

# WIPO



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WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

GENEVA

**INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION  
(PCT UNION)**

**ASSEMBLY**

**Fortieth (17<sup>th</sup> Ordinary) Session  
Geneva, September 22 to October 1, 2009**

**APPOINTMENT OF THE ISRAEL PATENT OFFICE AS AN INTERNATIONAL  
SEARCHING AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY UNDER THE PCT**

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

1. The appointment of International Searching Authorities (ISAs) and International Preliminary Examining Authorities (IPEAs) under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) is a matter for the Assembly and is governed by Articles 16(3) and 32(3) of the PCT. It follows from Rules 36.1(iv) and 63.1(iv) of the Regulations under the PCT that any appointment will be as both an ISA and an IPEA.
2. In a letter dated July 28, 2009, the text of which appears in Appendix I, accompanied by further details set out in Appendix II, the Israeli Commissioner of Patents, Designs and Trademarks requested that the Israel Patent Office be appointed as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority under the PCT.
3. Articles 16(3)(e) and 32(3) of the PCT require that, before the Assembly makes a decision on the appointment of an ISA and IPEA, it shall hear the Office or organization concerned and seek the advice of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation. The Committee, at its 24th session held in Geneva from September 22 to October 1, 2009, will consider the appointment of the Israel Patent Office as an ISA and IPEA, and the Committee's advice will be submitted to the Assembly during its session (which is being held during the same period).

4. Under Articles 16(3)(b) and 32(3) of the PCT, the appointment of an ISA and IPEA is conditional on the conclusion of an Agreement, subject to approval by the Assembly, between the Office or organization concerned and the International Bureau. The text of a draft Agreement between the Government of Israel and the International Bureau is set out in Appendix III. Its Articles are substantially identical to the corresponding provisions in the Agreements relating to existing Authorities, approved by the Assembly at its 36th session, save that they include the revised version of Article 11, concerning amendments, proposed in Annex V of document PCT/A/40/2.

5. If the Assembly agrees to the appointment, it would take effect upon the entry into force of the Agreement between the Government of Israel and the International Bureau. Such entry into force would, under Article 9 of the draft Agreement, be a date to be specified by the Office in a notification to the Director General that it is prepared to start functioning as an ISA and IPEA, that date being at least one month from the date of the notification. Under Article 10 of the draft Agreement, it would remain in force until December 31, 2017, that is, until the same time as is proposed for the new Agreements relating to all existing Authorities.

*6. The Assembly of the PCT Union is invited, in accordance with Articles 16(3) and 32(3) of the PCT:*

*(i) to hear the representative of the Israel Patent Office and take into account the advice of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation;*

*(ii) to approve the text of the draft Agreement between the Government of Israel and the International Bureau as set out in Appendix III; and*

*(iii) to appoint the Israel Patent Office as an International Searching Authority and an International Preliminary Examining Authority with effect from the entry into force of the Agreement until December 31, 2017.*

[Appendices follow]

APPENDIX I

TEXT OF LETTER FROM THE ISRAELI COMMISSIONER  
OF PATENTS, DESIGNS AND TRADEMARKS  
TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF WIPO

July 28, 2009

Dear Dr. Gurry,

The Israeli Patent Office (ILPO) is pleased to submit its request to the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation (PCT/CTC) for advice, and to the PCT Union Assembly, for its approval, with the purpose of being appointed an International Searching Authority (ISA) and an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) in accordance with Articles 16(3) and 32(3) of the PCT.

We would like to emphasize that all relevant governmental units in Israel unanimously support this initiative and consider it to be of paramount importance.

During the course of the past few years, the resources of the ILPO have been increased by recruiting examiners with excellent background and education for conducting international search and examination, by significantly enhancing and upgrading the ILPO's automation systems as a whole, by signing contracts for gaining access to relevant patent documentation and constantly but gradually developing mechanisms for quality control and patent examiner training. Although some work still remains to be completed, we envision that the ILPO will be able to actively function as an ISA/IPEA by the end of 2011.

We are convinced that as an ISA/IPEA, the ILPO will be able to reinforce its commitment to continued excellence in the areas of client relations and service delivery, and will reduce the workload of other ISAs.

The ILPO is aware of the request submitted by the Egyptian Patent Office to be appointed as an ISA/IPEA as well, and wishes to see the day when both the Egyptian Patent Office and the ILPO function as ISAs/IEPAs, for the benefit of the PCT system in the region and in the world as a whole.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to you personally and to your colleagues for the kind support and assistance that you have extended to the ILPO.

I look forward to meeting you again this September.

Yours sincerely,

[signed by Dr. Meir Noam  
Head of Israel Patent Office,  
Commissioner of Patents, Designs and Trademarks]

[Appendix II follows]

APPENDIX II

APPOINTMENT OF THE ISRAEL PATENT OFFICE  
AS AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (ISA) AND  
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY (IPEA)  
UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

1. BACKGROUND TO THE APPLICATION

Intellectual property, along with innovation and creativity are staples of the global encompassing knowledge-based 21st century economy. Moreover, intellectual property helps to stimulate economic growth worldwide. Therefore, it is of crucial importance for countries to foster the talents of their populace, invest in research and development and educate their people as to the importance of intellectual property rights. Israel stands at the forefront of and focuses upon technological development and advancement, a position maintained with pride for many years. Furthermore, Israel unshakably retains its place at number 15 in the list of countries utilizing the PCT mechanism. The Israeli Patent Office (ILPO) is dedicated to furthering all aspects of intellectual property rights in order to benefit not only the economy, but technology and thus society as a whole. The ILPO strives to attain this vision by aiming at the achievement of the following standards:

1. Maintaining maximum transparency towards its clients in terms of procedures, operation and challenges.
2. Constantly improving services offered to its clients and enhancing communication with the public.
3. Cooperating with bodies, authorities and states for enhancing the use of Intellectual Property, creating a better platform for collaboration in Intellectual Property related issues and increasing the use and awareness of Intellectual Property nationally and internationally.

2. OVERVIEW

In 2006, the ILPO was established as an Executive Agency (EA) in Israel, after operating as a department within the Ministry of Justice since 1948. As an EA, the ILPO has greater flexibility than other Israeli government departments in the management of human and financial resources. This development also allowed for the recruitment of additional examiners and considerably improved working conditions, so that the position of patent examiner within the ILPO became more attractive to well-qualified candidates.

Furthermore, on April this year the ILPO moved from its temporary premises to an exclusive building at the Malcha Hi-Tech Park, in Jerusalem (4,700 sqm).

The ILPO's ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving service levels has necessitated frequent and periodic recruitment of additional patent examiners (see item no.3 for further details). Most of the ILPO's patent examiners hold a masters degree or PhD in various fields of science, having a high level of proficiency in English as well as in at least one additional foreign language. Moreover, the ILPO has been taking comprehensive measures to increase examination efficiency such as developing a paperless environment, enabling online filing, etc.

The ILPO has been continuously upgrading its internal automation system (in all departments) into a significantly more modern and efficient one. This gradual automation upgrade is ongoing and has enabled the ILPO to frequently improve its working methods and functionality, as well as provide better service to its clients.

Automation initiatives within the ILPO involve, *inter alia*, collaboration between the ILPO and WIPO, as follows:

A. Establishment of a Digital Access Service for Priority Documents. This initiative will benefit WIPO, as well as other Patent Offices worldwide. Moreover, it will primarily serve to assist applicants since it aims at reducing the cost of ordering paper certified copies of priority documents for filing in other Patent Offices around the world.

B. Automation of Patent Administration in the ILPO. This project includes full-featured patent and PCT applications that will enhance every aspect of work in the Israeli Patent Office. The resulting applications of this joint venture will provide an enormous step forward for the ILPO toward becoming a paperless and sophisticated IP Office, and will be beneficial not only for Israel, but other countries as well.

We believe that such collaboration between WIPO and the ILPO emphasizes the trust and confidence in the ILPO's IT tools and technology employed.

Currently, the ILPO's backlog is estimated at 15,509 applications, covering all technological fields. The gradual increase in the number of patent examiners and the new automation system mentioned above have already resulted in a positive impact on production and, consequently, will resolve this situation within a short period of time.

Furthermore, the ILPO undergoes the scrutiny of an outside Governmental committee, responsible for setting and verifying adherence to work related goals, including the number of applications examined annually. This committee reviews the ILPO several times a year, after which a report is issued and recommendations are implemented. Today, not only has the ILPO met all set goals, but has exceeded them as well. Consequently, the ILPO's backlog has decreased by several years.

After thorough consideration, the ILPO officials came to the conclusion that offering its services as an ISA/IPEA would not prejudice the ILPO's ability to reduce the national application backlog.

It should be noted that applicants and residents of Israel will nevertheless retain the prerogative of selecting either the USPTO or the EPO as an ISA/IPEA.

### 3. BENEFITS TO THE PCT SYSTEM

The ILPO wishes to be appointed as an ISA/IPEA and eventually to offer its search and examination services to applicants from all Contracting States, though initially the Office will consider requests by receiving Offices under PCT Rule 35 for the ILPO to act as a competent Authority on an individual basis in order to ensure that it is able to meet the likely levels of demand effectively.

In terms of advantages to the PCT system as a whole, nominating the ILPO as an ISA/IPEA will serve to alleviate the increased international PCT workload most ISAs/IPEAs have currently been facing. This workload has created backlogs both in number and application pending time, and in turn have caused a degree of legal uncertainty, resulting in difficulties for industrialists in making investment decisions.

Establishment of the ILPO as an additional ISA/IPEA will improve the timeliness of delivery of international search reports and international preliminary reports on patentability. Such reports will be of highest quality, based on the knowledge and expertise the ILPO's examiners possess.

Moreover, the administrative tasks of this International Authority will be performed by the staff of the national receiving Office who have a wealth of previous experience in a wide variety of PCT-related matters.

#### 4. SEARCH AND EXAMINATION RESOURCES

By 2010 the ILPO will have over 100 full time patent examiners (not including designs, trademarks and PCT examiners). Presently, the ILPO has 80 full time patent examiners and according to its annual work plan for 2009-2010 is in the process of recruiting 15 additional examiners by the end of 2009. A further 10 patent examiners at least will be recruited by mid-2010, while the necessary official decisions and administrative steps have been taken for the expedited completion of this task, including the preparation of training programs. Further recruitments will be authorized contingent upon the Assembly's appointment of the ILPO as an International Authority.

All patent examiners are employed by the State of Israel (i.e. Civil Servants) on a full-time basis and are wholly dedicated to patent search and examination. These examiners are also involved in the training of newly recruited examiners when required. With respect to academic qualifications, all patent examiners have a university degree in technology or natural science and in some cases further postgraduate degrees such as DSc, PhD or the equivalent thereof.

The Patents divisions of the ILPO comprise patent examiners in the fields of Electricity & Physics, Machinery, Biotechnology, Organic Chemistry, Industrial Chemistry, as well as Construction and Foodstuffs & Healthcare.

Searches and examinations currently performed under the Israeli national law are carried out in accordance with PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines for International Authorities. Hence, no significant adjustment will be required in this respect.

#### 5. COMPETENCE OF PATENT EXAMINERS

Israel is known for its advanced technology and large number of high-tech companies in many diverse fields. The ILPO patent examiners are all experts in their fields. Previously to employment by the ILPO, many of the patent examiners were employed in their industrial field and are therefore well versed in the related technology. This diversity in examiner competencies is warranted by the multi-faceted structure of our national industry. Additionally, the examiners hold advanced academic degrees in their respective branches of science or technology. Specifically, the Biotechnology, Chemistry and Pharma division has

42 examiners, 15 of whom hold PhD degrees in Biotechnology related fields. In the field of Computer Science, the ILPO employs 6 patent examiners, all with degrees from Israel's best universities.

All examiners are fluent in English and Hebrew. Some examiners also have excellent knowledge of German, French, Russian, Spanish, Arabic, Italian, Romanian and Portuguese. A large number of examiners are able to work in two foreign languages.

New examiners undergo two years of intensive training by a senior examiner, along with lectures from experts. This training program provides the examiner with a better understanding of procedure and legal aspects of patent law. This training also enhances the capability of examiners to perform novelty searches in particular and their examination competence in general.

A large number of patent examiners are graduates of prestigious universities such as the Technion, Weizmann Institute and the Hebrew university. Examiners are further encouraged to participate in seminars and courses in their respective technological fields in order to maintain and update their competencies at a high level.

## 6. RECEIVING AND PROCESSING PATENT AND PCT APPLICATIONS

The total number of applications per year is nearly 7,800, of which approximately 82% come through the PCT System (national phase entries). In 2008, the Israeli PCT receiving Office (RO/IL) received and processed more than 1,700 international applications originated by Israelis, whereas 6,288 applications entered examination at the national phase and were also dealt with by ILPO as a designated/elected Office.

Israeli PCT applicants have consistently placed among the 15 most prolific users of the PCT system in the world, as stated previously. The high number of PCT filings at the ILPO, despite the option of using the International Bureau (IB) route, signifies a trust in the quality of services delivered by the ILPO.

It should be noted that all Israeli patent applications are submitted in the English language and there is no mandatory prerequisite to translate them into Hebrew.

Currently, the ILPO patent examiners have the capacity to process approximately 6,500 applications per annum. As the examining staff is set to increase by the end of 2009, this capacity will achieve a mark of 7,200 applications per year.

## 7. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In 2002, the ILPO began its efforts to modernize operations by developing information technology solutions for the processing of patent applications. This was done with the express purpose of improving access to patent data and to achieve greater efficiency gains in the delivery of patent products and services.

These early efforts have led to the deployment of "PARSIL" (Patent Administration and Registration System for the [Israel] Patent Department) an automated system for administration of patent applications, a joint venture of the ILPO and WIPO created in 2004. This automated system incorporates the entire process of patent administration from filing to

grant, including search and examination functions, and includes an extensive set of controls, checks and mechanisms to facilitate the processing and maintenance of patent applications and patents.

The capability of simultaneous access to a single document by a multiplicity of users has allowed the ILPO to process a greater number of applications, correspondence and fee payments, without a subsequent increase in support staff.

Currently, all patent applications received in paper form are immediately scanned into the PARSIL system, while images of applications entering the national phase under the PCT are loaded directly from WIPO's PATENTSCOPE<sup>®</sup> System.

As of the onset of 2009, the ILPO offers a website granting the public access to our patent registry. Public access is available to all patent documents, including bibliographic details, annual fee payments and legal status information of patents. It is now possible to conduct searches within the ILPO database based on the following criteria: name of applicant, name of inventors, key words from the title of the invention, international classification, etc. The website is both English and Hebrew supported, The ILPO has been undergoing an intensive process of OCR in cooperation with WIPO, to be completed by the end of 2009. This will allow for a full search service.

At present, the ILPO is involved in creating a paperless intellectual property environment and a public website for correspondence and information. In addition, the ILPO is now in the process of upgrading, expanding and enhancing its current Patent System and its existing website, enabling online submission of intellectual property applications, online search of the Patent Registry, and online submission and receipt of applicant's correspondence.

A new system planned to replace the current PCT RO system is now in the final stages of design and about to commence development. It too will lead to paperless International application files and will support all correspondence with the applicants, payments and the entire file's life cycle. This project is supported and accompanied by WIPO. Furthermore, WIPO is fully authorized to grant any license regarding this system and its intellectual property rights to any other third party, in accordance with its cooperation activities and to establish the conditions under which the license is to be granted.

#### *Technology and Environment employed by the ILPO*

The current ILPO system was developed in the Microsoft .Net environment with Client/Server architecture using a Microsoft SQL Server database.

The ILPO patent examiners are equipped with Pentium IV workstations with XP Operating System and Windows 2003 Server. Each workstation has a CD-ROM drive and Internet access through a high-speed connection. This provides patent examiners with the necessary facilities to conduct their search and examination functions.

The ILPO implemented many international standards for improving the efficiency, availability, flexibility, scalability and manageability of the systems.



The ILPO's Service Management implements the ITIL Standard (Information Technology Infrastructure Library) the most widely accepted approach to IT service management in the world. The ILPO adopted a disaster recovery policy and is in the process of implementing GeoCluster which protects the organization from equipment failures, power outages and natural disasters.

The ILPO's Server farm contains HP Blade servers that are managed under VMware which provides a completely virtualized set of hardware. Its website operates on a very high data security level, using several firewalls and strict security policy.

## 8. TRAINING AND JOB DESCRIPTIONS OF PATENT EXAMINERS

The ILPO training system has been developed so as to allow for the rapid recruitment and training of as many new examiners as possible new demand requires.

New examiners are trained and supervised by a senior examiner for a period of 24 months, as previously stated (section 5). The senior examiner has the role of a personal tutor and is responsible for all decisions made by the new examiner in the processing of an application. During this apprenticeship, new examiners participate in in-house training programs comprising a basic course of 80 hours that imparts deep insight into the patent processing procedure including knowledge of various legal aspects of patent law and performing searches, as explained above in section 5. These training programs also confer upon new examiners a broader perspective of the patent, such as the role of patents as an economical tool for enhancing innovation and as a strategic business tool for companies.

All patent examiners are kept updated as to relevant changes in patent related legislation, practice and procedures. There are also regular training activities on improved search tools.

After concluding the apprentice period, examiners participate in an "extended patent course" of 100 hours organized by the ILPO in conjunction with the patent attorney offices and support of Israeli Universities. There are also ongoing in-house language courses. The overall idea in this training is continuing the examiners education.

Examiners are authorized to make their own decisions after thorough verification of their competencies and skills. There is an examination at the end of each year during the training period. Upon successful completion of a final exam they are awarded a patent examiner certificate, approved and signed by the Commissioner.

Examiners are encouraged to participate in seminars and courses in their respective technological fields in order to maintain and update their competencies at a high level, as stated in section 5.

An examiner who has been authorized to work independently carries out searches and examinations of applications without strict supervision. However, decisions on refusal of grant or grant must always be discussed with and approved by a senior examiner.

## 9. QUALITY CONTROL

Quality is of paramount importance to the ILPO. Over the course of the past two years, we have taken measures towards instituting a quality control framework for the processing of national applications. Additionally, the ILPO is in the process of meeting the international standards for acquiring ISO 9000 certification. At present, quality control mechanisms at the ILPO already cover most of the requirements of the Quality Framework set out in Chapter 21 of the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines; work to cover all requirements of that Quality Framework is under way. Control mechanisms presently in place are indicated below:

### *Resources*

As stated in section 4, the ILPO currently has 80 examiners, will recruit 15 further examiners by the end of 2009 and in mid 2010 the ILPO will have over 100 examiners. 30 of the existing examiners have more than 10 years experience in their respective fields of science. The ILPO examiners have the language skills to comprehend at least those languages in which a minimum documentation is referred to in Rule 34, as well as several others.

The ILPO has a well trained, competent administrative staff comprised of 18 employees well versed in not only supporting the technical staff, but in dealing with applicants as well.

The ILPO spares no effort to achieve the highest level of technology available, as specified in section 7.

Regarding access to at least a minimum of documentation referred to in Rule 34, please see the annex.

In ensuring the quality of examination work, a central role is played by the continually updated Patent directives, which contain instructions in respect to the work. This facilitates staff comprehension and adherence to quality criteria and high standards

The ILPO maintains a rigorous training regime, with the express purpose of ensuring the acquisition and continued high level of necessary experience and skills of the personnel, as detailed in sections 5 and 8.

### *Administration*

All procedures, from examination until grant or rejection, including all quality related measures, are documented and maintained in PARSIL. This allows for tracking and monitoring the quality process in its entirety, utilizing Business Intelligence Reports (“BI Reports”). These reports are utilized by senior managers within the ILPO to facilitate their decision making processes and to monitor fluctuations in demand and backlog. This is the main tool used to track changes and trends in national application submissions.

In addition, the ILPO has a client feedback mechanism in place for filed patent applications. Client feedback is always checked thoroughly and any action that may be warranted is taken, be it corrective or preventive. In this vein, we have put in place a mechanism that includes meeting with representatives from both local industry and patent attorney firms periodically to discuss quality related issues, as well as circulating customer satisfaction questionnaires.

### *Quality Assurance*

The ILPO has procedures in place for the timely issue of search and examination reports of quality standard. In general terms, each examining division is responsible for quality concerning its own area.

This process starts with the Head of each technical group responsible for carrying out Search and Examination, who distributes the applications to examiners in accordance with their technical qualifications and attributes. Furthermore, each technical group Head is also responsible for performing a secondary examination on at least 20% of all group applications. Final approval, as well as final rejection, is decided by the group Head together with each examiner. Additionally, Division Heads randomly review examiner reports on a daily basis. Finally, during the publication process prior to acceptance, a group of designated examiners reviews all applications once again.

Division Heads are also responsible for the control of resources, guiding of work and the uniformity of practices among technical groups in his or her division. The objective is to ensure that search and examination of any application should lead to the same result irrespective of which technical group performed the task. One of the resulting measures taken was to upgrade both search and examination reports so as to conform with International search and examination report formats.

The ILPO also has a quality dedicated Control Group that verifies all objections are supported by articles, rules and Commissioner's circulars. In ensuring the quality of examination work, a central role is played by the continually updated Patent directives, which contain instructions in respect to the work, as previously stated.

A special work group has been appointed to develop and support search methods based on the databases at the disposal of the ILPO. Members of this group consist of our most competent examiners, all of who are well acquainted with the use of databases. Competence and number of examiners is an important aspect of quality. PCT minimum requirements are fully met by the ILPO in this respect. This is dealt with separately in section 3.

### *Communications and Guidance to Users*

The ILPO has an excellent rapport with our applicants. We are committed to reply to all applicant requests within 24 hours. Moreover, the ILPO website contains a comprehensive and complete guide to the search and examination process

### *Internal review*

The ILPO is currently investigating utilizing an external resource for scrutinizing and ensuring compliance with the requirements set out in our quality measures.

## 10. EXAMINATION METHODS AND TOOLS

Searches are mainly conducted electronically online through STN. Thomson Innovation databases accessible through the Internet are naturally available. IT tools, including work stations used by the examiners are of a high and modern standard, as detailed in section 5.

Our collection of patent documents and other publications in paper form is very comprehensive and is used whenever deemed appropriate.

The annex provides detailed information on the document files and databases available to examiners for search purposes.

## 11. ELECTRONIC FILING AND PROCESSING

Electronic filing of applications with the Office will become possible at the end of 2010. This also applies to filing of PCT applications. We aim to introduce full electronic files and electronic filing in the processing of applications during 2011. To this end, all patent applications and related documentation have been brought into electronic form, a process initiated during the beginning of 2007.

## 12. CONCLUSIONS

The ILPO has demonstrated its capability to meet the PCT requirements of an ISA/IPEA on the basis of the following attributes:

- (i) highly qualified, young, competent and growing corps of patent examiners in all disciplines, possessing bilingual, often multilingual capabilities;
- (ii) a modern and efficient automated patent processing system;
- (iii) on-line resources which will permit the ILPO to meet the minimum documentation requirements;
- (iv) an organizational commitment to the pursuit of excellence in client relations and service delivery.

[Annex follows]

ANNEX

PCT MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION USED BY THE ISRAEL PATENT OFFICE

1. *PCT minimum documentation*

The PCT minimum documentation as defined in the Patent Cooperation Treaty Rule 34.1 (PCT Rule 34.1) comprises patent publications since 1920 on paper, microfilm or electronic carriers, such as CD/ DVD-ROM discs and computerized databases. An international search on a patent application shall be made by consulting at least the documentation under the PCT Rule 34.1, after which an international search report is established. The search report can only be prepared by an industrial property office having the PCT minimum documentation at its disposal.

2. *The PCT minimum documentation includes*

2.1 *Patent Literature*

Database access via Thomson Innovation	Coverage	Data	Countries
United States Patents – Applications (US)	March 2001-present	Bibliographic text, full text, full images	United States
United States Patents – Granted (US)	1971-present	Bibliographic text, full text, full images	United States
	1790-1971	Full images	United States
Derwent World Patents Index (DWPI)	1963-present	English language abstracts, enhanced titles, Derwent images	41
European Patents – Applications (EP-A)	1979-present	Bibliographic text, full images	22
	1987-present	Full text	22
German Patents – Applications	1987-present	Full text	Germany
	1968-present	Biblio, first claim, full images	Germany
German Patents – Granted	1987-present	Full text	Germany
	1968-present	Biblio, first claim, full images	Germany
INPADOC Family and Legal Status	1968-present	Bibliographic text, full images for most	71 world patent signatories
Patent Abstracts of Japan (PAJ)	October 1976-present	Bibliographic text, representative image	Japan
Switzerland (CH)	1990-01-15-present	Images	Switzerland

Database access via Thomson Innovation	Coverage	Data	Countries
WIPO PCT Publications (WO)	1978-present	Bibliographic text, full text	175+
	1978-present	Full images	175+
Israeli Patents – Granted (IL)	1921-present	Full images	Israel

### Other on-line tools

Patent literature searches utilize WPI, along with certain full text databases.

### 2.2 Non Patent Literature

Non-patent literature searches utilize INSPEC, COMPENDEX, MEDLINE, ELSEVIER and IEEE among others, via STN. Additionally Chemical abstract and BIOSIS, along with EMBASE, accessed via STN, are used for searches in chemistry, pharmaceuticals and biotech. STN and Thomson Innovation are also used for accessing other databases as needed. Various useful internet sites pertaining to additional documentation and the classification system are available via intranet. Currently, the ILPO has access to almost all of the non patent literature via STN and Thomson Innovation or via dedicated websites, as indicated below:

PERIODICAL	DATABASE	STN	Thomson	Web
<i>Acta Chemica Scandinavica Acta chem. scand. 003</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Acta Pharmaceutica Acta pharm. 235</i>			X	
<i>Alcatel Telecommunications Review (1) 047</i>	INSPEC	X	X	
<i>Analytical Chemistry Anal. chem. 010</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Angewandte Chemie Angew. chem. 011</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Applied Optics Appl. opt. 013</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Applied Physics Letters Appl. phys. lett. 014</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>ATZ. Automobiltechnische Zeitschrift</i>	CA	X		
<i>Automotive Engineering International</i>				
<i>Aviation Week and Space Technology</i>	INSPEC	X		
<i>BBA Biochimica et Biophysica Acta Biochim. biophys. acta 210</i>			X	
<i>Bell Labs Technical Journal Bell labs tech. j. 231</i>			X	
<i>Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications Biochem. biophys. res. commun. 214</i>			X	
<i>Biochemistry Biochemistry 211</i>			X	
<i>Bioscience, Biotechnology and Biochemistry Biosci. biotechnol. biochem. 005</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Bulletin of the Chemical Society of Japan Bull. chem. soc. jpn. 033</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Byte Byte 221</i>			X	
<i>Cancer Research Cancer res. 212</i>			X	

PERIODICAL	DATABASE	STN	Thomson	Web
<i>Cell Cell 218</i>			X	
<i>Chemical Abstracts</i>	CA	X		
<i>Chemical and Engineering News Chem. eng. news 027</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Chemical and Pharmaceutical Bulletin Chem. pharm. bull. 028</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Chemical Communications (A) Chem. commun.</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Chemical Engineering Chem. eng. 029</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Chemical Reviews Chem. rev. 031</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Chemie-Ingenieur-Technik Chemieingenieurtechnik 035</i>	CONPENDE X	X	X	
<i>Chemistry and Industry Chem. ind. 038</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Clinical Chemistry Clin. chem. 215</i>			X	
<i>Collection of Czechoslovak Chemical Communications Collect. czechoslov. chem. commun. 041</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Coloration Technology Color. technol. 148</i>			X	
<i>Control Engineering Control eng. 045</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Dalton Transactions</i>			X	
<i>Dalton Transactions (B) Dalton trans.</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Derwent Biotechnology Abstracts</i>		X		
<i>Economic Botany, Journal of the Society of Economic Botany Econ. bot. 236</i>			X	
<i>EDN EDN 230</i>			X	
<i>Electronic Design Electron. des. 049</i>	CONPENDE X	X	X	
<i>Electronic Engineering Design Electron. eng. 050</i>	INSPEC	X	X	
<i>Electronic Letters</i>				
<i>Electronics World Electron. world 168</i>			X	
<i>Elektor</i>				
<i>Elektronik Elektronik 204</i>			X	
<i>EMBO Journal EMBO j. 217</i>			X	
<i>European Journal of Inorganic Chemistry Eur. j. inorg. chem. 232</i>			X	
<i>European Journal of Organic Chemistry Eur j. org. chem. 108</i>			X	
<i>Fitoterapia Fitoterapia 240</i>			X	
<i>Gene Gene 197</i>			X	
<i>IBM Journal of Research and Development IBM j. res. develop. 062</i>	INS	X	X	
<i>IEEE Electron Device Letters IEEE electron device lett. 205</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Journal of Quantum Electronics IEEE j. quantum electron. 064</i>	INS	X	X	
<i>IEEE Journal of Solid State Circuits IEEE j. solid-state circuits 065</i>	INS	X	X	
<i>IEEE Spectrum IEEE spectrum 067</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Advanced Packaging (B) IEEE trans. adv. Packaging</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Aerospace and Electronic Systems IEEE trans. aerosp. electron. syst. 068</i>			X	

PERIODICAL	DATABASE	STN	Thomson	Web
<i>IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering IEEE trans. biomed. eng. 071</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Communications IEEE trans. commun. 073</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Components and Packaging Technology (A) IEEE trans. compon. packag. technol.</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Computers IEEE trans. comput. 074</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Consumer Electronics IEEE trans. consum. electron. 072</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices IEEE trans. electron. devices 075</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Electronics Packaging Manufacturing (C) IEEE trans. electron. packag. manuf.</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Instrumentation and Measurement IEEE trans. instrum. meas. 077</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques IEEE trans. microwave theor. tech. 078</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Nuclear Science IEEE trans. nucl. sci. 208</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Signal Processing IEEE trans. signal process. 069</i>			X	
<i>IEEE Transactions on Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics and Frequency Control IEEE trans. ultrason. ferroelectr. freq. Control</i>			X	
<i>IEICE Transactions on Communications (B) IEICE trans. commun.</i>			X	
<i>IEICE Transactions on Electronics (C) IEICE trans. electron.</i>			X	
<i>IEICE Transactions on Fundamentals of Electronics, Communications and Computer Sciences (A) IEICE trans. fundam. electron. commun. comput. sci.</i>			X	
<i>IEICE Transactions on Information and systems (D) IEICE trans. inf. syst.</i>			X	
<i>Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research Ind. eng. chem. res. 083</i>			X	
<i>Japanese Journal of Applied Physics Jpn. j. appl. phys. 090</i>			X	
<i>JOM JOM 102</i>			X	
<i>Journal of Agricultural and Food Chemistry J. agric. food chem. 092</i>			X	
<i>Journal of Applied Physics J. appl. phys. 096</i>			X	
<i>Journal of Applied Polymer Science J. appl. polym. sci. 097</i>			X	
<i>Journal of Biological Chemistry J. biol. chem. 209</i>			X	
<i>Journal of Chinese Medicine</i>				X
<i>Journal of Chromatography. B, Analytical Technologies in the Biomedical and Life Sciences</i>			X	
<i>Journal of Crystal Growth J. cryst. growth 177</i>			X	
<i>Journal of Ethnopharmacology J. ethnopharmacol. 238</i>			X	



PERIODICAL	DATABASE	STN	Thomson	Web
<i>Journal of Immunology J. immunol.</i> 216			X	
<i>Journal of Natural Products J. nat. prod.</i> 241			X	
<i>Journal of Nutrition J. nut.</i> 242			X	
<i>Journal of Organometallic Chemistry J. organomet. chem.</i> 104			X	
<i>Journal of Polymer Science - Polymer chemistry (A) J. polym. sci., A, Polym. chem.</i>			X	
<i>Journal of Polymer Science - Polymer physics (B) J. polym. sci., B, Polym. phys.</i>			X	
<i>Journal of the Acoustical Society of America J. acoust. soc. am.</i> 001	INSPEC	X	X	
<i>Journal of the American Ceramic Society J. am. ceram. soc.</i> 007	CONPENDE X	X	X	
<i>Journal of the American Chemical Society J. am. chem. soc.</i> 008	CA	X	X	
<i>Journal of the Electrochemical Society J. electrochem. soc.</i> 048	CONPENDE X	X	X	
<i>Journal of the Optical Society of America - Optics, Image Science, and Vision (A) J. opt. soc. am. A, Opt. image sci. vis.</i>			X	
<i>Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge</i>				X
<i>Journal of the Optical Society of America Optical Physics (B) J. opt. soc. am., B, Opt. phys.</i>			X	
<i>Kobunshi Ronbunshu / Japanese Journal of Polymer Science and Engineering Kobunshi ronbunshu</i> 091			X	
<i>Kobunshi Ronbunshu / Japanese Journal of Polymer Science and Engineering Kobunshi ronbunshu</i> 091			X	
<i>Konstruktion</i>				
<i>Kunststoffe, Plast Europe Kunstst. plast eur.</i> 110			X	
<i>Machine Design Mach. des.</i> 112			X	
<i>Measurement Science and Technology Meas. sci. technol.</i> 106			X	
<i>Medicinal and Aromatic Plants Abstracts</i>				
<i>Metal Finishing Met. finish.</i> 117			X	
<i>Methods in Enzymology Methods enzymol.</i> 213			X	
<i>Modern Plastics International</i>				
<i>MPA - Messen, Prüfen, Automatisieren</i>				
<i>Nature Biotechnology Nat. biotechnol.</i> 233			X	
<i>Nature Nature</i> 195			X	
<i>Nucleic Acids Research Nucleic acids res.</i> 198			X	
<i>Optics and Spectroscopy / Opt. spectrosc. /</i>			X	
<i>Optics Communications Opt. commun.</i> 180			X	
<i>Optika i spektroskopiâ Opt. spektrosk.</i>			X	
<i>Organic &amp; biomolecular chemistry</i>			X	
<i>Organic &amp; biomolecular chemistry (D) Org. biomol. chem.</i>	CA	X	X	
<i>Pharmaceutical Biology Pharm. biol.</i> 239			X	
<i>Philips Journal of Research Philips j. res.</i> 129			X	
<i>Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics</i>	CA	X	X	

PERIODICAL	DATABASE	STN	Thomson	Web
<i>Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics (C) PCCP, Phys. chem. chem. phys.</i>			X	
<i>Physical Review and Physical Review Letters Index Phys. rev. Phys. rev. lett. Index</i>			X	
<i>Physical Review. B, Condensed Matter and Materials Physics (B) Phys. rev. B, Condens. matter mater. phys.</i>			X	
<i>Physical Review. C, Nuclear Physics (C) Phys. rev. C, Nucl. phys.</i>			X	
<i>Physical Review. D, Particles, Gravitation, and Cosmetology (D) Phys. rev. D</i>			X	
<i>Phytochemistry Phytochemistry 243</i>			X	
<i>Phytotherapy Research PTR, Phytother. res. 244</i>			X	
<i>Plant Physiology Plant physiol. 223</i>			X	
<i>Planta Medica Planta med. 245</i>			X	
<i>Plastverarbeiter Plastverarbeiter 132</i>			X	
<i>Playthings</i>				
<i>Polymer Science (A) Polym. sci. And</i>			X	
<i>Polymer Science. Series B / Vysokomolekulârnye Soedineniâ, Seriâ A I Seriâ B (B) Polym. sci. Series B / Vysokomol. soedin., Ser. A ser. B</i>			X	
<i>Popular Mechanics</i>				
<i>Popular Science Pop. sci. 219</i>			X	
<i>Power Power 135</i>			X	
<i>Proceedings of the IEEE Proc. I.E.E.E. 066</i>			X	
<i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the USA Proc. natl. acad. sci. U.S.A. 196</i>			X	
<i>REE. Revue de l'Electricite et de l'Electronique</i>				
<i>Research Disclosure Res. discl. 234</i>			X	
<i>Review of Scientific Instruments Rev. sci. instrum. 139</i>			X	
<i>RFE No abbreviated title available 181</i>			X	
<i>Rubber Chemistry and Technology Rubber chem. technol. 141</i>			X	
<i>Russian journal of applied chemistry / Žurnal prikladnoj himii Russ. j. appl. chem. / Ž. prikl. him.</i>			X	
<i>Russian Journal of General Chemistry / Žurnal obsej himii Rus. j. gen. chem. / Ž. obs. him.</i>			X	
<i>Russian Journal of Organic Chemistry</i>			X	
<i>Science</i>			X	
<i>Scientific American</i>			X	
<i>Semiconductors / Fizika i tehnika poluprovodnikov Semiconductors / Fiz. teh. poluprovodn. 183</i>			X	
<i>SMPTE Journal</i>			X	
<i>Solid-State Electronics</i>			X	
<i>Solid-State Technology</i>			X	
<i>Stahl und Eisen</i>			X	
<i>Steroids</i>			X	
<i>TAPPI Journal</i>			X	

<b>PERIODICAL</b>	<b>DATABASE</b>	<b>STN</b>	<b>Thomson</b>	<b>Web</b>
<i>Technical Physics Letters / Pis'ma v Zurnal Tehniceskoj Fiziki Tech. phys. lett. / Pis'ma z. teh. fiz. 185</i>			X	
<i>Tetrahedron</i>			X	
<i>Tetrahedron Letters</i>			X	
<i>Textile Research Journal</i>			X	
<i>The Journal of Organic Chemistry</i>			X	
<i>Thin Solid Films</i>			X	
<i>The Korean Journal of Traditional Knowledge</i>				X
<i>TR Transfer</i>				
<i>VDI-Nachrichten</i>				
<i>VDI-Z</i>				
<i>Water Environment Research</i>			X	
<i>WESCON Conference Proceedings</i>			X	
<i>Xerox Disclosure Journal</i>			X	

The ILPO is in the process of making arrangements for access to the remaining few journals and will have these available for searching prior to commencing operation as an International Authority.

[Appendix III follows]

APPENDIX III

DRAFT AGREEMENT

between the Government of Israel  
and the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization

in relation to the functioning of the Israel Patent Office  
as an International Searching Authority  
and International Preliminary Examining Authority  
under the Patent Cooperation Treaty

*Preamble*

The Government of Israel and the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization,

*Considering* that the PCT Assembly, having heard the advice of the PCT Committee for Technical Cooperation, has appointed the Israel Patent Office as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority under the Patent Cooperation Treaty and approved this Agreement in accordance with Articles 16(3) and 32(3),

*Hereby agree as follows:*

*Article 1*

*Terms and Expressions*

- (1) For the purposes of this Agreement:
  - (a) “Treaty” means the Patent Cooperation Treaty;
  - (b) “Regulations” means the Regulations under the Treaty;
  - (c) “Administrative Instructions” means the Administrative Instructions under the Treaty;
  - (d) “Article” (except where a specific reference is made to an Article of this Agreement) means an Article of the Treaty;
  - (e) “Rule” means a Rule of the Regulations;
  - (f) “Contracting State” means a State party to the Treaty;
  - (g) “the Authority” means the Israel Patent Office;
  - (h) “the International Bureau” means the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization.

(2) All other terms and expressions used in this Agreement which are also used in the Treaty, the Regulations or the Administrative Instructions have, for the purposes of this Agreement, the same meaning as in the Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions.

*Article 2*  
*Basic Obligations*

(1) The Authority shall carry out international search and international preliminary examination in accordance with, and perform such other functions of an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority as are provided under, the Treaty, the Regulations, the Administrative Instructions and this Agreement.

(2) In carrying out international search and international preliminary examination, the Authority shall apply and observe all the common rules of international search and of international preliminary examination and, in particular, shall be guided by the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines.

(3) The Authority shall maintain a quality management system in compliance with the requirements set out in the PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines.

(4) The Authority and the International Bureau shall, having regard to their respective functions under the Treaty, the Regulations, the Administrative Instructions and this Agreement, render, to the extent considered to be appropriate by both the Authority and the International Bureau, mutual assistance in the performance of their functions thereunder.

*Article 3*  
*Competence of Authority*

(1) The Authority shall act as International Searching Authority for any international application filed with the receiving Office of, or acting for, any Contracting State specified in Annex A to this Agreement, provided that the receiving Office specifies the Authority for that purpose, that such application, or a translation thereof furnished for the purposes of international search, is in the language or one of the languages specified in Annex A to this Agreement and, where applicable, that the Authority has been chosen by the applicant.

(2) The Authority shall act as International Preliminary Examining Authority for any international application filed with the receiving Office of, or acting for, any Contracting State specified in Annex A to this Agreement, provided that the receiving Office specifies the Authority for that purpose, that such application, or a translation thereof furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination, is in the language or one of the languages specified in Annex A to this Agreement and, where applicable, that the Authority has been chosen by the applicant and that any other requirements regarding such application as specified in Annex A to this Agreement have been met.

(3) Where an international application is filed with the International Bureau as receiving Office under Rule 19.1(a)(iii), paragraphs (1) and (2) apply as if that application had been filed with a receiving Office which would have been competent under Rule 19.1(a)(i) or (ii), (b) or (c) or Rule 19.2(i).

*Article 4*  
*Subject Matter Not Required to Be Searched or Examined*

The Authority shall not be obliged to search, by virtue of Article 17(2)(a)(i), or examine, by virtue of Article 34(4)(a)(i), any international application to the extent that it considers that such application relates to subject matter set forth in Rule 39.1 or 67.1, as the case may be, with the exception of the subject matter specified in Annex B to this Agreement.

*Article 5*  
*Fees and Charges*

(1) A schedule of all fees of the Authority, and all other charges which the Authority is entitled to make, in relation to its functions as an International Searching Authority and International Preliminary Examining Authority, is set out in Annex C to this Agreement.

(2) The Authority shall, under the conditions and to the extent set out in Annex C to this Agreement:

(i) refund the whole or part of the search fee paid, or waive or reduce the search fee, where the international search report can be wholly or partly based on the results of an earlier search (Rules 16.3 and 41.1);

(ii) refund the search fee where the international application is withdrawn or considered withdrawn before the start of the international search.

(3) The Authority shall, under the conditions and to the extent set out in Annex C to this Agreement, refund the whole or part of the preliminary examination fee paid where the demand is considered as if it had not been submitted (Rule 58.3) or where the demand or the international application is withdrawn by the applicant before the start of the international preliminary examination.

*Article 6*  
*Classification*

For the purposes of Rules 43.3(a) and 70.5(b), the Authority shall indicate solely the International Patent Classification.

*Article 7*  
*Languages of Correspondence Used by the Authority*

For the purposes of correspondence, including forms, other than with the International Bureau, the Authority shall use the language or one of the languages indicated, having regard to the language or languages indicated in Annex A and to the language or languages whose use is authorized by the Authority under Rule 92.2(b), in Annex D.

*Article 8*  
*International-Type Search*

The Authority shall carry out international-type searches to the extent decided by it.

*Article 9*  
*Entry into Force*

This Agreement shall enter into force on a date to be notified to the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization by the Authority, that date being at least one month later than the date on which the notification is made.

*Article 10*  
*Duration and Renewability*

This Agreement shall remain in force until December 31, 2017. The parties to this Agreement shall, no later than July 2016, start negotiations for its renewal.

*Article 11*  
*Amendment*

(1) Without prejudice to paragraphs (2) and (3), amendments may, subject to approval by the Assembly of the International Patent Cooperation Union, be made to this Agreement by agreement between the parties hereto; they shall take effect on the date agreed upon by them.

(2) Without prejudice to paragraph (3), amendments may be made to the Annexes to this Agreement by agreement between the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization and the Authority; and, notwithstanding paragraph (4), they shall take effect on the date agreed upon by them.

(3) The Authority may, by a notification to the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization:

(i) add to the indications of States and languages contained in Annex A to this Agreement;

(ii) amend the schedule of fees and charges contained in Annex C to this Agreement;

(iii) amend the indications of languages of correspondence contained in Annex D to this Agreement.

(4) Any amendment notified under paragraph (3) shall take effect on the date specified in the notification, provided that, for any change in the currency or amount of fees or charges contained in Annex C, for any addition of new fees or charges, and for any change in the conditions for and the extent of reductions of fees and charges contained in Annex C, that date is at least two months later than the date on which the notification is received by the International Bureau.

*Article 12*  
*Termination*

(1) This Agreement shall terminate before December 31, 2017:

(i) if the Government of Israel gives the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization written notice to terminate this Agreement; or

(ii) if the Director General of the World Intellectual Property Organization gives the Government of Israel written notice to terminate this Agreement.

(2) The termination of this Agreement under paragraph (1) shall take effect one year after receipt of the notice by the other party, unless a longer period is specified in such notice or unless both parties agree on a shorter period.

*In witness whereof* the parties hereto have executed this Agreement.

Done at [city], this [date], which corresponds to [date] of the Jewish year [.....], in two originals in the English and Hebrew languages, each text being equally authentic.

For the Government of Israel by:

For the International Bureau by:

...

...

*Annex A*  
*States and Languages*

Under Article 3 of the Agreement, the Authority specifies:

(i) the following State for which it will act:

Israel.

(ii) the following language which it will accept:

English.

*Annex B*  
*Subject Matter Not Excluded from Search or Examination*

The subject matter set forth in Rule 39.1 or 67.1 which, under Article 4 of the Agreement, is not excluded from search or examination, is the following:

Subject matter which is searched or examined in Israeli national applications.



*Annex C*  
*Fees and Charges*

*Part I. Schedule of Fees and Charges*

<i>Kind of fee or charge</i>	<i>Amount</i> <i>(Israeli new sheqel)</i>
Search fee (Rule 16.1(a))	...
Additional fee (Rule 40.2(a))	...
Preliminary examination fee (Rule 58.1(b))	...
Additional fee (Rule 68.3(a))	...
Late payment fee for preliminary examination	[amount as set out in Rule 58bis]
Protest fee (Rules 40.2(e) and 68.3(e))	...
Late furnishing fee (Rule 13ter.1(c) and 13ter.2)	...
Cost of copies (Rules 44.3(b), 71.2(b) and 94.2), per page	...

*Part II. Conditions for and Extent of Refunds or Reductions of Fees*

- (1) Any amount paid by mistake, without cause, or in excess of the amount due, for fees indicated in Part I shall be refunded.
- (2) Where the international application is withdrawn or considered withdrawn, under Article 14(1), (3) or (4), before the start of the international search, the amount of the search fee paid shall be fully refunded.
- (3) Where the Authority benefits from an earlier search taken into account in accordance with Rule 4.12, [50%] of the search fee paid shall be refunded [upon request by the applicant].
- (4) In the cases provided for under Rule 58.3, the amount of the preliminary examination fee paid shall be fully refunded.
- (5) Where the international application or the demand is withdrawn before the start of the international preliminary examination, the amount of the preliminary examination fee paid shall be fully refunded.

*Annex D*  
*Languages of Correspondence*

Under Article 7 of the Agreement, the Authority specifies the following language:

English.

[End of Appendix III and of document]