



# PCT EDI

## PCT Electronic Data Interchange Cooperation Project

The WIPO PCT Electronic Data Interchange Cooperation Project (PCT EDI) is focused on promoting the exchange of patent documentation between Offices and the International Bureau (IB). The IB has established a number of teams of operational staff to liaise with Offices along with a central

support team composed of operational and Information Technology Staff. These teams are charged with the responsibility to promote the use of EDI for PCT information to Offices. The scope of electronic exchanges to be promoted by the project is:

- **E-Filing** – the exchange of electronic filings, along with the associated RO forms from Offices to the IB;
- **Document Exchange** – the electronic transfer of patent documentation transmitted during PCT processing such as: PCT publications, Priority documents, International Authority documents and Receiving Office documents to, and from, the IB;
- **National Phase Statistics** – the electronic exchange of data showing the National Phase entry of PCT applications.

The IB has promulgated ANNEX F of the PCT Administrative Instructions to provide a data formatting standard for the transfer of patent data and documents. In addition, a document describing the minimum requirements for electronic transfer has been created

to enable a smooth transitional period. Where appropriate the IB will also support bi-lateral agreements to enable productivity gains. Such examples would take the form of agreements to transfer data on physical media or in non-standard formats. Existing transfers in production use at the IB include:

- **European Patent Office (EPO) - receiving Office documents**
- **Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) – receiving Office documents, International Searching Authority documents**
- **US Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) - receiving Office documents**

An important goal in the development of EDI services is the provision of low-or-no cost software for participating Offices. The IB has elected to use the Secure File Transfer Protocol (SFTP) as it is widely supported in both free and commercially available software packages. SFTP provides a secure means of reliably transferring data (and associated commands) over

communications networks using the Secure Shell Protocol (SSH), without requiring custom-developed application software. All services available under PCT EDI may be accessed using free SFTP applications available in numerous languages. WinSCP (documented by the IB) supports French, English, Spanish, Russian, German, Japanese and 19 other languages.

Offices wishing to integrate SFTP access to PCT EDI will find this a straightforward exercise using any of several free or commercial SFTP application development tools and libraries for languages such as C++, Java, and Perl.

The modularity of PCT EDI is such that other access mechanisms and protocols can be easily added if needed.

*You can access the PCT EDI Web site via the WIPO web site.  
For further information, you can contact us at [pctedi@wipo.int](mailto:pctedi@wipo.int).*