

ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT ON PATENT INFORMATION ACTIVITIES IN 1998

1. Evolution of patent activities:

- Changes experienced in terms of application filings and grants with respect to the previous year;

There was no change either in procedures or terms of filings and grants with respect to the previous year.

- Trends or areas experiencing rapid changes with respect to the previous year.

	1997		1998	
	Inventions	Utility Models	Inventions	Utility Models
Applications	425	118	450	123
Grants	665	105	534	160

There were no changes in trends or areas during the last year.

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

- Publishing, printing, copying

Main types of publication are:

- 1) Patents for which examination was conducted (A - Documents);
- 2) Patent applications laid open for public inspection for a period of 3 months (A1 - Documents);
- 3) Patents granted on the basis of patent applications for which no opposition has been lodged (B - Documents);
- 4) Unexamined utility models applications laid open for public inspection for a period of 3 months (U - Documents);
- 5) Utility model patents (Y - Documents).

All the documents are stored in files in the library in paper form.

- Main types of announcements of the Office in the field of patent information

The Georgian Patent Office continues publishing of its Official Bulletins on paper: "The Official Bulletin of Industrial Property of Georgia"

The Bulletin contains:

- the abstracts of patent applications laid open for public inspection for a period of 3 months;
- the abstracts of patents granted
- the abstracts for utility models laid open for public inspection for a period of 3 months;
- industrial designs (bibliographic data and image).

The abstracts for inventions are published in three languages: Georgian, English and Russian.

The Bulletins contain subject-matter index and numerical index.

All the abstracts are arranged according to the International Patent Classification.

In 1998 5 issues of the Official Bulletin were published.

- Mass storage media used

All the publications are on paper and in database. The bulletins can be acquired directly with the Office

- Word processing and office automation

Preliminary processing of documents is performed on the workstations being part of the automated system by means of the specific software. Preparation of documents for publication and their formatting are conducted by the word processors like MS Office and Page Maker.

- (New) technique used for the generation of patent information:

Computer - 5 items;

Laser jet printer - 5 items;

Laser jet printer colour - 1 item

Bubble jet printer - 1 item;

High resolution Monitor - 1 item;

Offset machine Dominant-725 - 1 item;

Web cutting tool - 1 item;

Paper cutting tool - 1 item.

- Reproducing devices:

XEROX Rx-5332 - 1 item;

XEROX Rx-5317 - 1 item;

LANIER 6725 Copier - 1 item;

LANIER 6713 Copier - 1 item;

Canon FC230 - 4 items;

Canon FC2 - 1 item.

Risograph - 1 item

Storing: On big capacity hard discs (18GB) RAI D-5, reserve copying on MO Discs, CD-R discs and magnetic tapes (strimmer).

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

- Abstracting, reviewing, translating

The Publication Department received 484 abstracts and full-texts from the Department of Inventions and Utility Models. The following work was carried out:

abstracting,
classifying by the International Patent Classification
processing of bibliographic data and full-texts
indexing abstracts and required bibliographic data for generation and publication purposes
checking the Russian and English translations

- Classification and reclassification activities

Filed applications for inventions and utility models are classified according to the 6-th edition of IPC.

About 1000 patents have been reclassified in the Experts database

- Coordinate indexing

Nothing new to report

- Hybrid system indexing

Nothing new to report.

The bibliographic data and the abstracts in Georgian language in the Experts database are accessible only by patent examiners of Sakpatenti.

IV. Search file establishment and upkeep

- File building

During the reported period about 700 national documents were added to the patent search file and 1,5 million patents on CD-ROMs from EPO, WIPO and Japanese Patent Office. The collection of the library contains about 3,5 million units of information.

The search file is used by examiners and any persons interested in search.

- Updating

The search file is continuously developing and updating.

- Storage, including mass storage media and microforms

The collection of full-text national documents is arranged according to IPC. It is stored in files in the library of Sakpatenti.

Duplicate collection on paper is arranged numerically and is also stored in the library.

- Documentation from other offices maintained and/or considered part of the available search file

Patent collection (full-texts) received from other countries on CD-ROMs is kept in storage files in the library of Sakpatenti.

Patent Office library enables search of the following collections of patent information on CD-ROMs:

1. Espace-Access - European PCT Patent Application. Bibliography, 1978-1998;
2. Espace-Access EP-A. 1979-1998;
3. PCT applications, Espace. 1990-1998;
4. Patents of Russian full specifications with abstracts. 1994-1995;
5. European Patent Bulletin information, Espace Bulletin, 1995-1998;
6. EPO Espace Legal 1995, 1996,1997,1998;
7. Austrian Patents Espace - 1993-1998;
8. IPC Class for Windows;
9. Iplex CD-ROM;
10. Patent Abstracts of Japan PAJ, 1976-1998
11. Industrial Property Statistics 1995 - World Intellectual Property Organization
12. GlobalPat - WIPO,USA,EPO, United Kingdom, France, Switzerland 1971-

1997

V. Activities in the field of computerized and other mechanized search systems

- In-house systems (online/off-line)

The searches in the in-house databases are carried out online by means of the Office LAN. Each examiner is able to search in the databases on site. The foreign databases are searched off-line on CD-ROMs by the MIMOSA and DIAPAT (Russian search system) software in the Office library. The following basic program complexes are used in the Office automation:

- Inventions;
- Trademarks;
- Utility Models;
- Industrial Designs.

Each program complex contains the following subsystems:

- Registration;
- Examination;
- Publication;
- Registry;
- Fees.

- External databases

An external database, in particular, the US abstracts, is accessed by the Internet.

- Administrative management systems (e.g. register, legal status, statistics, administrative support, etc.)

For the administrative management and search the following databases are developed:

- Bibliography of applications;
- Procedure documentation with respect to the application;
- Reference and normative documentation;
- Images of inventions;
- Registry;
- Fees;
- Published documents;
- System and operative record.

Every database is accessible from every workstation with the LAN. All databases are managed by means of ODBS Paradox 4.5.

- Equipment used (hardware, including the types of terminal and network used, and software), carriers used

Up to 14 kinds of workstations are used in the automated system, which are as follows:

- Registration and initial processing workstation;
- Examiner's workstation;
- Bulletin formatting and printing workstation;
- Registry keeping workstation;
- Workstation for monitoring the payments;

- Official's workstation;
- The automated system of Sakpatenti is based on a powerful LAN, which comprises 83 workstations and 5 Print Servers. It is the fast (100Mbps) network whose core is based on 12 port Switch. 2 items of 3Com Sybertack and 1 item of ATM Switch 3Com Coreduilder 7000 connect the local Hubs and 4 powerful servers of the system.

Each workstation is equipped with a printer and UPS and the CD-ROM drivers also provided thereon.

On 3 servers of the LAN the network operating system WIN NT4.0 and on 1 server the Novell Intranet Ware 4.1 for routing the VLANs are installed. Paradox V.4.5 for DOS is used for the database managing

- Existing online thesauri; their structure, presentation and usefulness for computerized searches.

Online thesauri has not been created so far.

The Program of the Development of Automated System of Sakpatenti for the Period of 2000-2005 years:

The development of the automated system is planned in three directions:

- The development of a user's software using upgraded database management system of ORACLE type and development of the last versions of the application Delphy;
- Widening of the network infrastructure based on the INTRANET solution to provide information services to the external users, both through INTERNET and by direct access to the internal databases.
- Step-by-step upgrading hardware with the modernized computer equipment for data storage and data transmission, and the high performance means for printing and entering the image data.

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

The library mainly holds the patent literature on data carriers such as CD-ROMs and floppy discs. The total number of CD-ROMs reaches 3500 and they are stored in corresponding storage files. Four workstations are arranged in the library for search and retrieval. The Internet is also accessed, though with low speed connection, to get various sorts of information relating to the industrial property protection activities, WIPO publications, USA patent abstracts, etc.

The library also keeps non-patent literature, such as reference books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc. It is staffed by qualified technical experts skilled in different languages: English, French and German, and who are assisting the Office examiners in searching.

The national collection of patent full-texts is provided only on paper. These documents are collected and stored both numerically and according to the IPC.

. Due to the yet unsatisfactory facilities of other libraries in the country the interlibrary lending, resource sharing, etc. is not provided so far, the services for searches to the public are under limited conditions

VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information

- International or regional cooperation in the exchange of machine-readable information, e.g., bibliographic data, abstract and/or full-text information

The mutual cooperation in the exchange of information with Austrian Patent Office was established from the very beginning of Sakpatenti activity and is still continuing. Sakpatenti receives Official Bulletins on paper and full-texts on CD-ROMs and floppy discs. There is also the mutual cooperation in the exchange of information with Japanese Patent Office. Our Office receives English abstracts of published unexamined patent applications (Patent Abstracts of Japan, PAJ). The abstracts are on CD-ROMs using software MIMOSA, CD-ROM discs covering 1976-1998 period. From our side we are sending them our Official Bulletin on paper.

The Patent Bulletins on paper are also sent to 11 CIS countries and to the Ministers, Departments, Universities, big Information Centers, libraries and scientific research institutes of Georgia. Patent specifications are also disseminated to the Republican Library.

- Medium used for exchange of priority documents

On paper.

- Medium allowed for filing applications

On paper.

- Implementation of the Statement of Principles Concerning the changeover to Electronic Data Carriers for the Exchange of Patent Documents

During the reported period Sakpatenti has undertaken some steps towards the changeover to electronic data carriers, in particular:

- forming a database of abstracts and full text patent documents in Georgian language;

- using Electronic mail for the exchange of information ;

- using Internet for searching information.

Sakpatenti is still taking part in creation of a new Regional product for Patent documentation of CIS countries the production of which will be conducted by the

RUPTO and planned to be produced on a regular base from the beginning of the year 2000. The product is intended to be involved in the exchange process based on the investigation results of the information needs of all the Offices participating in the creation of the disc.

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

- Training courses

Our examiners and officials have participated in the seminars and training courses organized by WIPO and EPO.

With the help of EPO program of assistance to CIS countries (ICON Project) 16 specialists of Sakpatenti are continuing their training in English language.

- Assistance to developing countries

Nothing to report

-Promotional activities (seminars, exhibitions, visits, advertising, etc.)

In April 1-2, 1998 the European Patent Office and Sakpatenti conducted in Tbilisi the Industrial Property Awareness Seminar for small- and medium-sized businesses, scientific and research organizations producing wines and wine spirits.

In July 1998 the seminar on the Use of Modern Technical Means of Patent Information organized by WIPO, EPO, Sakpatenti and E.Shevardnadze Foundation "Democracy and Revival" was held in Tbilisi. Scientific research organizations of Georgia, large libraries, representatives of the information centers and the specialists of Sakpatenti took part in this seminar.

-Studies to identify trends in new technology

Nothing to report

- Assistance furnished by offices to facilitate the changing over of receiving offices to electronic data carriers for the exchange of patent documents

Nothing to report