, building of Polish and foreign patent documentation file on CD-ROM optical discs, on paper and on microforms was continued. The increase of patent documentation files was as follows :

a) foreign patent specifications:

- 143 400 titles - on paper,
- 1 683 CD-ROM discs and DVD (487 500 titles) - containing patent specifications issued in 2001 by the following offices : Austria, , Germany, Great Britain, the United States, France, Spain, Italy, Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands, Denmark, Luxemburg, Republic of Slovenia, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, Canada, Australia, Russian Federation, as well as WIPO and EPO.

b) Polish patent specifications:

- 2 800 titles (9 200 copies) - on paper;
- 2 800 titles (1 400 copies) - on microfiches;
- on CD-ROM PRECES discs.

2. The total number of patent documentation in the search files - status as on December 31, 2001:

- 14 625 CD- ROM discs - containing 19 624 000 copies of full text documents ;
- 13 465 000 titles (14 537 000 copies) of patent documents on paper;
- 5 222 000 titles of patent documents on microforms.

3. In 2001, our Office continued collecting, storing and preparing of patent and technical literature, acquired by purchase, subscription or by exchange, i.e. :

- 5 400 folders of patent and technical periodicals on paper carrier and 212 CD-ROMs containing foreign patent official bulletins and other periodicals were registered and put to dissemination;
- 158 titles were prepared and introduced to ZBILNI data base;
- bibliographic database collections, as well as trade mark database collections and subject bases collections increased by 609 CD-ROMs.

V. Activities in the field of computerised and other mechanised search systems

1. In 2001 , the following computerised search systems were exploited :

1.1.Home systems :

a) functioning on - line and based on the uniform data base BAZPAT, assigned for the needs of filing applications and granting procedures, i.e. :

- application procedures for inventions and utility models - ZGLO,
- examination of patents - BAWY,
- examination of utility models - BAWU,
- information on state of protection, register and fees - OROP,
- fees control system - SKO.

b) functioning with systems of support (including administrative service)- operating off - line , i.e. :

- information on the law - IPRA,
- patent attorneys -RZEP,
- finance - accounting - OLIMP,

- automatic composition of publications – ASWY.
- c) local systems, supporting access to the data bases on CD- ROM discs, containing the files of full text specifications, bibliographic data and abstracts of patent specifications in the Office's Library.

1.2. External systems :

- a) installed on the INTERNET, supporting the bibliographic data base covering Polish patent documents, utility models and publications of the Polish Patent Office (from 1999), as well as the ARSPATENT data base containing Polish patent documents.
- b) in cooperation with the European Patent Office, polish interface of data base esp@cenet (pl.espacenet.com) was put into exploitation.

2. The informatics system in the PPO operates in the ETHERNET network.

2.1. The network resource management involves as follows:

- 4 systems : 2 systems Net Ware 4.11 and 2 systems Net Ware 5.0,
- 2 systems WINDOWS NT 4.0 , 2 systems WINDOWS 2000Server and ULTRANET and IRIS for supporting network access to data bases on CD-ROMs in INFOWARE, LINUX (APACHE).
The local ETHERNET network is connected with external networks .

2.2. The following hardware was used for exploitation of the computerised systems:

- 12 servers Pentium I ; 1 server IBM RS-6000;
- 270 PC - work stations PENTIUM , including stations for reading in of image information with scanners,
- 290 printers : ink jet-printer, needle printer, laser printer .

2.3. The following carriers were used for patent information purposes : 3,5-inch diskettes with the capacity of 1,4 Mb, CD-ROM and DVD discs, diskettes ZIP (100MB) and streamers as an archive carrier.

2.4. Within the framework of development of the existing systems, the following tasks were performed in 2001:

- network system of making data base available on optical discs was extended;
- in endeavour to increase the safety of network information processing, works were continued in order to create additional safeguards of selected sub-networks and to streamline functioning of network monitoring programs;
- we cooperated with the EPO within the EPIDOS- system, in the area of exchanging current bibliographic data of Polish patent applications and granted patents, as well utility models;
- works were continued, in connection with implementation of the search data base, containing the VII edition of the IPC;
- works were continued in connection with development of network access to bases contained on CD-ROM and functioning under IRIS software;
- the existing data bases were converted in connection with coming of “Industrial Property Law” into effect.

VI. Administration of the industrial property office library and services available to the public

1. In 2001 the following tasks were performed as regards organisation and upkeep of the files intended for consulting by the Office’s experts and by the public:

- 125 200 titles of foreign patent specifications on paper;
- 9 200 copies of Polish patent specifications on paper (2 800 titles);
- 10 000 copies of descriptions of Polish utility models, ornamental designs and applications;
- 18 500 cards containing abstracts of Polish patent and utility model applications, published in BUP, as well unpublished and negative decisions.

As regards organisation and upkeep of the files intended for access on various carriers, stock – taking of 14 900 EPO specifications (2nd and 3rd editions of the IPC) was performed.

2. Patent documentation , as well as patent and technical literature , acquired by purchase, by exchange and subscription , was further prepared , stored and made accessible to the experts of the PPO and to the public. As regards information services:

- in the Patent Office's reading - rooms, 23 700 folders with foreign patent documentation and 22 000 copies single patent specifications, as well as 700 books and 1 100 periodicals within free access to the shelf were rendered accessible to 7 200 outside users and to the Office's experts;
- within the free access to the book - shelves , the files of Polish patent documentation and Polish patent literature, indices of trademark applications and registered trademarks as well as indices of laid open ornamental designs were consulted.

3. Within services rendered for the users :

- 8 391 retrievals on the bibliographic data bases on CD-ROM for 2 568 outside users;
- 350 searches in Patent Family Service (PFS) for 320 users;
- retrievals 118 189 kB information were taken from ARSPATENT data bases for 1 405 users.

4. Within our cooperation with the territorial information centres , the Office continued supplying them with foreign patent documentation and literature. In 2001 , by virtue of agreements , the Office provided them with:

- 994 discs with patent documentation on CD-ROM;
- 221 disc with patent literature;
- 421 copies of foreign patent bulletins;
- 1 382 copies of Polish utility models and ornamental designs;

5. We transmitted to the patent libraries abroad :

- to 40 countries – 482 copies of „Wiadomosci Urzedu Patentowego” („Communications of the Polish patent Office”);
- to 17 countries - 464 copies of „Biuletyn Urzedu Patentowego” („Patent Office's Bulletin”) ;
- to 23 countries – 46 copies of „Index of patents granted ...in 2000 ” vol.I/II;

- to 20 countries - 20 copies of „Index of utility models which were granted legal protection ...in 2000”;
- to 10 countries – 23.186 copies of patent specifications;
- to 1 country - 12 copies of „Patent Office’s News”.

Moreover, Voivodship’s Clubs of Technology and Rationalisation, as well as editorial offices and libraries were supplied with patent associated literature.

VII. Mutual exchange of patent documentation and information

1. In 2001, exchange of signal and source information with foreign patent offices continued. We received patent documentation and literature from 43 patent offices and 2 international organisations.

2. We carried out regular exchange of bibliographic data with the EPO for the needs of EPIDOS, i.e. bibliographic data on patent applications and patents granted for Polish inventions, together with utility models data.

3. We cooperated with the EPO and transmitted in electronic form data necessary for production of optical CD-ROM PRECES discs, containing ,among others , data on Polish inventions and produced in cooperation with patent offices of Hungary , Czech Republic , Romania, Bulgaria, Latvia, Slovakia and Lithuania .

VIII. Other relevant matters concerning education and training in, and promotion of, the use of patent information, including technical assistance to developing countries

1. Training with respect to patent information covered, among others, the following items :

- study missions to the patent offices of the other associated countries of Central and Eastern Europe and to patent offices of member countries of the European Union;

- study missions of the representatives of the above mentioned offices to the Patent Office of the Republic of Poland;

 - participation of the PPO's experts in training sessions organised in the EPO and in patent offices of member countries of this organisation, in respect of : application procedure (3 experts), inventions in biotechnology and protection of pharmaceuticals (3 experts), opposition procedures (1 expert), processing applications concerning inventions in the field of mechanics and chemistry (1 expert). 2 experts took part in a conference on further works on the Community patent;
 - participation of the PPO's experts in training conducted in the PPO by experts from member countries of the EPO;
 - 3 training seminars were organised in cooperation with the EPO for patent information centres and for patent attorneys. The seminars covered the following questions:
 - supplying the industry with industrial property information;
 - acquiring and usage of patent information (lectures ere employees of the EPO and British universities);
 - practical use of information from the EPO (training workshops conducted employees of the EPO and from the PPO).
2. Within the scope of promotion of patent information , the following action were undertaken in 2001 :
- Program was prepared for the VI National Conference on “ Patent information for science and industry” organised by the Polish Patent Office for patent information centres, patent attorneys and information staff from industry;
 - News service on patent information for the monthly publication “Informacje Urzedu Patentowego” (“Patent Office's News”) was prepared.

Information collected and prepared in the Polish Patent Office ,
Warsaw 2001.

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