

Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Committee for Technical Cooperation

Thirty-Third Session
Geneva, February 2 to 6, 2026

EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT OF THE SAUDI AUTHORITY FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AS AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY UNDER THE PCT

Document prepared by the International Bureau

1. All the existing International Authorities were appointed by the PCT Assembly for a period ending on December 31, 2027. Before the expiry of this period, the Assembly will need to decide on the extension of the appointment of each existing International Authority that wishes to seek an extension of its appointment, having first sought the advice of this Committee (see PCT Articles 16(3)(e) and 32(3)). Information concerning this process and the role of the Committee is set out in document PCT/CTC/33/INF/1.
2. On November 30, 2025, the Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP) submitted its application for extension of appointment, which is reproduced in the Annex to this document.

3. *The Committee is invited to give its advice on this matter.*

[Annex follows]

**APPLICATION FOR EXTENSION OF APPOINTMENT AS AN INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AND PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY UNDER THE PCT**

1 – GENERAL

(a) Name of Office or intergovernmental organization:

Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP)

(b) Name and contact details of official for any queries about this application:

Name: Mr. Mohammed Althrowi

Position: Supervisor of the PCT Department at SAIP

Email: pct@saip.gov.sa

Phone: 0096656688838

**(c) Date on which application for extension of appointment was received by the
Director General:**

November 30, 2025

(2) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENT

In addition to the annual report on the quality management system by the Office or organization for 2025 (“the QMS Report” <https://www.wipo.int/en/web/pct-system/quality/authorities#SA>) in accordance with paragraphs 21.31 and 21.32 of the International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines (“the Guidelines”), the Authority submits the following information.

2.1 – SEARCH AND EXAMINATION CAPACITY

Rules 36.1(i) and 63.1(i): The national Office or intergovernmental organization must have at least 100 full-time employees with sufficient technical qualifications to carry out searches and examinations.

The QMS Report provides information from the Authority on the infrastructure in place to ensure a sufficient quantity of technically qualified staff under paragraph 21.15(i) of the Guidelines, and on the training and development programs for staff involved in the search and examination process under paragraph 21.15(iv). The Authority also includes the following information on numbers of employees qualified to carry out search and examination.

The recruitment of highly skilled and technically qualified staff is key to ensuring the quality of search and examination processes. This section contains information on the number of examiners and their technical fields, and on the programs in place to train them and develop their skills.

(a) Employees qualified to carry out searches and examinations:

Following the appointment of the Authority as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority and in accordance with the established plan, the recruitment and training of examiners has been completed. SAIP currently has 110 staff members capable of carrying out search and examination activities, with full-time employees working at several organizational levels. These examiners have the necessary scientific and technical qualifications to carry out examination work in their respective fields and all SAIP examiners have at least a Bachelor's degree; 57 per cent have higher degrees (Master's or PhD). On average, SAIP examiners have nine years' experience. Examiners are assigned to specialized technical centers in line with their professional specialization, with a view to deepening specific expertise and enhancing specialist efficiency. Which of the five technical centers they are assigned to depends on the specific technical field of each center. Examiners' functional grade reflects the number of years of experience they have.

Table 1. Patent examiners in each technical field

Technical center	Technical field	Number (in full-time equivalent)	Average experience as examiners (years)	Breakdown of qualifications
100	Chemistry and chemical engineering	24	7.5	1. Examiners: 110 2. Heads of technical center: 5
200	Biotechnology and pharmacy	27	7.5	
300	Information and communications technology	16	5	
400	Mechanical	15	12	
500	Petroleum engineering and construction	16	5	
Patent support	Other	12	15	
Total		110		

2.2 – MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION – MAKING AVAILABLE FOR CONSULTATION

Rules 36.1(ii) and 63.1(ii): That Office or organization must make available for consultation as part of the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34, in accordance with the requirements specified in the Administrative Instructions, any patent issued, and any patent application published, by it, and where applicable by its legal predecessor(s).

The requirements specified in the Administrative Instructions are set out in [Circular C. PCT 1672](#) dated June 19, 2024.

Tests are being performed on a sample of patent documents in coordination with the European Patent Office (EPO). The testing and necessary validation work with the EPO and other International Searching Authorities (ISAs) should be completed in December 2025. In other words, there is a commitment to readiness by January 1, 2026.

Work on the electronic repository is complete, meaning that search offices can access, search and upload documents.

SAIP is also committed to bringing its Authority file into line with WIPO Standard ST.37, as updated on the WIPO website on August 28, 2025.

See also the table below for patent documents published by SAIP that are made available to other ISAs in accordance with the requirements set forth in Annex H. They are available on the WIPO website.

Type of document	ST.16 code	Dates		Format of documents	Source of documents
		From	To		
Published national or regional patent	B1	23/12/1995	01/01/2015	Full text (ST.36)	Online repository hosted by this Office
Published application for national or regional patent	A1	01/01/2015		Full text (ST.36)	Online repository hosted by this Office
Published national or regional patent	B1	01/01/2015		Full text (ST.36)	Online repository hosted by this Office

2.3 – MINIMUM DOCUMENTATION – ACCESS

Rules 36.1(iii) and 63.1(iii): That Office or organization must have in its possession, or maintain access to, at least the minimum documentation referred to in Rule 34, for search purposes in accordance with the Administrative Instructions.

SAIP has a full subscription to databases:

- Derwent (SequenceBase, Search with Simplicity, Innovation, CAS SciFinder)
- CAS BioFinder™
- Derwent Innovation

Furthermore, examiners utilize:

- PATENTSCOPE
- Google Patents

and free United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) databases to conduct patent documents searches.

For non-patent search and access to documents, SAIP uses:

- SDL (Saudi Digital Library)
- Derwent

It also uses open sources.

2.4 – QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Rules 36.1(iv) and 63.1(iv): That Office or organization must have in place a quality management system and internal review arrangements in accordance with the common rules of international search.

The QMS Report provides information from the Authority on the quality management system in place under Chapter 21 of the Guidelines and includes a report under paragraph 21.09 of the internal review arrangements that are further described in paragraphs 21.27 to 21.30 of the Guidelines.

3 – SCOPE OF OPERATION

(a) Current scope of operation

Agreements have been reached with the following receiving Offices, whereby SAIP is competent to consider applications submitted to it as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority:

1. Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Kingdom of Bahrain
2. National Intellectual Property Office of Oman
3. Intellectual Property Department of Qatar

Accepted languages are Arabic and English.

The receiving Offices for which the Office or intergovernmental organization is competent as an International Searching Authority and an International Preliminary Examining Authority, language(s) in which services are offered and other details of scope of operation are listed in the *PCT Applicant's Guide* at the following links: <https://pctlegal.wipo.int/eGuide/view-doc.xhtml?doc-code=SA&doc-lang=en#ISA> and <https://pctlegal.wipo.int/eGuide/view-doc.xhtml?doc-code=SA&doc-lang=en#IPEA>.

(b) Planned changes to scope of operation as an Authority, such as the receiving Offices for which the Authority is competent and languages offered (if any):

The negotiation plan for appointing SAIP as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority was prepared with partner Offices in the plan, under a framework consisting of:

- (1) Criteria for selecting countries for which SAIP could act as an ISA:
leading Arab receiving Offices that have started processing international applications and the importance of maintaining an ongoing partnership with them.
- (2) Selection of target countries and the geographical area as follows:
starting with Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States and the Arab States, and including, in the future, leading filing offices for international applications.
- (3) Memorandums of understanding to guide work with the target Offices.

4 – OTHER

Any further information relevant to the extension of appointment as an International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authority:

Introductory and instructional guides:

A key initiative by SAIP was the drafting of a guide for Arabic-speaking applicants on its functions as an ISA and IPEA, which covers all processes. The *Handbook for PCT International Search and Preliminary Examination* was produced in Arabic and English.

WIPO guides and models have been translated into Arabic and sent to WIPO to be posted on its website:

1. Receiving Office Guidelines
2. International Search and Preliminary Examination Guidelines
3. Administrative Instructions under the PCT for International Searching and Preliminary Examining Authorities
4. *PCT Applicant's Guide* – International Phase
5. *PCT Applicant's Guide* – National Phase
6. Forms Relating to International Search and Preliminary Examination Authorities

[End of Annex and of document]