



## **SWEDISH PATENT AND REGISTRATION OFFICE (SPRO) ANNUAL TECHNICAL REPORT 1998**

### I. Evolution of patent activities:

The number of national patent applications is somewhat lower than the previous years, i.e. 4625 applications in 1998 and 4938 in 1997.

The number of applications filed under Chapter I of the PCT, where the SPRO acts as an International Searching Authority (ISA) is constantly increasing from 1750 filings in 1992 through 4546 filings in 1997 and up to 5059 filings in 1998. Similarly, the number of applications filed under Chapter II of the PCT, for which the SPRO acts as an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA), increased from 1155 filings in 1992 through 2593 filings in 1997 and now 3119 filings in 1998.

The technical area of most rapid growth during last years is the one dealing with mobile telephones, a trend which seems to continue.

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

The SPRO publishes examined applications and patents as well as abstracts, i.e. the B-, C-, E-, L- and T-documents. They are produced as paper documents as well as microfiches (the L- and T-documents, however, only in paper form). 1998 was the last year when all SPRO documents were not available in electronic form.

We do not print any A-documents. Instead the whole application is made available to the public for inspection in our library or can be supplied as a photocopy on demand.

However, for the first level of publication we do have a printed product, i.e. a published collection of the separate abstracts of the applications together with bibliographic data.

The weekly published Swedish Patent Gazette contains bibliographic data concerning national applications, European applications designating Sweden and PCT-applications applied for at the SPRO.

Bibliographic data of the applications mentioned above and information concerning responses and actions taken in those applications are stored in our database. All other patent information is contained in paper documents, aperture cards, microfilms, microfiches or CD-ROMs.

The Swedish Patent Gazette is generated by an EDP-system.

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

Reclassification of non-US patent documents to the latest version of the IPC is a continuous activity at the Office. We have, some years ago, developed an internal EDP-system using information from EPO'S CONDA tape, currently updated and designed for our own reclassification needs.

The US documents, which we store according to the US Patent Classification System, are continuously reclassified by means of the above mentioned system in combination with the use of recorded reclassification information, which we currently receive from the US Patent and Trademark Office.

In 1998 46436 patent documents were reclassified to the sixth edition of the IPC or to the corresponding ECLA classes. 140908 US documents were reclassified according to changes in the US Patent and Classification System. Reclassification is a continuous activity and since the present computer based reclassification system started in late 1987 3162279 documents have been reclassified.

#### IV. Activities in the field of computerised and other mechanised systems:

During 1998 our BNS system has been further enhanced in order to work more efficient. Our system uses three StorageTek robots that contained roughly 20 million documents at the end of the year.

New versions of our BNS viewer, DocView, have been taken into service. This viewer is developed by the SPRO, runs under Windows and makes it possible to read the BNS documents on a workstation.

Further development has been done in cooperation with the EPO and Berthelsmann on a Windows version of the EPO's query system EPOQUE, called SPOQUE I (the Swedish Patent Office QUery system).

Towards the end of 1998 the SPRO started scanning its unique patent documents with the intention of loading those into our BNS and also making them available on the Internet.

Every year new on-line systems are developed or acquired and loaded into the mainframe computer. The mainframe has been upgraded and new peripherals have been installed. The main purpose of all systems so far has been to support the search and examination work.

On-line searching of external databases made available by DIALOG, QUESTEL-ORBIT, STN, ESA-IRS, etc. is a natural and integrated part of the searching procedure at the Swedish Patent and Registration Office. Databases made available by Swedish hosts are also searched, e.g. MEDLINE (host: MIC--KIBIC/QZ) and BODIL and BYGGFO (host: BYGGDOC). These databases contain information in biomedicine and building technology & research respectively.

All examiners get training courses in on-line searching. Newly employed examiners have to pass an obligatory introduction course. This is followed at regular intervals by different kinds of courses: advanced courses, refresher courses, specialized courses etc. The courses are normally in-house courses held by instructors from the different databases or hosts.

All examiners have their own PC-workstation, which allows them to access all interesting databases, internal as well as external (EPOQUE, commercial etc) from the same terminal without having to take notes on the side or to make intermediary print-outs. During the year the examiners' workstations have been upgraded in order to cope with a transition to Windows NT as the operating system.

The SPRO participates in the esp@cenet network and our server was the first one on-line in a member state.

#### V. Search file establishment and upkeep:

Non-US patent documents are kept in classified order according to the IPC. In several technical areas they are kept according to the ECLA. Some [pre-1968] documents are still stored according to the old German classification system.

US patent documents are all kept classified according to the US Classification System.

The manual search files are increasing by more than 500 meters per year. In total the search files now cover more than ca 27 000 meters. The SPRO is meeting with heavy space problems regarding the manual search files. Therefore discussions are held in order to investigate the possibilities to stop updating the manual search files in those technical areas where the manual search can be replaced by the SPOQUE search tool and/or database searches.

The files contain the whole PCT minimum documentation together with patent documents from all the Nordic countries i.e. DK, FI, NO, SE. The search files from most countries are complete and start with documents from the nineteenth century, i.e., they comprise more than is stipulated by the PCT minimum documentation Rule 34.

Furthermore, a large collection of non-patent literature is included in the files. This collection is more extensive than the non-patent literature stipulated in PCT Rule 34.1.b (iii).

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

Swedish patent applications, open for public inspection, are available in the main reading room of the Office.

In the reading rooms the Swedish Patent and Registration Office keeps classified collections available to the public. These classified collections consist of complete specifications from all the Nordic countries, Swedish translations of European patent specifications (EP patents granted for Sweden) and old patent documents from Germany. Also US patent documents arranged according to the US Classification System are available to the public.

In 1998 the reading room was modernized and equipped with six workstations for the public. Different CD-ROM collections of EP and WO documents are available: ESPACE EP-A, ESPACE EP-B, ESPACE ACCESS, ESPACE BULLETIN, ESPACE LEGAL and ESPACE FIRST. Furthermore, there are the DEPAROM and DEPAROM-KOMPAKT collections for the German specifications and the CASSIS products from the USPTO. The public also has access to WIPLEX which is produced by WIPO and contains all acts, laws and regulations on industrial property and copyright matters.

In 1998 [esp@cenet](mailto:esp@cenet) was made available in the reading room for the public.

The public also has access to the Swedish Gazette and any other gazettes which we receive from other patent offices and organisations.

Any document in our numerical files of patent documents can be inspected in the library on demand.

## VII. Matters concerning mutual exchange of patent documentation and information:

On a weekly basis the Swedish Patent and Registration Office sends magnetic tapes containing bibliographic data of Swedish applications to EPIDOS and to the EPO in the Hague respectively.

Only paper is allowed for filing applications. However priority documents can be accepted in the form of microfiche if they fulfil the WIPO Standard ST.21.

On a weekly basis the SPRO receives data cartridges from the EPO containing new patent documents for loading into our BNS system.

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

The SPRO gives assistance to developing countries in cooperation with WIPO. Staff from the SPRO has also been released for missions as WIPO experts in developing countries.

The SPRO has a special cooperation with the Latvian Patent Office for training and education of Patent Office personnel, patent attorneys and a broader public in Latvia.