

Topic 1: Transparency of examination in the PCT National Phases opportunities & implications

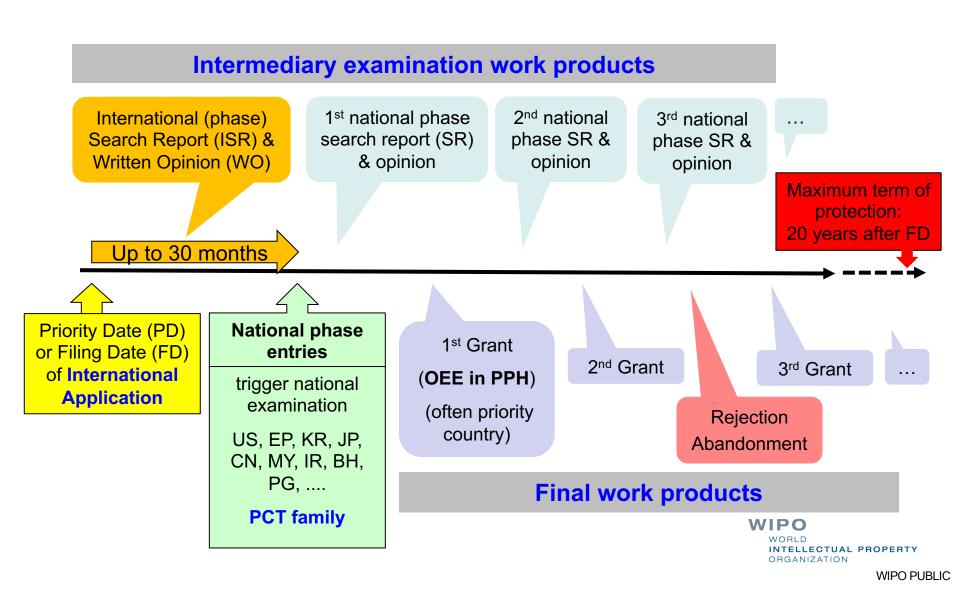
Lutz Mailänder
Head, Cooperation on Examination and Training Section
PCT International Cooperation Division

Cybercity March 13, 2022

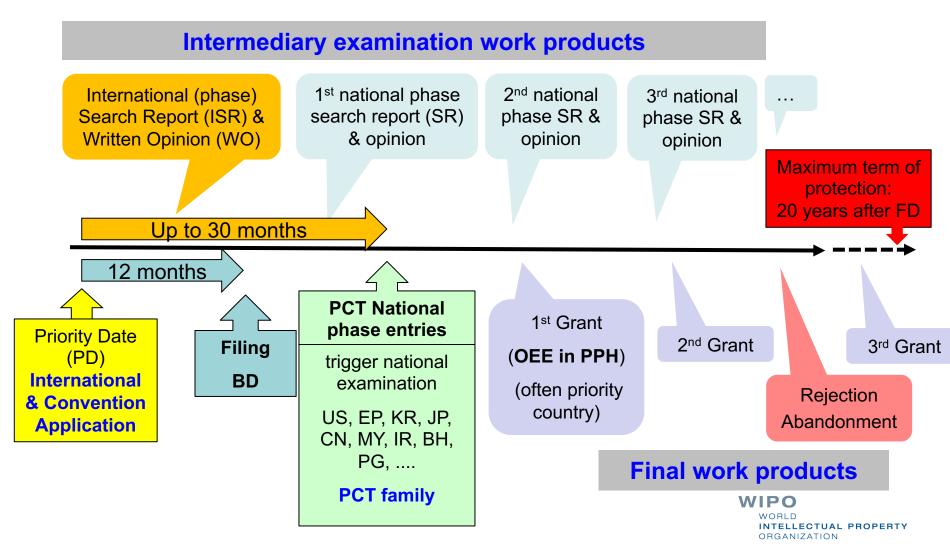
Agenda

- Growing transparency because of work-sharing platforms
 - Diversity of examination work-products
 - Visible for other examiners
 - Visible for third parties
- Opportunities and implications for national phase examination
 - Enhancing efficiency & improving quality
 - Backlog
 - Quality Monitoring/Management

Life cycle of a PCT patent family



Life cycle of a Convention - PCT patent family



Work-sharing (using foreign work products)

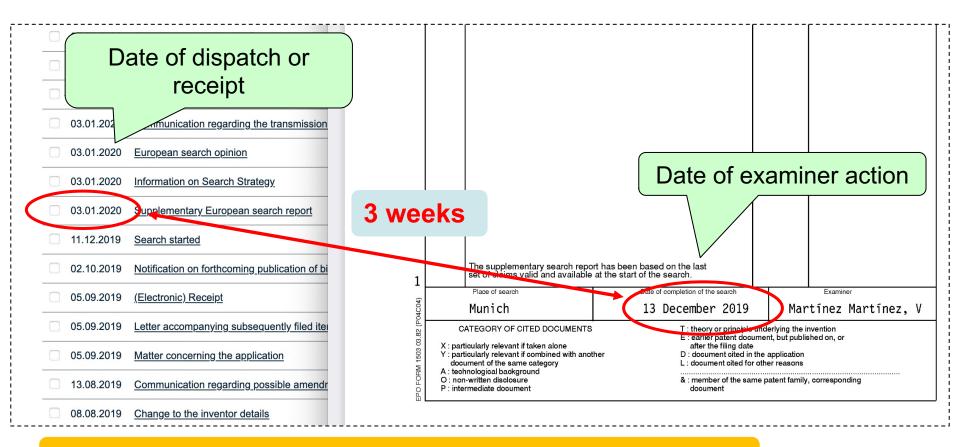
- PCT family: all applications linked through same PCT application number
- Simple family: PCT family plus non PCT member states (linked through priorities)
- Growing transparency of national phase examination because of public worksharing platforms:
 - Global Dossier (via ESPACENET, <u>USPTO Global Dossier</u>, J-PlatPat, CPQUERY)
 - WIPO CASE (most dossiers also publicly accessible through PATENTSCOPE)
 - National Patent Registers (see WIPO Patent Register Portal)
 - Access to a large diversity of examination work-products (search reports, opinions, rejection rulings, claim sets granted; opposition rulings)
 - Visible for examiners from any office: YOU
 - Visible for third parties (after publication)

Current situation of transparency

For published applications:

- One can follow examination process of IP5 offices (CN, EP, JP, KR, US) with only short delay via Global Dossier
 - Similarly possible for more and more other offices (AU, CA, GB, IN, SG,..; via national registers or WIPO CASE)
- Read examination reports
 - In several languages by means of machine translation (GD)
- Differences become visible as well; for example, by using tools like the Common Citation Document (CCD) for comparing the list of citations used by different examiners.
 - Identify citations found and used by one examiner only

Delay of public access to office action



Date of posting in dossier? EPO: one day after dispatch



Types of examination work products

- Intermediary or pre-grant work products
 - Search reports
 - basic list of citations (cited by examiner, by applicant)
 - enriched search reports (citation category X, Y, ..; relevant claims;...)
 - Search strategies
 - Written opinions, examination reports
 - Communications from applicant to examiner
 - Protocols of hearings
 - Third party observations
- Final work products/results
 - Granted claims; claims after opposition
 - Rejections; withdrawals following substantive reports; abandoned claims
- Post-grant work products/results
 - Additional prior art from opposition/re-examination/invalidation
 - Restricted claims
 - Communications between involved parties (3+)



WO2010098129

Inpadoc family table in Espacenet

4. A METHOD FOR RECOVERING HYDROCARBON COMPOUNDS AND A HYDROCARBON RECOVERY APPARATUS FROM A **GASEOUS BY-PRODUCT**

Inventor:

TASAKA KAZUHIKO [JP] Applicant: JAPAN OIL GAS & METALS JOGMEC

INPEX CORP [JP]

(+4)

CPC: B01D3/00

Grant

Grant

IPC: C10G2/00

Publication info: CA2752839 (A1)

2010-09-02 CA2752839 (C) 2014-02-18

Priority date:

2009-02-27

5. Method for collecting hydrocarbon compound from gaseous by-product and apparatus for collecting hydrocarbon

Inventor: **KAZUHIKO TASAKA**

Applicant:

JAPAN OIL GAS & METALS JOGMEC

INPEX CORP

(+4)

CPC: B01D3/00 IPC: C10G2/00

Publication info: CN102333846 (A)

2012-01-25 CN102333846 (B)

2014-01-29 Global Dossier **Priority date:** 2009-02-27

Priority date

2009-0

6. METHOD FOR COLLECTING HYDROCARBON COMPOUNDS FROM GASEOUS BY-PRODUCT AND APPARATUS FOR **COLLECTING HYDROCARBON**



Inventor:

Applicant: Тасака. Казухико

ДЖЭПЭН ОЙЛ, ГЭЗ ЭНД МЕТАЛЗ НЭШНЛ КОРПОРЕЙШН. ИНПЕКС КОРПОРЕЙШН.

(+4)

CPC: B01D3/00

IPC: C10G2/00

Grant

Publication info: EA201170995 (A1) 2012-02-28

EA018772 (B1) 2013-10-30

publication kind code for grants B or C (sometimes A)

publication date

7. METHOD FOR COLLECTING HYDROCARBON COMPOUND FROM GASEOUS BY-PRODUCT AND APPARATUS FOR **COLLECTING HYDROCARBON**



Inventor:

TASAKA KAZUHIKO [JP] Applicant:

JAPAN OIL GAS & METALS JOGMEC

[JP]

INPEX CORP [JP]

(+4)

CPC: R01D3/00

R01D53/14

IPC:

No grant

Publication info: EP2402418 (A1)

2012-01-04 EP2402418 (A4) 2012-11-21

Global Dossier

Priority date: 2009-02-27

Priority date:

2009-02-27



Why?

8. METHOD FOR COLLECTING HYDROCARBON FROM FT GAS COMPONENT AND APPARATUS FOR COLLECTING **HYDROCARBON**



Inventor: **TASAKA KAZUHIKO** Applicant:

JAPAN OIL GAS & METALS JOGMEC

INPEX CORP

(+4)

CPC: B01D3/00

IPC: C10G2/00

Grant

Publication info: JP2010202677 (A)

2010-09-16 JP5301318 (B2) 2013-09-25

Global Dossier

WIPO

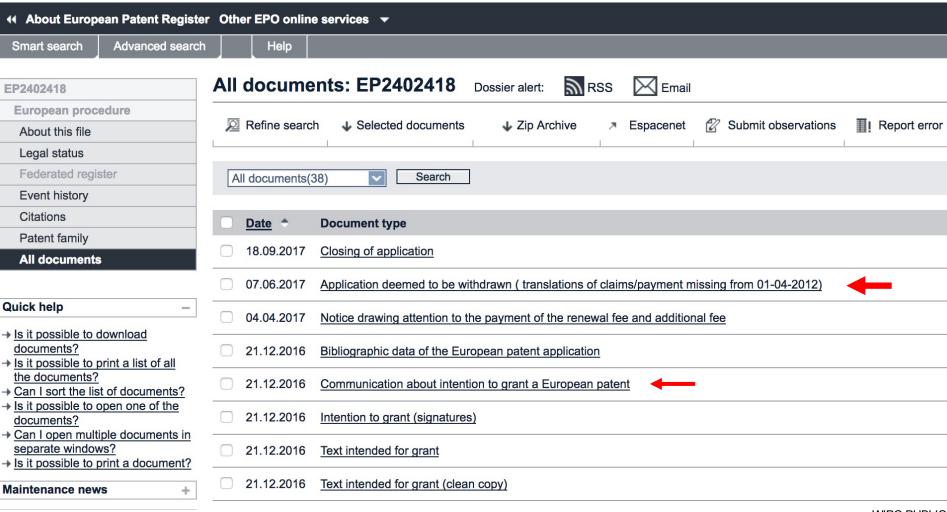
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

WIPO PUBLIC

Status EP family member from Dossier



European Patent Register



Work-Sharing in the PCT national phase

Utilizing examination work products from other national phases for improving **efficiency** and **quality** requires

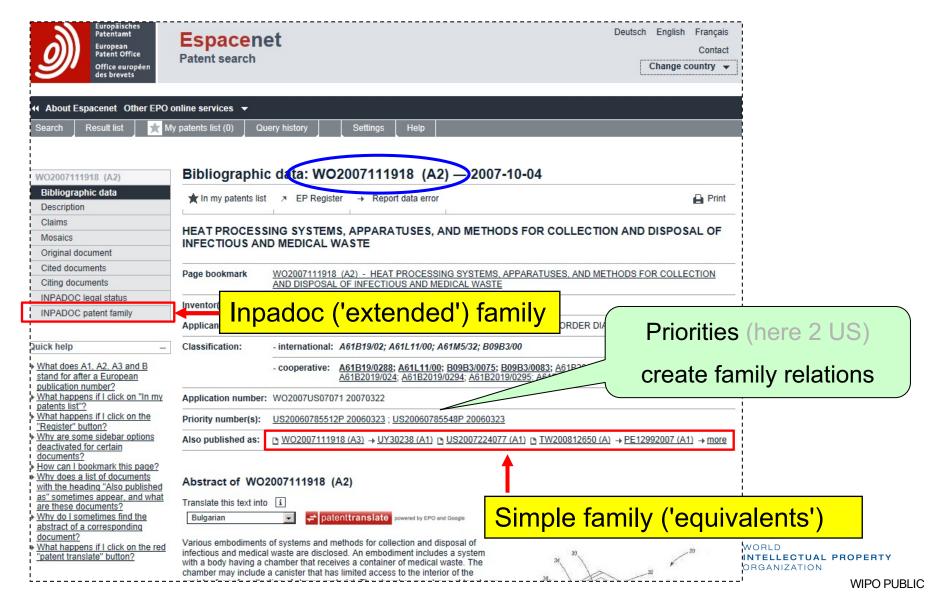
- Databases/platforms providing
 - Patent family information (family table) [>Topic 2]
 - Examination status of family members [>Topic 3]
 - Access to examination work products (dossiers, file wrappers) of family members [>Topic 4]
- Ideally, platforms which integrate this information in a user-friendly manner, e.g. within family table; and with additional tools, for example, for comparing work products (Common Citation Document CCD) [>Topic 6]
- Information on differing national practices (naming and content of work products; important case law; exclusions; ..)

Sources of family information

- EPO's INPADOC database is major source of such family information, accessible through:
 - Espacenet, EP-Register and CCD (simple and extended families; domestic families)
 - Other free patent information databases, like Depatis, Google Patents, ...
- WIPO PATENTSCOPE
 - aggregates national phase entry data <u>reported</u> from Designated/Elected Offices (obligation as from July 1, 2017; rule 95)
 - Proprietary family building (since 2021)
- WIPO CASE with proprietary family building based on application data shared by 'providing offices'; families are complex families (i.e. share at least one priority)
- Commercial patent databases obtain and use widely INPADOC data, and apply proprietary family building rules and data cleaning, e.g.
 - Clarivate/Derwent: WPI family
 - Questel/Orbit: Fampat family
 - ...
- Other specialized platforms, e.g. WIPO's <u>Pat-Informed</u> or MPP <u>MedsPal</u>
- India Form 3



Source of family information: Espacenet



Dossier Access and Status Information

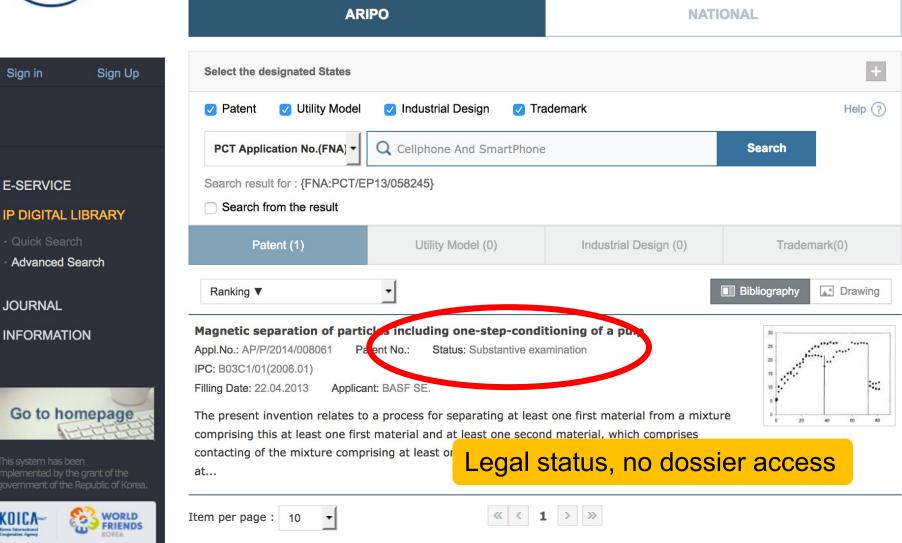
- Primary sources: each jurisdiction defines how authoritative (official) patent information is published and the respective authority in charge
- National Patent Registers are authoritative sources for
 - national legal status: all do (many online)
 - national family relations (divisions, continuations)
 - national publications
 - online access to national dossiers (public file inspection): some do
- Secondary sources (dossier access platforms): one-stop shops to access information from several primary sources through a unified user interface (building on a table of the patent family); access with English user interface:
 - **Espacenet Global Dossier** (public)
 - USPTO Global Dossier (public)(Google Patents links to USPTO GD)
 - **J-PlatPat One Portal Dossier** (=Global Dossier; public)
 - **CPQUERY Global Dossier** (registration required)
 - WIPO CASE (non-public)
 - WIPO PATENTSCOPE (public)





SEARCH RESULT

♠ Home > IPDL > Search Result



Global Dossier

- Initially IP5 initiative (initially labelled One Portal Dossier)
- Access to IP5 Offices' file wrappers/dossiers
 - always up-to-date because it is retrieved on-the-fly from IP5 national registers
 - Machine translation for non-English documents
 - Accessible via Espacenet, USPTO-GD, J-PatPLat, CPQUERY, Google Patents
 - Same data, only different user interface
- Access to non-IP5 dossiers of 'providing' Offices of WIPO-CASE
 - partly operational
- Espacenet interface with additional information/tools
 - Different types of families viewable (USPTO GD only extended family)
 - Inpadoc legal status
 - integrated access to Common Citation Document (CCD):
 - viewing <u>and</u> comparing of citations from members of extended and simple families from AP, AU, CA, CN, DE, EA, EP, JP, KR, RU, TW, US, WO,
 - 'comparing': which examiners have seen a particular citation or an equivalent thereof

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Dossier access platforms

WIPO-CASE (non-public) - Centralized Access to Search and Examination

- Accessible only for 'accessing' and 'providing' Offices
- 'Providing' offices share their dossiers with other participating offices:
 - IP5 dossiers obtained from GD/OPD (WIPO/EPO collaboration)
 - plus: AU, BN, CA, CL, GB, IL, IN, NZ, SG ...
- All ASEAN member offices are 'accessing' offices, only BN, SG are also 'providing'; others may become 'providing' in the near future
- Family information includes only so-called 'complex' families
 - Proprietary family building based on applications of 'providing' Offices recorded in CASE, and NPEs recorded in PATENTSCOPE
 - EPO INPADOC family data are not integrated
- No plans to open CASE to the public
- Bangladesh not yet a user of CASE
- Majority of dossiers are also publicly accessible through PATENTSCOPE 'document' tab (labelled as 'Global Dossier')



Dossier access platforms

PATENTSCOPE

- Public access to WIPO CASE dossiers through 'document' tab (labelled as 'Global Dossier')
- For jurisdictions which have authorized public sharing outside of CASE
- For some additional jurisdictions enabling deep-linking to their national registers
- Two distinct family tables
 - PCT family (National Phase Entries (NPE) reported to WIPO from Designated and Elected Offices)
 - only shown for WO publications
 - Additional proprietary family building based on simple family concept
 - EPO INPADOC family data are not integrated

How different are examination results?

Sample WO2008035580

- 2 JP priorities
- Extended family: 41 members
- Simple family: 35 members

Derived from kind codes of publications recorded in Espacenet

- Simple family:
- grants in AP, AU, CA, 2xCN, NZ, EA, EP, KR,
 - MA, MX, MY, NZ, TW, UA, US, PH, VN,?

Extended family:

- further grants in: 2xJP (priority country)
- Pendency: 2-10 years
 - 2006-09-20 earliest priority date
 - 2008-09-03 JP grant
 - 2016-10-26 EP
- Still pending in BH, LA,..



Examples of grants: WO2008035580

WO-A1 = AU-B2 = JP-B1

- 1. A plant cultivation system comprising:
- a nonporous hydrophilic film for cultivating a plant thereon, and
- a feeding means for supplying water or a nutrient fluid to the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film in the absence of a hydroponic tank for accommodating water or a nutrient fluid and cultivating a plant therein.

CA-C

- 1. A plant cultivation system comprising:
- a nonporous hydrophilic film for cultivating a plant thereon;
- a feeding means for feeding water or a nutrient fluid to the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film,
- said feeding means comprising at least one layer which is a water impermeable material layer or a water absorbing material layer,
- said at least one layer is laid and extends under said nonporous hydrophilic film,
- wherein, when said feeding means comprises both the water impermeable material layer and the water absorbing material layer, the water absorbing material layer is disposed between said nonporous hydrophilic film and said water impermeable material layer and in contact with the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film;
- and a drip tube as an irrigation means for supplying water or a nutrient fluid to the feeding means,
- said drip tube being disposed below said nonporous hydrophilic film in a man- ner such that water or a nutrient fluid supplied from the drip tube is fed to the lower surface of the nonporous hydrophilic film.

AU, JP granted initial claims without any modification

CA granted heavily modified claim

PO PRLD FELLECTUAL PROPERTY GANIZATION

Examples of grants: WO2008035580

CA-C

- 1. A plant cultivation system comprising:
- a nonporous hydrophilic film for cultivating a plant thereon;
- a feeding means for feeding water or a nutrient fluid to the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film,
- said feeding means comprising at least one layer which is a water impermeable material layer or a water absorbing material layer,
- said at least one layer is laid and extends under said nonporous hydrophilic film,
- wherein, when said feeding means comprises both the water impermeable material layer and the water absorbing material layer, the water absorbing material layer is disposed between said nonporous hydrophilic film and said water impermeable material layer and in contact with the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film;
- and a drip tube as an irrigation means for supplying water or a nutrient fluid to the feeding means.
- said drip tube being disposed below said nonporous hydrophilic film in a man- ner such that water or a nutrient fluid supplied from the drip tube is fed to the lower surface of the nonporous hydrophilic film.

US granted even more restricted claim

US-B2

- 1. A plant cultivation system comprising:
- a nonporous hydrophilic film for cultivating a plant thereon,
- a feeding means for feeding water or a nutrient fluid to the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film in the absence of a hydroponic tank for accommodating water or a nutrient fluid and cultivating a plant therein,
- said feeding means comprising at least one layer selected from the group consisting of a water impermeable material layer and a water absorbing material layer,
- which is laid and extends under said nonporous hydrophilic film,
- wherein, when said feeding means comprises both of said water impermeable material layer and said water absorbing material layer, said water absorbing material layer is disposed between said nonporous hydrophilic film and said water impermeable material layer and is in contact with the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film,
- and a drip tube as an irrigation means for supplying water or a nutrient fluid to said feeding means,
- said drip tube disposed below said nonporous hydrophilic film in a manner such that water or nutrient fluid supplied from said drip tube is fed to the lower surface of said nonporous hydrophilic film;
- wherein said nonporous hydrophilic film is a film which exhibits an electrical conductivity (EC) difference of 4.5 dS/m or less,
- said EC difference being determined by a method comprising contacting water with a saline solution having a salt concentration of 0.5% by weight through said nonporous hydrophilic film, measuring the electrical conductivity of each of the water and the saline solution 4 days (96 hours) after the start of the contact, and calculating the difference in electrical conductivity between the water and the saline solution.

ISR: 2 category A documents only

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP2007/067578

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

A01G27/00(2006.01)i, A01G1/00(2006.01)i, A01G7/00(2006.01)i, A01G13/00 (2006.01)i, A01G25/00(2006.01)i

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) A01G27/00, A01G1/00, A01G7/00, A01G13/00, A01G25/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Jitsuvo Shinan Koho 1922-1996 Jitsuyo Shinan Toroku Koho 1996-2007 Kokai Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1971-2007 Toroku Jitsuyo Shinan Koho 1994-2007

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevan

ategory

JP 2001-292643 A (Taiyo Kogyo Kabushib Kaisha),

23 October, 2001 (23.10.01)

Full text; all drawing

(Family: none)

JP 2003-506051 A (E.I. Du Pont De Nemours & Co.),

18 February, 2003 (18.02.03),

Full text; all drawings

& US 6484439 B1 & WO 2001/010192 A1

& EP 1530896 A2

Only A documents

Only JP publications

1-13

WIPO

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EP-A4: Supplementary EP search report



SUPPLEMENTARY PARTIAL EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number

under Rule 62a and/or 63 of the European Patent Convention. This report shall be considered, for the purposes of subsequent proceedings, as the European search report EP 07 82 8221

	DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
x	EP 1 695 615 A1 (UNIV LAVAL [CA]) 30 August 2006 (2006-08-30) * paragraph [0011] - paragraph [0013]; figures *	1	INV. A01G27/00 A01G1/00 A01G7/00 A01G13/00 A01G25/00 A01G31/02

Also seen by CA and US examiners

comparing citations in CCD

WIPO

WORLD

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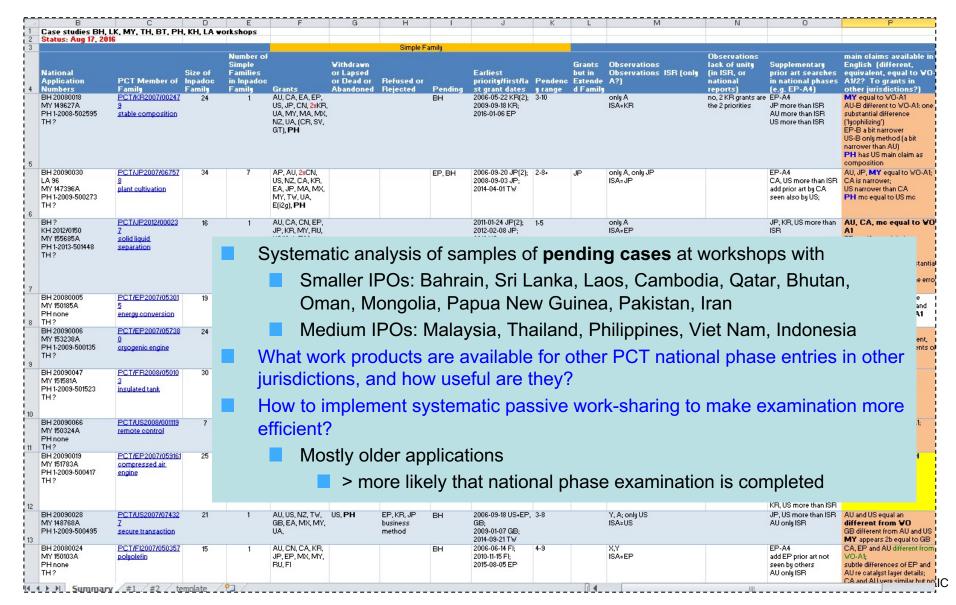
ORGANIZATION

Sample PCT/CA2013/00083

- Granted: AU, CA, MX
- Rejected: EP, US
- No NPE in CN, JP, KR
- ISA CA: category X in ISR
- Supplementary search by EP: Additional prior art of category X



Family table for PCT NPEs sample cases



Evidence & conclusions derived from sample set

- Large patent families: 10++ members
 - Many work products from many other national phases can be utilized
- Large fraction of families with grants: >95%
 - Most likely a patent can be granted; but which claims from which country are best?
 - The first foreign grant (PPH; e.g. for the sake of speediness)?
- Wide range of pendencies: 3-10 years after priority filing
 - What is backlog? How long to wait?
- Granted claims substantially different from claims granted in other jurisdictions: >60%
 - Careful selection of suitable claim sets
- Granted claims different from WO-A1/2 claims: >90%
- Additional prior art searches in national phases: >90%
 - Take into account for claim selection or decision to await further results
 - Do not solely rely on ISR
- Grants in some, rejections and withdrawals on other jurisdiction: **20**%
 - Carefully analyze reasons for rejections/substantial withdrawals



Further evidence for CII sample set

- Sample set of some 30 applications (Computer Implemented Inventions CII) with examination completed in all IP5 jurisdictions
- Large PCT patent families: 10++ members
- Large fraction of families with grants: >95%
- Granted claims substantially different from claims granted in other jurisdictions: >60%
 - because of different prior art, and
 - differing law (e.g., exclusions) and case law
- Grants in some, rejections and withdrawals in other jurisdictions: 39%
- Top-up searches in national phases: >90%
- Additional relevant prior art (category X or Y) for at least one NPE: 85%

What are the opportunities of transparency?

- Examination work products are easily visible, after application is published, for
 - Examiners
 - Third parties
- Foreign examination work products are usable for
 - Examiners in national phase (improving efficiency and quality)
 - Particular opportunities for small offices with limited capacities
 - For treating backlog
 - Managers to monitor examination quality
 - Third parties (you and/or competitors) to monitor prosecution, examination quality, prepare oppositions,
- General rule for examiners: Available foreign examination work products must not be ignored for national phase examination
 - Even examination of PPH requests need to include a check if other work products from further national phases have become available, in particular relevant prior art.

NTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Form 3 of IP India

PCT/EP2017/056134

UPDATED ANNEXURE TO FORM 3

Details of Foreign Applications corresponding to

INDIAN PATENT APPLICATION NO. 201817038931 FILED ON A October 2018 in the name of SOLVOTRIN THERAPEUTICS LTD

Corresponding PCT Application No.: PCT/EP2017/056134 Dated 15 March 2017

COUNTRY	APPLN. NO.	PCT FILING DATE	STATUS Such as pending,accepted,refused, abandoned,withdrawn, opposed etc.		
United Arab	P6001293/2018	15/03/2017	Pending		
Emirates ARIPO	AP/P/2018/011052	15/03/2017	Abandoned		
Australia	2017232266	15/03/2017	Pending		
Bahrain	167/2018	15/03/2017	Pending		
Brazil	BR112018068571-2	15/03/2017	Abandoned		
Canada	3,017,556	15/03/2017	Pending		
Chile	2018002632	15/03/2017	Abandoned		
China	2017800245532	15/03/2017	Response due by 11 February 2021		
Colombia	CO2018010940	15/03/2017	Response filed on 1 2020	October	
Costa Rica	2018-000488	15/03/2017	Pending		
Cuba	2018-0108	15/03/2017	Abandoned		
Djibouti	DJ/B/2018/0002	15/03/2017	Abandoned		
Algeria	180499	15/03/2017	Pending		
Eurasia	201892065	15/03/2017	Response to be filed by 21 March 2021		
Ecuador	2018-77068	15/03/2017	Abandoned		
Egypt	1439/2018	15/03/2017	Pending	Acce	
EPO	17710019.5	15/03/2017	Pending	notont	

India: Obligation for applicants to disclose all PCT national phase entries and submit respective examination results

Section 8

Sect 12 of BD patent law

Due to increasing transparency such disclosure requirements may not be needed anymore

Accessible via patent register of India in PASS

WIPO
WORLD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
ORGANIZATION

WIPO PUBLIC

Observations/Conclusions

- Duplication/repetition of work is not a bad thing as such
 - Improves the overall quality of patents
 - For PCT NPEs, examiners should **never** exclusively rely only on ISR/WO
 - However, work products become only gradually available and visible
 - Awaiting results from other national phases may be an option to enhance quality and efficiency, particularly in under-resourced Offices
 - Most recent or last grant is potentially of best quality
 - What does this mean for PPH?
- Suitable examination policies are required
- Currently examination of PCT NPEs starts in many jurisdictions at almost the same time; no coordination
- Cooperative examination would be the ideal way for improving
 - Quality of all patents of a family, and not just those ones granted last, and
 - Efficiency of procedures overall



Observations/Conclusions

- Sharing of application and legal status data (including NPE) still needs to improve, e.g. for regional cooperation
- Family building needs to be expanded, in particular with a view to IPOs in emerging and developing economies
- Patent families are global: Only platforms for work-sharing with global coverage make work-sharing efficient
 - regional solutions are not really useful
- Which work-products from other national phases to use?
 - 'Trusted' Offices?



Sovereign national prosecution

Paris Convention 1883:

- **No** obligation to follow/adopt conclusions of other IPOs or to use their results (Article 4bis)
- http://www.wipo.int/treaties/en/ip/paris/summary_paris.html
- Each IPO has obligation to observe national legislation
- Each IPO has responsibility/liability for quality patents
- Lawyers often refer to grants at other IPOs: just ignore that!

Thank you

lutz.mailander@wipo.int

