

# CONTINUOUS GROWTH IN INTERNATIONAL PATENT APPLICATION FILINGS

For the second consecutive year, the number of international applications received by WIPO under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) has exceeded the 100,000 mark in a single year. The Organization received nearly 115,000 applications in 2002, representing a 10 percent increase over the number received in 2001.

"Sustained growth in the use of the PCT system is a strong indication of the strategic importance of patents to business," said WIPO Director General Kamil Idris. "Businesses, from multi-nationals to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), can benefit from accumulating IP assets, such as patents, to promote competition and create profitable business opportunities that provide jobs, job training, and human resource development, supply needed goods and services, and increase business and individual income.

"The PCT offers businesses operating in overseas markets a simplified and cost-effective means of obtaining patent protection in multiple countries," said Dr. Idris. "Patents also facilitate technology transfer and investment through creation of a safe environment in which business and further research and development may be conducted."

For the twelfth consecutive year, inventors and industry from the United States of America (39.1 percent of all applications in 2002), Germany (13.4 percent), Japan (11.9 percent), the United Kingdom (5.5 percent) and France (4.3 percent), topped the list of biggest users of the system.

## *Top countries of origin*

Top ten countries of origin (2002 filings)	Number of PCT applications	Percentage share of total
United States of America	44,609	39.1
Germany	15,269	13.4
Japan	13,531	11.9
United Kingdom	6,274	5.5
France	4,877	4.3
Netherlands	4,019	3.5
Sweden	2,988	2.6
Republic of Korea	2,552	2.2
Switzerland and Liechtenstein	2,469	2.2
Canada	2,210	1.9

Of the above-mentioned countries, those that have shown the greatest increase in filings since 2001 were:

Netherlands	(26.1%)
Switzerland and Liechtenstein	(22.8%)
Japan	(14.2%)
Germany	(12.1%)
United States of America	(11.5%)

The top ten firms filing the largest number of international patent applications in 2002 were (in descending order):

Koninklijke Philips Electronics N.V.,  
Siemens Aktiengesellschaft,  
Robert Bosch GmbH,  
Telefonaktiebolaget LM Ericsson,  
Matsushita Electric Industrial Co.,Ltd.  
Sony Corporation,  
Nokia Corporation,  
3M Innovative Properties Company,  
Bayer Aktiengesellschaft,  
The Procter & Gamble Company.



The table below shows the breakdown of PCT applications published in 2002 according to the eight main technical fields of the International Patent Classification (IPC).

Technical fields under the IPC	Percentage share of PCT applications published in 2002
Physics	21.7
Chemistry; metallurgy	19.6
Electricity	18.8
Human necessities	17.0
Performing operations; transporting	13.3
Mechanical engineering; lighting, heating, weapons, blasting	5.9
Fixed constructions	2.4
Textiles; paper	1.3

In 2002, PCT applications were filed in one of the following 21 languages (in descending order by volume of international applications): English, German, Japanese, French, Korean, Chinese, Swedish, Spanish, Russian, Finnish, Italian, Dutch, Norwegian, Danish, Hungarian, Croatian, Czech, Slovenian, Slovak, Turkish and Portuguese.

### ***The PCT and Developing Countries***

PCT membership grew in 2002 with the accession of three new states – Nicaragua, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the Seychelles – all developing countries. Of the 118 Contracting States of the PCT, 64 are developing countries.

WIPO received 5,359 PCT applications from 31 developing countries in 2002 compared with 5,379 international applications from 25 developing countries during the year 2001. Although filings were relatively stable last year, the number of international applications received from developing countries increased by almost 700 percent, from 680 to 5,359, over the last five years.

Among developing countries India recorded the highest increase in PCT filings – 51.9 percent – in 2002. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (see box page 16) made an important contribution to that figure, having filed 184 of the 480 PCT applications in India. Mexico also showed an important increase in registrations at 19.6 percent, followed by Singapore (18.8 percent) and the Republic of Korea (10.1 percent).

WIPO continues to work closely with PCT Member States in developing countries to promote use of the PCT system. At the beginning of the year, three WIPO national roving seminars on the PCT were held in South Africa. In 1999 when South Africa acceded to the PCT, it registered 281 international applications; last year that figure was up 407. Participants were particularly keen on learning how to access the valuable information contained in patent documents and on getting information on the PCT SAFE system.

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The Developing Countries (PCT) Division, part of WIPO's Sector for Cooperation for Development, continues to service the need for PCT-related information and training in a large number of countries across the developing world. Use of the PCT for seeking patent protection abroad is expected to further develop in the years ahead as awareness about the PCT grows, and as corporations, R&D institutions and inventors increasingly integrate the PCT as part of their international patent filing strategy.

## Council of Scientific and Industrial Research

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is a publicly-funded research and development (R&D) organization in India. It has 38 R&D establishments spread across the country, manned by 10,000 highly-qualified scientists and engineers and 13,000 auxiliary and other staff. CSIR has an annual turnover in excess of US\$ 83 million.

Its range of activities covers practically the entire spectrum of industrial R&D. The CSIR laboratories have expertise and infrastructure facilities to conduct R&D in the following areas: aerospace, biology and biotechnology, chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, earth resources, electronics and instrumentation, energy, ecology and environment, food and food processing, housing and construction, information products, leather, machinery and equipment, and minerals, metals and materials.

CSIR is the largest filer of patents originating from India. In the last few years, CSIR has doubled its international patenting activity each year, making it the largest filer of foreign patents in India as well. In 2002, CSIR obtained 100 U.S. patents.

Joint patenting within the system, with industry, other R&D institutions, and universities is picking up in CSIR. Efforts are also being made to encourage web-based marketing of technology and core competence, licensing of patents and other forms of intellectual property. Some of the labs have become pro-active in the international and domestic licensing of their patents. CSIR biotechnology laboratories are now collaborating with the pharmaceutical industry, information technology firms and other agencies to market their knowledge base. In several cases, CSIR laboratories have successfully licensed patents to multinational, local industry and others.

