

RECORD MONTH FOR PCT

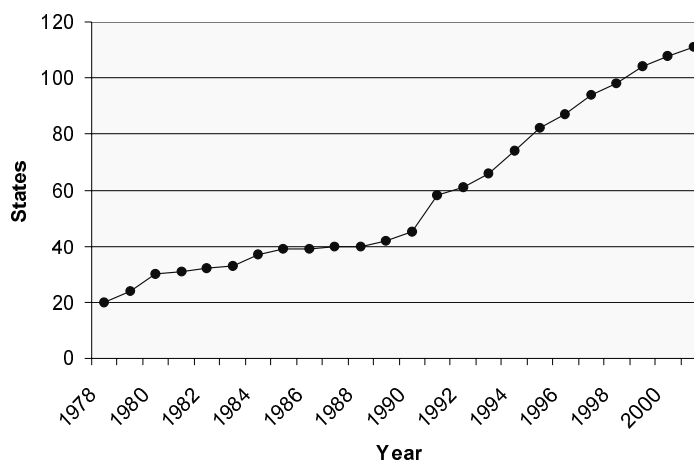
WIPO received a record number of international applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in the month of March – the 9,747 applications received represented the highest one-month total ever received by WIPO. If the rate of growth in the filing of international applications in the first quarter of 2001 is sustained throughout the rest of the year, it will result in an increase of between 20 and 30 per cent over the 2000 results. In 2000, the number of international applications received by the International Bureau increased by 22.9 per cent over the number received in 1999.

Two New Contracting States

Equatorial Guinea became the 111th Contracting State of the PCT when it deposited its instrument of accession at WIPO on April 17, and the Philippines became the 112th Contracting State when it deposited its instrument of ratification at WIPO on May 17.

For Equatorial Guinea, the PCT will enter into force on July 17. Its accession means that as from July 17 nationals and residents of Equatorial Guinea may file PCT applications. Also, as from that date, it will be possible to file international applications designating Equatorial Guinea (country code: GQ), and

Number of States Party to the PCT



because Equatorial Guinea will be bound by Chapter II of the PCT, it will be possible to elect that State for the purposes of international preliminary examination.

Since Equatorial Guinea is also a member State of the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), the designation (or election) of Equatorial Guinea will have the effect of a designation (or election) of that State for the purposes of a regional patent issued by OAPI.

In relation to the Philippines, the PCT will enter into force on August 17. Its ratification means that in any international application filed on or after August 17, applicants may designate the Philippines (country code: PH) and also that nationals and resi-

dents of the Philippines may themselves file PCT applications as of that date. As the Philippines will be bound by Chapter II of the Treaty, it may also be elected for the purposes of international preliminary examination.

