

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY  
ORGANIZATION

世界知识产权组织

ORGANIZACION MUNDIAL  
DE LA PROPIEDAD INTELECTUAL



ORGANISATION MONDIALE  
DE LA PROPRIÉTÉ INTELLECTUELLE

المنظمة العالمية للملكية الفكرية

ВСЕМИРНАЯ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯ  
ИНТЕЛЛЕКТУАЛЬНОЙ СОБСТВЕННОСТИ

Geneva, February 5, 1999

## INFORMATION NOTE

### The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in 1998

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva, announces the main events which occurred in 1998 in relation to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the results of operations under the PCT for that year.

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1. Since 1978, the PCT system has offered inventors and industry an advantageous route for obtaining patent protection internationally. By filing one “international” patent application under the PCT, protection for an invention can be sought simultaneously in each of a large number of countries.

2. **Developments in 1998.** The International Bureau of WIPO received 67,007 international applications filed worldwide,<sup>1</sup> which is 12,585 (23.1%) more than in 1997. The 67,007 international applications had the effect of 2,542,343 national applications, and of 169,424 regional applications which would be equivalent to 2,264,654 applications for patent protection in the member States of the regional patent systems, that is, a notional equivalent effect, in total, of 4,806,997 national applications.

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1. Figures based on the number of record copies of international applications received, under PCT Article 12, by the International Bureau from PCT receiving Offices (including from the International Bureau itself as a receiving Office).

3. During 1998, four new Contracting States became bound by the PCT (on the dates shown in parentheses):

*Cyprus* (April 1, 1998);

*Croatia* (July 1, 1998);

*Grenada* (September 22, 1998);

*India* (December 7, 1998).

4. Instruments of accession to the PCT were deposited on December 10, 1998, by the *United Arab Emirates* and on December 16, 1998, by *South Africa*, bringing the number of States which had acceded to the PCT by December 31, 1998, to 100, as follows:

Albania	Denmark	Lithuania	Sudan
Armenia	Estonia	Luxembourg	Swaziland
Australia	Finland	Madagascar	Sweden
Austria	France	Malawi	Switzerland
Azerbaijan	Gabon	Mali	Tajikistan
Barbados	Gambia	Mauritania	The former Yugoslav Republic of
Belarus	Georgia	Mexico	Macedonia
Belgium	Germany	Monaco	Togo
Benin	Ghana	Mongolia	Trinidad and Tobago
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Greece	Netherlands	Turkey
Brazil	Grenada	New Zealand	Turkmenistan
Bulgaria	Guinea	Niger	Uganda
Burkina Faso	Guinea-Bissau	Norway	Ukraine
Cameroon	Hungary	Poland	United Arab Emirates
Canada	Iceland	Portugal	United Kingdom
Central African Republic	India	Republic of Korea	United States of America
Chad	Indonesia	Republic of Moldova	Uzbekistan
China	Ireland	Romania	Viet Nam
Congo	Israel	Russian Federation	Yugoslavia
Côte d'Ivoire	Italy	Saint Lucia	Zimbabwe
Croatia	Japan	Senegal	
Cuba	Kazakhstan	Sierra Leone	
Cyprus	Kenya	Singapore	
Czech Republic	Kyrgyzstan	Slovakia	
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Latvia	Slovenia	
	Lesotho	South Africa	
	Liberia	Spain	
	Liechtenstein	Sri Lanka	

5. On April 1, 1998, the date on which Cyprus became bound by the PCT, it also became bound by the European Patent Convention. At the same time, the Government of Cyprus decided to close the national route via the PCT, so that Cyprus could be designated only for the purposes of obtaining a European patent (and not for a national patent).

6. On July 8, 1998, the date on which Guinea-Bissau became bound by the Bangui Agreement establishing the African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI), it became possible for PCT applicants to designate Guinea-Bissau for an OAPI patent. Furthermore, as from that date, it has no longer been possible to designate Guinea-Bissau for a national patent.

7. In 1998, many amendments of the Regulations under the PCT, which had been adopted by the Assembly of the PCT Union in October 1997, entered into force. One amendment, which entered into force in January 1998, but whose effective implementation was in April 1998, was the making available of the *PCT Gazette* in two forms: a bilingual paper form and an electronic form in separate English and French versions (see paragraph 27 for details). Other major changes, which entered into force on July 1, 1998, dealt with: the language in which international applications may be filed and the furnishing of translations; priority claims and the furnishing of priority documents; the presentation of nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence listings; references to deposited biological material; the transmittal of a demand to the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority; the time limits for payment of certain fees together with an extension of the time limits for payment, and the introduction of a late payment fee for Chapter II fees; the circumstances in which international applications may be transmitted by other Offices to the International Bureau as receiving Office (see paragraph 18); and the access by third parties to documents in the files of international applications. As a consequence of the amendments, a number of modifications were made during the course of 1998 to: the Administrative Instructions under the PCT; the request and demand forms, and a number of other forms for use by PCT Offices and Authorities; the PCT Receiving Office Guidelines; the PCT International Search Guidelines; and the PCT International Preliminary Examination Guidelines.

8. ***Developments in PCT Automation.*** In March 1998, the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO approved a proposed project for the automation of the PCT system. The main features of the project are: automation of the PCT operations of the International Bureau with the introduction of an electronic document management system for handling the increasing number of international applications; the development of electronic filing software; the communication between PCT Offices and Authorities and the International Bureau of documents, notifications and information in electronic form; and the development, where necessary of new standards for electronic filing, coding and transmission of data in order to ensure full compatibility of the system used by the International Bureau with those used by the national and regional Offices.

9. In April 1998, a “beta test” was initiated in which some volunteer PCT users were given the option of producing the request form as a computer print-out using the PCT-EASY software. The aim of the software is to enable applicants, through the use of its more than 165 validation checks, to avoid making mistakes on filing international applications. During the course of the year, the software was further improved, taking into account the experiences gained and comments received during the beta test phase. On January 1, 1999, the PCT-EASY software was generally released for the filing of international applications with

those receiving Offices that are prepared to accept international applications containing requests in PCT-EASY format together with diskettes, prepared using the PCT-EASY software, containing the abstract part of the international application. The software is now available, together with supporting documentation, in Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish. Further information on PCT-EASY can be found on the PCT-EASY home page (<http://pcteasy.wipo.int>) or via the WIPO home page (<http://www.wipo.int>) on the Internet, or can be obtained from the PCT-EASY Help Desk:

by telephone: (41-22) 338 95 23  
by fax: (41-22) 338 80 40  
by e-mail: [pcteasy.help@wipo.int](mailto:pcteasy.help@wipo.int)

At a later stage, when the necessary implementation is completed, the PCT-EASY software will also enable receiving Offices to receive entire international applications in electronic form, carry out automated formality checks and transmit international applications to the International Bureau and International Searching Authorities in electronic form.

10. ***Summary of the procedure under the PCT.*** The system of patent cooperation established by the PCT means that, by filing only one international application with one Office, the PCT applicant can obtain the effect of regular national filings in any of the PCT Contracting States being designated without initially having to furnish a translation of the application or pay national fees. The national patent granting procedure and the related high expenses are postponed, in the majority of cases, by up to 18 months (or even longer in the case of some Offices).

11. In addition to designations of PCT Contracting States for the purpose of obtaining national patents, an international application may include designations for regional patents: ARIPO (African Regional Industrial Property Organization) patents having effect in those States party to the Harare Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs which are also Contracting States of the PCT; Eurasian patents having effect in States party to the Eurasian Patent Convention; European patents having effect in States party to the European Patent Convention; and OAPI (African Intellectual Property Organization) patents having effect in States party to the Bangui Agreement.

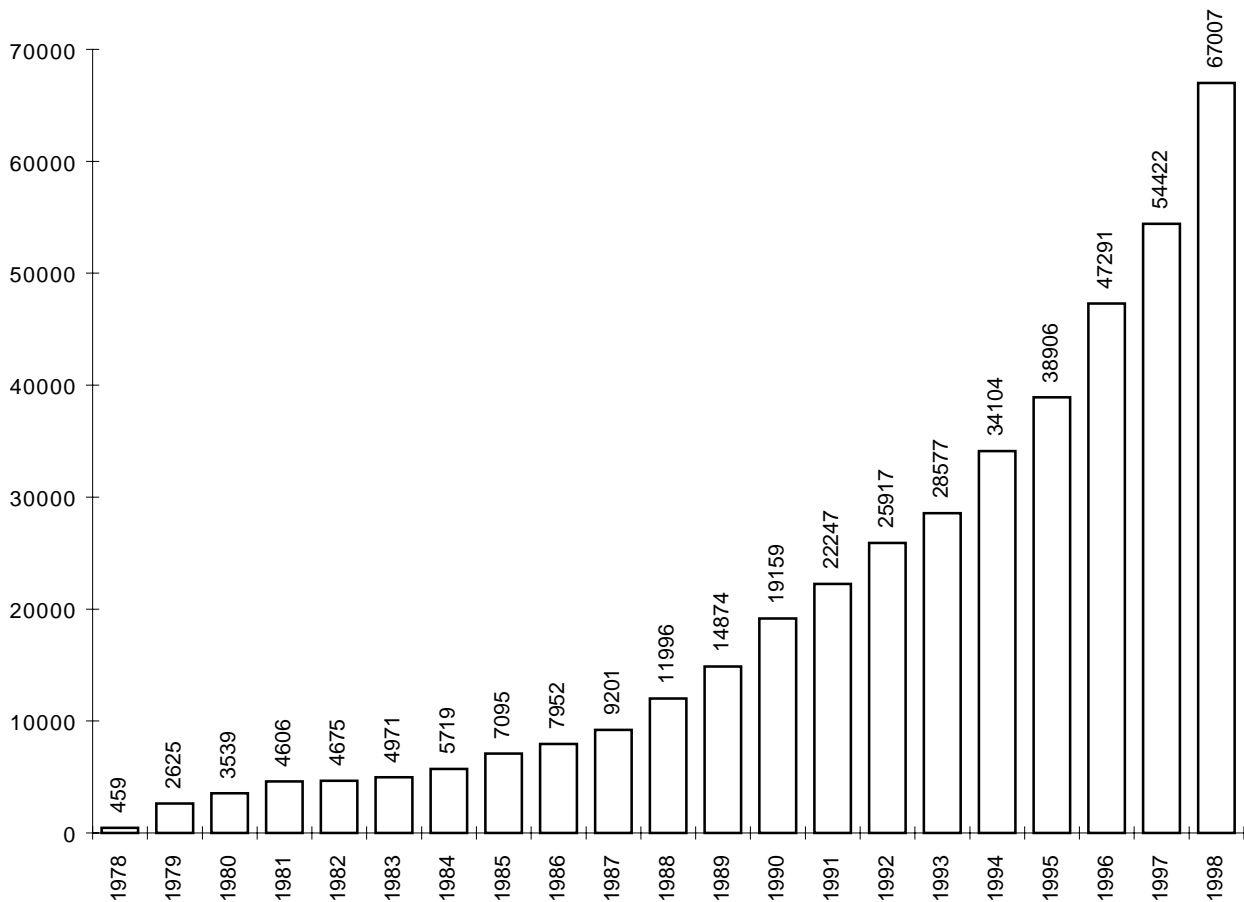
12. Each international application is subjected to an international search carried out by one of the major patent Offices of the world acting as an International Searching Authority under the PCT which establishes a report setting out the relevant prior art. That report is received by the applicant about 16 months after the priority date. The international application is published, together with the international search report, by the International Bureau 18 months after the priority date and is then transmitted to the applicant and the designated Offices.

13. If the applicant requests, and most do so (see paragraph 23), the international application is also subjected to international preliminary examination under PCT Chapter II, carried out by one of the Offices which acts as an International Preliminary Examining Authority, and the entry into the national phase of the procedure is postponed from 20 months after the priority date until 30 months after that date. The examination results in a report which includes an opinion as to whether the claimed invention fulfills the criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability. The international preliminary examination report is usually received by the applicant about 28 months after the priority date, and is also sent to the designated Offices which were elected under Chapter II.

14. With the international search report and the international preliminary examination report, the applicant is in a much better position to decide whether to initiate the national patent granting procedure before the various designated patent Offices. If the applicant considers, in the light of such reports, that it is worthwhile to continue seeking patent protection in several countries, he may then decide to pay national fees and professional fees for patent agents abroad, and to incur the cost of preparing translations. This need not be done until 20 months after the priority date (that is, eight months later than under the traditional system), or, if the applicant has filed, in time, a demand for international preliminary examination, until 30 months after the priority date (that is, 18 months later than under the traditional system). At that later time, the applicant is also in a much better position to decide about the need for patent protection having regard to increased knowledge of the technical and economic prospects of the invention.

15. **Statistics.** The following graph shows the number of international applications received by the International Bureau in each calendar year since the beginning of PCT operations:

*Number of international applications received since 1978*



16. The following table shows, by country of origin, the number of international applications received by the International Bureau, and the corresponding percentages of the total, in 1998 as compared with 1997:

<i>Country of origin</i> <sup>2</sup>		<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
		<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>
US	United States of America	28,356	(22,736)	42.3	(41.8)
DE	Germany	9,112	(7,436)	13.6	(13.7)
JP	Japan	6,098	(4,845)	9.1	(8.9)
GB	United Kingdom	4,383	(3,939)	6.5	(7.2)
FR	France	3,322	(2,496)	5.0	(4.6)
SE	Sweden	2,554	(2,188)	3.8	(4.0)
NL	Netherlands	2,065	(1,749)	3.1	(3.2)
CA	Canada	1,315	(1,075)	2.0	(2.0)
CH&LI	Switzerland and Liechtenstein <sup>3</sup>	1,293	(1,101)	1.9	(2.0)
FI	Finland	1,092	(873)	1.6	(1.6)
AU	Australia	1,048	(881)	1.6	(1.6)
IT	Italy	925	(797)	1.4	(1.5)
IL	Israel	672	(445)	1.0	(0.8)
DK	Denmark	624	(642)	0.9	(1.2)
KR	Republic of Korea	485	(304)	0.7	(0.6)
RU	Russian Federation	429	(419)	0.6	(0.8)
BE	Belgium	428	(294)	0.6	(0.5)
AT	Austria	421	(373)	0.6	(0.7)
NO	Norway	394	(367)	0.6	(0.7)
ES	Spain	378	(340)	0.6	(0.6)
CN	China	322	(157)	0.5	(0.3)
NZ	New Zealand	178	(166)	0.3	(0.3)
IE	Ireland	150	(115)	0.2	(0.2)
SG	Singapore	127	(71)	0.2	(0.1)
HU	Hungary	122	(93)	0.2	(0.2)
BR	Brazil	114	(91)	0.2	(0.2)
LU	Luxembourg	81	(48)	0.1	(<0.1)
MX	Mexico	67	(44)	0.1	(<0.1)
CZ	Czech Republic	55	(50)	<0.1	(<0.1)
PL	Poland	48	(35)	<0.1	(<0.1)
GR	Greece	41	(52)	<0.1	(0.1)
TR	Turkey	30	(26)	<0.1	(<0.1)
ZW	Zimbabwe	25	(0)	<0.1	(0)
YU	Yugoslavia	24	(12)	<0.1	(<0.1)
SI	Slovenia	23	(37)	<0.1	(<0.1)
RO	Romania	22	(13)	<0.1	(<0.1)
SK	Slovakia	22	(14)	<0.1	(<0.1)
UA	Ukraine	21	(12)	<0.1	(<0.1)
BG	Bulgaria	18	(15)	<0.1	(<0.1)
BY	Belarus	16	(10)	<0.1	(<0.1)

[continued on next page]

2. Figures relate to receiving Offices with which international applications were filed, except that applications filed with regional Offices or with the International Bureau as receiving Offices are included under the applicant's country of residence. Of the total, 8,311 (= 12.4%) were filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) as receiving Office and 2,156 (= 3.2%) were filed with the International Bureau as receiving Office.

3. The national Office of Switzerland also acts as receiving Office for nationals and residents of Liechtenstein.

*Number of international applications received by the International Bureau in 1998 and 1997 [continued]*

<i>Country of origin</i>		<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
		<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>
BB	Barbados	13	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
CU	Cuba	12	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
IS	Iceland	12	(6)	<0.1	(<0.1)
HR	Croatia	9	(n.a.)	<0.1	(n.a.)
PT	Portugal	8	(9)	<0.1	(<0.1)
LV	Latvia	6	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
CY	Cyprus	5	(n.a.)	<0.1	(n.a.)
GE	Georgia	5	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
ID	Indonesia	5	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
KZ	Kazakhstan	4	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
UZ	Uzbekistan	4	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
VN	Viet Nam	4	(0)	<0.1	(0)
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	3	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
MC	Monaco	3	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
TT	Trinidad and Tobago	3	(0)	<0.1	(0)
AM	Armenia	2	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
EE	Estonia	2	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
LT	Lithuania	2	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
AZ	Azerbaijan	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
KE	Kenya	1	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
KG	Kyrgyzstan	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
LK	Sri Lanka	1	(2)	<0.1	(<0.1)
MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	1	(4)	<0.1	(<0.1)
OA	OAPI States	0	(1)	0	(<0.1)
TOTAL		67,007	(54,422)	100.00	(100.00)

17. In 1998, the average number of designations made per international application was 40.5 (1997: 35.3). This figure is much higher than the number of States for which patent protection will eventually be sought, because the applicants in respect of 55.5% (1997: 47.8%) of all international applications received by the International Bureau in 1998 used the possibility of paying the maximum of 11 designation fees<sup>4</sup> while making as many as all possible designations. Such applicants extend the effects of their international applications to as many States as might later be of interest to them, deferring a decision as to which States they wish to proceed in. Most applicants make designations for regional patents, which designations themselves have effect in a number of States. For example, in 1998, a European patent was sought in 96.7% of all international applications.

18. In 1998, the International Bureau of WIPO as receiving Office received 2,182 international applications, which is 540 (32.8%) more than in 1997, from applicants from 49 countries. Those applications included 437 which benefited from the safeguard procedure under which international applications are transmitted from another receiving Office to the International Bureau in its capacity as receiving Office while retaining their initial filing date (for example, where they have been filed with a “non-competent” receiving Office, or where they are filed in a language which is not accepted by the other Office).

4. With effect from January 1, 1999, the maximum number of designation fees payable is 10.

19. The international applications received by the International Bureau from receiving Offices in 1998 were filed in the following languages:

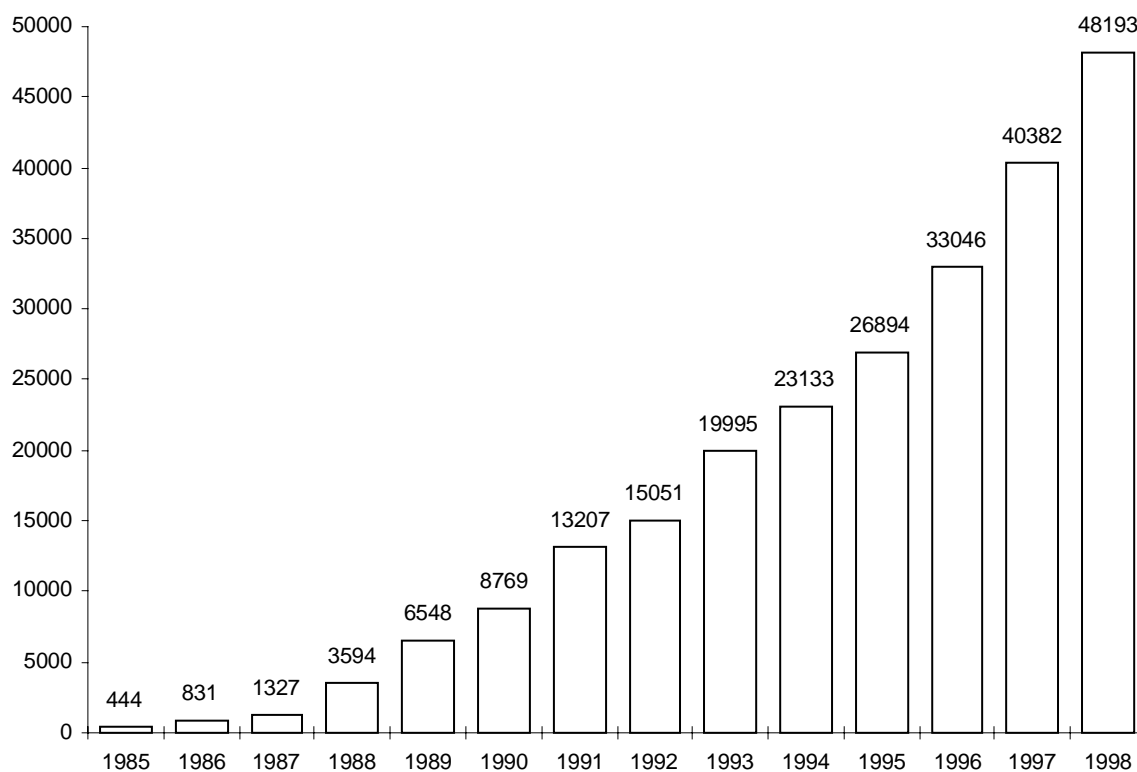
<i>Language of filing</i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>
English	44,458	(35,953)	66.3	(66.1)
German	10,086	(8,304)	15.1	(15.3)
Japanese	5,689	(4,521)	8.5	(8.3)
French	3,392	(2,618)	5.1	(4.8)
Swedish	899	(968)	1.3	(1.8)
Finnish	523	(419)	0.8	(0.8)
Dutch	476	(349)	0.7	(0.6)
Russian	434	(404)	0.6	(0.7)
Spanish	422	(370)	0.6	(0.7)
Norwegian	236	(209)	0.3	(0.4)
Danish	178	(173)	0.3	(0.3)
Chinese	177	(134)	0.3	(0.2)
Other languages	37	n.a.	<0.1	n.a.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67,007</b>	<b>(54,422)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>

20. A copy of the international application is sent to the International Searching Authority competent for carrying out the international search. Where more than one Authority is competent, the applicant chooses the one he would like to carry out the search. The number of international applications sent to each International Searching Authority is indicated below:

<i>International Searching Authority</i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>
European Patent Office	39,136	(30,604)	58.4	(56.2)
United States of America	14,597	(12,717)	21.8	(23.4)
Japan	5,690	(4,522)	8.5	(8.3)
Sweden	4,702	(4,341)	7.0	(8.0)
Australia	1,209	(1,003)	1.8	(1.8)
Austria	591	(363)	0.9	(0.7)
Russian Federation	433	(410)	0.6	(0.7)
Spain	329	(305)	0.5	(0.6)
China	320	(157)	0.5	(0.3)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67,007</b>	<b>(54,422)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>

21. The number of demands for international preliminary examination received by the International Bureau from the International Preliminary Examining Authorities in 1998 amounted to 48,193, which represents an increase over 1997 of 19.3%. The number of demands received in each calendar year since 1985 is indicated below:



*Number of demands received since 1985*

22. The number of demands received by the International Bureau from each International Preliminary Examining Authority is indicated below:

<i>International Preliminary Examining Authority</i>	<i>Number of demands</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>
European Patent Office	26,592	(22,103)	55.2	(54.7)
United States of America	14,130	(12,412)	29.3	(30.7)
Sweden	3,088	(2,447)	6.4	(6.1)
Japan	2,776	(2,046)	5.8	(5.1)
Australia	1,009	(896)	2.1	(2.2)
Russian Federation	259	(183)	0.5	(0.5)
Austria	219	(173)	0.5	(0.4)
China	120	(122)	0.2	(0.3)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>48,193</b>	<b>(40,382)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>

23. The demands for international preliminary examination received in 1998 relate mainly to international applications filed in 1997. Demands are filed in respect of more than 80% of all applications.

24. **Meetings.** The Assembly of the PCT Union held its twenty-sixth (15th ordinary) session in Geneva from September 7 to 15, 1998. The Assembly decided to amend the Schedule of Fees to decrease the maximum number of designation fees payable with effect from January 1, 1999, from 11 to 10. This means that any designation made under PCT Rule 4.9(a) in excess of 10 will not require the payment of a designation fee. The Assembly also adopted an amendment to the Schedule of Fees, with effect from January 1, 1999, to provide for a reduction of 200 Swiss francs (or the equivalent in other currencies) in the total amount payable in respect of the international fee if the following conditions are met: (i) the request is presented as a computer print-out prepared using the PCT-EASY software (see paragraph 9 for details on the PCT-EASY software); (ii) the request is filed together with a computer diskette, prepared using that software, containing a copy in electronic form of the data contained in the request and of the abstract; (iii) the international application is filed with a receiving Office which is prepared to accept the filing of international applications containing requests in PCT-EASY format together with PCT-EASY diskettes.

25. **Seminars.** In 1998, officials of the International Bureau participated in 122 seminars which dealt with the use and advantages of the PCT and the promotion of accession to the PCT. In the course of those seminars, which were held in Argentina, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, France, Germany, Ghana, India, Iran, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zimbabwe, presentations were given in Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean and Spanish to about 6,650 users and potential users of the PCT system.

26. **PCT Information Line.** The PCT Information Line answers general inquiries about the filing of international applications and the procedure during the international phase under the PCT. Where necessary, inquiries are referred to the authorized officer responsible for the particular application, or to the PCT Legal Division. The PCT Information Line can be contacted as follows:

by telephone: (41-22) 338 83 38  
by fax: (41-22) 338 83 39  
by e-mail: pct.infoline@wipo.int

27. **Publications under the PCT.** At the beginning of April 1998, the format of the paper version of the *PCT Gazette* changed, the *Gazette* became available on the Internet, and information from the *Gazette* became available on a new CD-ROM. The paper version of the *Gazette* is now bilingual (English and French) and no longer contains abstracts or drawings. Special issues (see paragraph 29) are, however, available in separate English and French versions. The Internet version of the *Gazette* is available, free-of-charge, via the WIPO home page (<http://www.wipo.int>). It contains, in English and French, the following sections (which are equivalent to the contents of the previous paper version):

- Section I: Published International Applications (the bibliographic data, the abstract and any drawing, for each international application published). This section is fully searchable, with searches possible by single words or by phrases and by a number of fields.
- Section II: Notices and Information Relating to Published International Applications

## Section III: Weekly Indexes

## Section IV: Notices and Information of a General Character.

28. There are now two series of CD-ROMs containing information from the *Gazette*. One is the monthly ESPACE-FIRST CD-ROM which is produced by the European Patent Office (see also paragraph 33). The other series, which has been produced since the beginning of April 1998, was developed by Bundesdruckerei GmbH, in cooperation with WIPO, and is issued every week on the day on which WIPO publishes the corresponding international applications (see also paragraph 36).

29. In 1998, the *Gazette* included entries relating to the 59,597 international applications (1997: 50,282) which were published in 1998 in the form of PCT pamphlets (in Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Russian or Spanish, depending on the language of filing) on the same day as the relevant issue of the *Gazette*. The *Gazette* also included, in Section IV, a substantial volume of information of a general character concerning new Contracting States and the requirements of the various Offices and International Authorities. In June, a bilingual (English/French) index of the *Gazette* was published for 1997, containing a consolidated version of the indexes published in Section III and an index to Section IV. The following special issues of the *Gazette* were published in 1998:

- Nos. S-01/1998 (E) and (F) (January) and S-04/1998 (E) and (F) (July)—Consolidated general information relating to PCT Contracting States, national and regional Offices and International Authorities under the PCT;
- No. S-02/1998 (E) and (F) (June)—Amendments of the PCT Regulations;
- No. S-03/1998 (E) and (F) (June)—Administrative Instructions under the PCT, as in force from July 1, 1998;
- No. S-05/1998 (E) and (F) (September)—PCT Receiving Office Guidelines, as in force from August 28, 1998;
- No. S-06/1998 (E) and (F) (October)—PCT International Search Guidelines, as in force from September 18, 1998;
- No. S-07/1998 (E) and (F) (October)—PCT International Preliminary Examination Guidelines, as in force from October 9, 1998.

30. The number of international applications published in each of the languages of publication was as follows:

<i>Language of publication</i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>(1997)</b>
English	41,841	(35,384)	70.2	(70.4)
German	9,131	(7,676)	15.3	(15.3)
Japanese	4,879	(3,950)	8.2	(7.8)
French	2,880	(2,523)	4.8	(5.0)
Russian	394	(338)	0.7	(0.7)
Spanish	350	(282)	0.6	(0.5)
Chinese	122	(129)	0.2	(0.3)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>59,597</b>	<b>(50,282)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>

31. The *PCT Applicant's Guide*, which contains information on the filing of international applications and the procedure during the international phase as well as information on the national phase and the procedure before the designated (or elected) Offices, was updated twice in 1998 to include the many changes that had occurred during the year. About 500 updating sheets, per language, were sent to each subscriber in 1998.

32. Twelve issues of the *PCT Newsletter* were published in 1998. This monthly publication provides up-to-date news for users of the PCT. It contains information on the essential items included in Section IV of the *PCT Gazette* and supplements the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, with practical advice for applicants and agents, a list of forthcoming PCT seminars, consolidated tables of PCT fees in various currencies, and other items of general interest. It also includes tear-out provisional sheets permitting easy inclusion of certain important changes in the *PCT Applicant's Guide* prior to the issuance of six-monthly updates.

33. In 1998, the International Bureau continued, in cooperation with the European Patent Office, the weekly production of ESPACE WORLD CD-ROMs, which contain, in facsimile form, the full text and the drawings of all international applications and international search reports published each week, as well as the corresponding bibliographic data in coded, searchable form. All international applications published since 1978 are available in CD-ROM format (a total of 880 CD-ROMs had been produced by the end of 1998).

34. **Ordering of PCT publications.** PCT publications may be ordered from WIPO, Information Products Section, P.O. Box 18, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, fax: (41-22) 740 18 12 or 733 54 28. Publications of particular interest include:

- the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a five-binder loose-leaf publication of more than 1,000 pages (available in English and French from WIPO, also available from other sources in Chinese, German and Japanese—contact WIPO for details);
- PCT pamphlets containing published international applications (in various languages—see paragraph 30—and containing the title and the abstract in both the language of publication and English), together with the corresponding international search reports;
- the *PCT Gazette* (available in bilingual (English and French) format);
- the *PCT Newsletter* (available in English);
- booklets containing the text of the PCT and the PCT Regulations (in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish);
- special issues of the *PCT Gazette* (see paragraph 29) (in English and French).

35. A leaflet entitled *Basic Facts about the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)* is available free of charge in English, French, German, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish.

36. The ESPACE WORLD CD-ROMs containing published international applications may be ordered from the European Patent Office, Schottenfeldgasse 29, Postfach 82, A-1072 Vienna, Austria. However, CD-ROMs containing the international applications published between 1978 and 1989 can be obtained only from WIPO, at the address indicated in paragraph 34. The CD-ROMs produced by Bundesdruckerei GmbH may be ordered from the following address: Bundesdruckerei GmbH, Sparte Elektronische Publikationen, Oranienstraße 91, D-10958 Berlin, Germany.

37. **Internet.** During 1998, the International Bureau increased significantly the amount of PCT materials on the Internet. The following PCT materials may now be viewed, free of charge, on WIPO's Internet site (<http://www.wipo.int>):

- *PCT Gazette*
- Information on PCT Information Line
- *PCT Newsletter* (No. 01/1997 to current issue)
- *PCT Applicant's Guide*
- PCT-EASY software and supporting documentation
- Recent PCT-related updates
- PCT Automation Project Overview
- PCT seminar calendar
- *Basic Facts about the PCT*
- The PCT in 1998
- About the Treaty
- Text of the Patent Cooperation Treaty
- Status of ratifications
- Text of the Regulations under the PCT
- Administrative Instructions under the PCT (as in force from July 1, 1998)
- PCT Receiving Office Guidelines (as in force from August 28, 1998)
- PCT International Search Guidelines (as in force from September 18, 1998)
- PCT International Preliminary Examination Guidelines (as in force from October 9, 1998)
- Direct filing of PCT applications with the International Bureau as PCT receiving Office
- PCT forms
- PCT Assembly documents: 1997, 1998

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