

ANNEX V

INTERNET-BASED IPC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM –
IBIS (IPCISBIS) PROJECT STATUS

1. IPCIS was developed in 1994. It is based upon a proprietary database engine. IPCIS is an application tailored to the needs of the IPC revision procedure. It can be considered as a database completed with an intelligent “annex editor” enabling editing of the IPC amendments in interaction with the IPC database. It has two sub-systems, one supporting the editing of the Official Catchword Index and the other one for the computer supported editing of the Revision Concordance Lists. IPCIS has several outputs, for paper printing of the International Patent Classification, for printing of the Official Catchword Index and the Revision Concordance Lists. Strong support is given to the electronic publishing of the IPC in various formats (online, on the web, on CD-ROM). IPCIS creates annexes to the reports of the IPC Revision Working Group and Committee of Experts sessions and it produces statistics used by the IPC community (e.g., reversed reference lists, indexing symbols, subclass and group surveys).

2. IPCIS is a DOS-based system, so, by definition, it is not year 2000 compliant even if it is year 2000 capable. The idea to re-write IPCIS under Windows using Oracle as a database engine arose in 1999. IBIS, however, is more than IPCISbis (i.e., replication of IPCIS). IBIS should cover document management functions currently provided by the IPC e-forum on the Internet and should provide infrastructure for the management of the reformed IPC. For example, IBIS should handle the separation of the core and advanced levels of IPC, it should handle the definitions introduced into the system, it should be able to display IPC main groups in a predefined precedence order, etc..

3. An internal study prepared in 2000 gathered information needed to fit IBIS into WIPO's strategy and IT operations. Several technical solutions were outlined in this study. Preference was given to the use of the Oracle engine (to be used in the IMPACT project of PCT) and to IBM AIX Unix, which is the preferred hardware and operating system in WIPO. An independent study done by the company Decan Suisse recommended to extend IBIS in the direction of content management and it recommended the consideration of the use of Documentum (component of the IMPACT project) or Oracle IFS for content management. It has been decided to use Oracle Internet File System and the EPIC editor of Arbortext as the basis of the development. IBIS might be the first XML based content management system developed in WIPO.

4. The new system will provide tools for Internet-based submission of amendments and proposals in unstructured format, e.g., in MS Word, WordPerfect, Adobe PDF, etc. (to be stored in a document management system), and to the submission of structured proposals (e.g., rapporteur reports) created through contextual editing by interaction with the IPC database or created without contextual editing, presenting the amendments in tabular format currently used by the rapporteur.

5. The new system will provide several views. Users will be able to display the last version of the IPC, they will be able to limit the display to the core or advanced level. The IPC would be presented as approved by the IPC Committee of Experts, as proposed by the IPC Revision Working Group or as proposed in the phase of discussions. The system will provide flexible links to the patent databases (to the IPDL databases, i.e., the official databases of patent offices and the databases of the private industry (e.g., Derwent, MicroPatent, Delphion, etc.)).

6. The programming will start most probably in January 2001. Further technical and general information is available from the International Bureau.

[Annex VI follows]