



Geneva, February 13, 2001

## INFORMATION NOTE

### The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) in 2000

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Geneva, announces the main events which occurred in 2000 in relation to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) and the results of operations under the PCT for that year.

— \* —

1. The PCT system offers 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. Both applicants and patent Offices of PCT member States benefit from the uniform formality requirements, the international search and preliminary examination reports, and the centralized international publication provided by the PCT system.

2. *Developments in 2000.* The International Bureau of WIPO received 90,948 international applications filed worldwide,<sup>1</sup> which is 16,925 (22.9%) more than in 1999. The 90,948 international applications had the effect of 4,806,623 national applications, and of 262,793 regional applications which would be equivalent to 3,650,549 applications for patent protection in the member States of the regional patent systems, that is, a notional equivalent effect, in total, of 8,457,172 national applications. In March 2000, the PCT reached a milestone in its history with the filing of the 500,000<sup>th</sup> application. It is interesting to note that the 250,000<sup>th</sup> application was received in February 1996, 18 years after the start of PCT operations, and it took only four years to receive the next 250,000.

---

1. Figures in this information note for international applications filed in 2000 are based on the number of record copies of international applications received, under PCT Article 12, by the International Bureau in 2000 from PCT receiving Offices (including the Receiving Office Section of the International Bureau).

3. During 2000, four new Contracting States became bound by the PCT (on the dates shown in parentheses):

*Algeria* (March 8, 2000);

*Antigua and Barbuda* (March 17, 2000);

*Mozambique* (May 18, 2000);

*Belize* (June 17, 2000).

4. Colombia deposited its instrument of accession to the PCT on November 29, 2000, bringing the number of States which had acceded to the PCT by December 31, 2000, to 109, as follows:

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

5. On May 8, 2000, Mozambique became bound by the Harare Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs within the framework of the African Regional Industrial Property Organization (ARIPO). Consequently, as from May 18, 2000 (the date on which Mozambique became bound by the PCT), it became possible for PCT applicants to designate Mozambique for an ARIPO patent, as well as for a national patent. On November 1, 2000, Turkey became bound by the European Patent Convention, and thus, as from that date, it

became possible for PCT applicants to designate Turkey for a European patent, as well as for a national patent.

6. ***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, an applicant can obtain the effect of regular national filings in any of the designated PCT Contracting States 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), as compared with the traditional patent system.

7. 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 have effect in those States party to the Harare Protocol on Patents and Industrial Designs within the framework of ARIPO which are also Contracting States of the PCT; Eurasian patents have effect in States party to the Eurasian Patent Convention; European patents have effect in States party to the European Patent Convention; and OAPI (African Intellectual Property Organization) patents have effect in States party to the revised Bangui Agreement Relating to the Creation of an African Intellectual Property Organization.

8. Each international application is subjected to an international search carried out by one of the major patent Offices, 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. Eighteen months after the priority date, the international application is published by the International Bureau, together with the international search report and any amendments of claims which may be made by the applicant, and is then transmitted to the applicant and the designated Offices.

9. If the applicant so requests (by filing a “demand” for international preliminary examination), and most do so (see paragraph 27), the international application is then subjected to international preliminary examination under PCT Chapter II by one of the Offices that act as International Preliminary Examining Authority. The entry into the national phase of the procedure is also postponed from 20 months after the priority date until 30 months after that date (later time limits apply in some cases) and the applicant is given an additional opportunity to amend the application. The examination results in a report that 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.

10. With the international search report and the international preliminary examination report, the applicant is in a much better position to decide whether to proceed with the national patent granting procedure before the various designated patent Offices. If the applicant considers, in the light of those reports, that it is worthwhile to continue seeking patent protection in several countries, he may then decide to pay the 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 or more after the priority date (that is, eight months later than under the traditional system), or, if the applicant has filed a demand for international preliminary examination in time, until 30 months or more after the priority date (that is, 18 months later than under the traditional patent 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 value and commercial prospects of the invention.

11. *Meetings.* The Assembly of the PCT Union held its twenty-eighth (16th extraordinary) session in Geneva from March 13 to 17, 2000. The Assembly unanimously adopted a number of amendments to the PCT Regulations, which will enter into force on March 1, 2001. The amendments aim mainly at simplifying the national phase processing of PCT applications and aligning the PCT with the Patent Law Treaty (PLT) which was adopted on June 2, 2000. In particular, the amended Regulations will allow applicants to complete, when filing their international applications, declarations, containing standardized wording, concerning certain matters on which documents or evidence are required for the purposes of the national law in one or more designated States; such matters relate, in particular, to the identity of the inventor, the right to apply for a patent, the right to claim priority, inventorship, and non-prejudicial disclosures. Where declarations are submitted as provided, the circumstances under which further documents or evidence may be required by designated Offices will be restricted to cases where the Offices may reasonably doubt the veracity of the declarations. An amendment to the Regulations was also adopted allowing designated Offices to require that the applicant furnish a translation of the priority document, but only where the validity of the priority claim is relevant to the determination of whether the invention concerned is patentable. Another amendment to the Regulations was adopted with a view to limiting the cases in respect of which the International Preliminary Examining Authority is entitled to invite the applicant to furnish a translation of the priority document: the cases concerned would be those where the validity of a priority claim made in the international application is relevant for the formulation of the opinion as to the patentability of the invention.

12. From July 11 to 14, 2000, a PCT Informal Consultation Meeting on Electronic Filing was held in Geneva. Proposed modifications of the PCT Administrative Instructions (new Part 7) relating to the electronic filing, processing, storage and records management of international applications, as well as a proposed technical standard in new Annex F to the Administrative Instructions, were discussed. The Meeting made significant progress towards the establishment of a legal framework and technical standard for the electronic filing and processing of PCT applications. It discussed, in particular, a set of common procedures for use by PCT applicants who have access to a personal computer and the Internet, and by PCT receiving Offices, using WIPO-furnished software. (See also paragraph 16.)

13. The Assembly of the PCT Union held its twenty-ninth (17th extraordinary) session in Geneva from September 25 to October 3, 2000. The Assembly decided to amend the Schedule of Fees to decrease the maximum number of designation fees payable, with effect from January 1, 2001, from eight to six (following the reduction from ten to eight as from January 1, 2000). Now, any designation made under PCT Rule 4.9(a) in excess of six does not require the payment of a designation fee. It was also announced at the Assembly that the Director General of WIPO had decided that, with effect from January 1, 2001, the transmittal fee charged by the International Bureau acting as receiving Office would be reduced from 300 Swiss francs to 100 Swiss francs, and that those applicants who presently qualify for a 75% reduction in the international fee would not pay any transmittal fee when filing international applications with that Office. The Assembly also discussed proposals for reform of the PCT, which had been made by the United States of America, and decided that a special body (consisting of Member States, the International Searching and Preliminary Authorities and observers, in particular, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, including the European Commission) would be set up to consider proposals for reform of the PCT.

14. **Seminars.** In 2000, officials of the International Bureau participated in 136 seminars and presentations that dealt with the use and advantages of the PCT and the promotion of accession to it. Those seminars and presentations were held in Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Nicaragua, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Venezuela. They were given to about 8,900 users and potential users of the PCT system in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Korean, Russian and Spanish. They included 13 specialized presentations that were given to some 540 people on the use of the PCT-EASY software.

15. **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 a 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

16. **Developments in PCT Automation.**

– PCT-EASY: during 2000, four receiving Offices notified the International Bureau that they are prepared to accept the filing of international applications containing requests prepared using PCT-EASY together with PCT-EASY diskettes, bringing the number of receiving Offices which have made such notifications to 58 (out of the 81 PCT receiving Offices). Regular updates (five in 2000) of the PCT-EASY software are issued to take into account changes, such as new PCT Contracting States and changes in PCT fees. A new export/import functionality was also introduced to facilitate data exchange between EASY systems, to provide the possibility for creating a backup of essential PCT-EASY data and enable the transfer of PCT-EASY address book data to/from external programs. The software is available, together with supporting documentation, in Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Russian and Spanish, and can be downloaded from the Internet from the PCT-EASY home page (<http://pcteasy.wipo.int>) or the PCT home page (<http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/index.html>). It may also 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

For statistics on the filing of international applications using the PCT-EASY software, see paragraph 20.

– PCT IMPACT (Information Management for the Patent Cooperation Treaty): following the completion, in December 1999, of the tender process and the selection of a consortium of three companies led by Xerox Professional Services (XPS) (United Kingdom), work on the project continued in 2000. (The other companies are Cap Gemini Ernst & Young (France) and Hewlett Packard (Switzerland).) According to the IMPACT project plan, the project will be implemented in three phases: (i) the IMPACT Communication System phase; (ii) the IMPACT/IB (International Bureau) phase; and (iii) the IMPACT/RO/IB (receiving Office of the International Bureau) phase. The objective of the first phase of the IMPACT Project, the IMPACT Communication System, is to establish a new system for the communication of certain PCT-related documents (such as PCT pamphlets, copies of priority documents, various PCT Forms and, under Chapter II of the PCT, international preliminary examination reports and any English translations thereof) to designated/elected Offices, International Searching Authorities, International Preliminary Examining Authorities and/or national/regional Offices of PCT Contracting States. At the end of 2000, this first phase of the project entered the prototype stage. The objective of the second and third phases of the project, IMPACT/IB and IMPACT/RO/IB, on which the IMPACT project team will focus its activities in 2001, is to establish a new system for the processing (including automated publication) of international applications within the International Bureau, including its receiving Office section.

– PCT electronic filing project: the main objectives of this project are to adopt a standard for the electronic filing and processing of international applications and to develop a system for the electronic filing of international applications based on the present PCT-EASY software. Step one of this project includes the construction of a pilot system. It is expected that the International Bureau as receiving Office will, in November 2001, commence receipt of international applications prepared using extended PCT-EASY software, in paper form with parallel electronic submission, on a pilot basis. In December 2001, other receiving Offices with the necessary technical capacity are expected to have the possibility of receiving international applications in electronic form. Step two of the project will more fully implement electronic filing, including the provision of electronic filing software for other receiving Offices. (See also paragraph 12.)

For further information, see documents PCT/A/29/2 and PCT/A/29/2 Add. at:

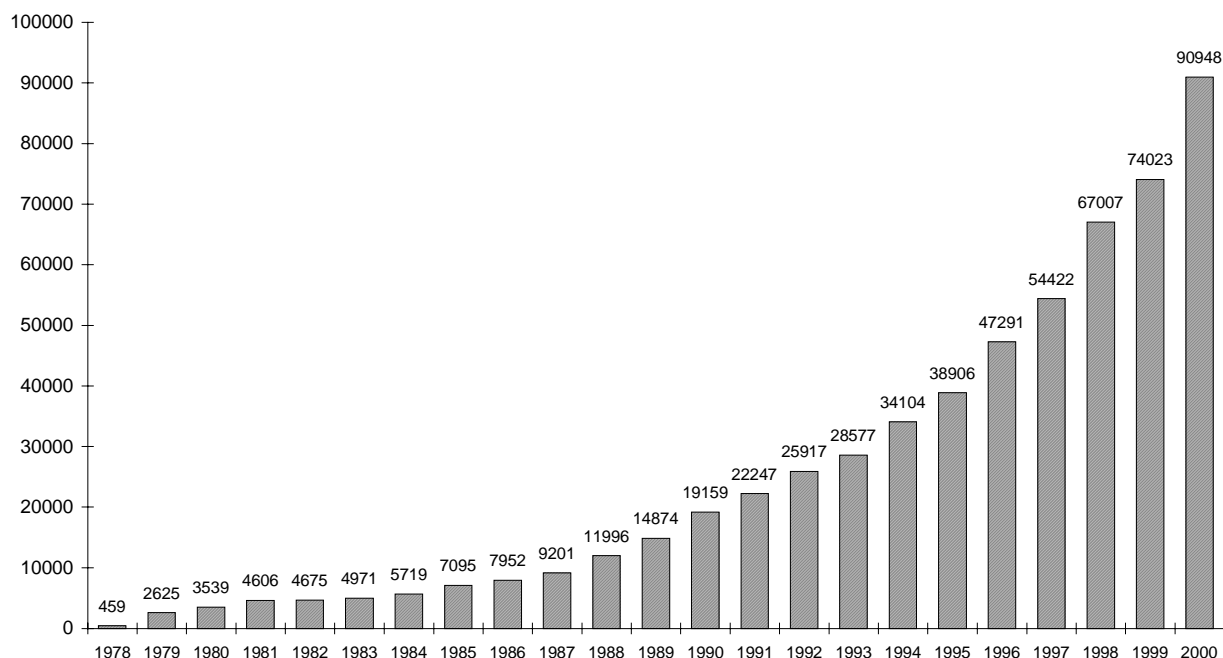
[http://www.wipo.int/eng/document/govbody/wo\\_pct/index\\_29.htm](http://www.wipo.int/eng/document/govbody/wo_pct/index_29.htm)

and, for the drafting of the technical and legal framework for electronic filing, see:

[http://pcteasy.wipo.int/efiling\\_standards/EFPPage.htm](http://pcteasy.wipo.int/efiling_standards/EFPPage.htm)

17. **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*



18. The following table shows, by country of origin, the number of international applications filed, and the corresponding percentages of the total, in 2000 as compared with 1999:

<i>Country of origin<sup>2</sup></i>		<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
		<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>
US	United States of America	38,171	(29,463)	42.0	(39.8)
DE	Germany	12,039	(10,897)	13.2	(14.7)
JP	Japan	9,402	(7,255)	10.3	(9.8)
GB	United Kingdom	5,538	(4,741)	6.1	(6.4)
FR	France	3,601	(3,633)	4.0	(4.9)
SE	Sweden	3,071	(2,619)	3.4	(3.5)
NL	Netherlands	2,587	(2,153)	2.8	(2.9)
CH&LI	Switzerland and Liechtenstein <sup>3</sup>	1,701	(1,564)	1.9	(2.1)
AU	Australia	1,627	(1,154)	1.8	(1.6)
CA	Canada	1,600	(1,398)	1.8	(1.9)
KR	Republic of Korea	1,514	(790)	1.7	(1.1)
FI	Finland	1,437	(1,269)	1.6	(1.7)
IT	Italy	1,354	(1,130)	1.5	(1.5)
IL	Israel	924	(729)	1.0	(1.0)
DK	Denmark	789	(792)	0.9	(1.1)

*[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, 12,666 (= 13.9%) were filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) as receiving Office and 1,975 (= 2.2%) 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.

<i>Country of origin<sup>4</sup></i>		<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
		<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>
RU	Russian Federation	590	(532)	0.7	(0.7)
CN	China	579	(240)	0.6	(0.3)
BE	Belgium	574	(513)	0.6	(0.7)
ES	Spain	519	(457)	0.6	(0.6)
AT	Austria	476	(432)	0.5	(0.6)
NO	Norway	470	(436)	0.5	(0.6)
ZA	South Africa	386	(281)	0.4	(0.4)
NZ	New Zealand	264	(242)	0.3	(0.3)
SG	Singapore	225	(144)	0.3	(0.2)
IE	Ireland	184	(167)	0.2	(0.2)
BR	Brazil	161	(126)	0.2	(0.2)
IN	India	156	(61)	0.2	(0.1)
HU	Hungary	140	(115)	0.2	(0.2)
PL	Poland	104	(52)	0.1	(0.1)
LU	Luxembourg	93	(111)	0.1	(0.2)
CZ	Czech Republic	91	(55)	0.1	(0.1)
MX	Mexico	71	(51)	0.1	(0.1)
TR	Turkey	70	(56)	0.1	(0.1)
GR	Greece	50	(51)	0.1	(0.1)
HR	Croatia	49	(31)	0.1	(<0.1)
UA	Ukraine	44	(28)	0.1	(<0.1)
SI	Slovenia	38	(33)	<0.1	(<0.1)
SK	Slovakia	31	(18)	<0.1	(<0.1)
BG	Bulgaria	29	(27)	<0.1	(<0.1)
RO	Romania	27	(14)	<0.1	(<0.1)
YU	Yugoslavia	22	(13)	<0.1	(<0.1)
PT	Portugal	19	(20)	<0.1	(<0.1)
IS	Iceland	18	(15)	<0.1	(<0.1)
CY	Cyprus	12	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
BY	Belarus	10	(16)	<0.1	(<0.1)
ID	Indonesia	10	(7)	<0.1	(<0.1)
CR	Costa Rica	8	(0)	<0.1	(0)
BB	Barbados	7	(22)	<0.1	(<0.1)
MC	Monaco	6	(7)	<0.1	(<0.1)
AM	Armenia	5	(0)	<0.1	(0)
CU	Cuba	5	(7)	<0.1	(<0.1)
EE	Estonia	5	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
KZ	Kazakhstan	5	(9)	<0.1	(<0.1)
SD	Sudan	5	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	4	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
GE	Georgia	4	(8)	<0.1	(<0.1)
LK	Sri Lanka	4	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
LV	Latvia	4	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
DZ	Algeria	3	N/A	<0.1	N/A

*[continued on next page]*

4. 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, 12,666 (= 13.9%) were filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) as receiving Office and 1,975 (= 2.2%) were filed with the International Bureau as receiving Office.



<i>Country of origin<sup>5</sup></i>		<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
		<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>
MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	3	(8)	<0.1	(<0.1)
AZ	Azerbaijan	2	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
CM	Cameroon	2	(0)	<0.1	(0)
MD	Republic of Moldova	2	(0)	<0.1	(0)
UZ	Uzbekistan	2	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
AE	United Arab Emirates	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
CI	Côte d'Ivoire	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
LS	Lesotho	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
LT	Lithuania	1	(2)	<0.1	(<0.1)
VN	Viet Nam	1	(0)	<0.1	(0)
GH	Ghana	0	(1)	0	(<0.1)
KE	Kenya	0	(1)	0	(<0.1)
ZW	Zimbabwe	0	(5)	0	(<0.1)
TOTAL		90,948	(74,023)	100.0	(100.00)

19. Applicants from the United States of America filed the largest number of PCT applications in 2000, having filed 42.0% of all applications, followed by Germany (13.2%), Japan (10.3%), the United Kingdom (6.1%) and France (4.0%), thus repeating the trend of 1999. The filing of PCT applications in developing countries that are members of the PCT increased overall by 80.6% over 1999, with a particularly high increase in applications filed by applicants from India (155.8%), China (141.3%), the Republic of Korea (91.6%) and South Africa (37.4%). A total of 3,152 international applications originated from developing countries, the highest number originating from the Republic of Korea (1,514), China (579), South Africa (386), Singapore (225), Brazil (161) and India (156).

20. An increasing number of applicants are taking advantage of the benefits of filing international applications containing requests prepared using the PCT-EASY software. Of the 90,948 international applications filed in 2000, 24,882 (27.4%) were prepared using the PCT-EASY software (1999: 13%).

21. In 2000, the average number of designations made per international application was 56 (1999: 45). This figure is much higher than the number of States for which patent protection will eventually be sought, because the applicants in respect of 68.4% of international applications filed in 2000 (1999: 58.7%) used the possibility of paying the maximum of eight designation fees<sup>6</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 the 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 2000, a European patent was sought in 97.1% of all international applications.

5. 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, 12,666 (= 13.9%) were filed with the European Patent Office (EPO) as receiving Office and 1,975 (= 2.2%) were filed with the International Bureau as receiving Office.

6. With effect from January 1, 2001, the maximum number of designation fees payable is six.

22. In 2000, international applications were filed in the following languages:

<i>Language of filing<sup>7</sup></i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>
English	60,571	(47,980)	66.6	(64.8)
German	12,869	(11,891)	14.1	(16.1)
Japanese	8,854	(6,827)	9.7	(9.2)
French	3,588	(3,655)	3.9	(4.9)
Swedish	985	(881)	1.1	(1.2)
Korean	786	(0)	0.9	(0)
Russian	575	(517)	0.6	(0.7)
Spanish	548	(463)	0.6	(0.6)
Finnish	508	(506)	0.6	(0.7)
Chinese	501	(208)	0.6	(0.3)
Dutch	479	(471)	0.5	(0.6)
Norwegian	250	(246)	0.3	(0.3)
Italian	240	(165)	0.3	(0.2)
Danish	147	(184)	0.2	(0.2)
Hungarian	13	(9)	<0.1	(<0.1)
Czech	11	(3)	<0.1	(<0.1)
Croatian	10	(6)	<0.1	(<0.1)
Slovenian	9	(5)	<0.1	(<0.1)
Slovakian	2	(4)	<0.1	(<0.1)
Turkish	2	(1)	<0.1	(<0.1)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90,948</b>	<b>(74,023)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>

23. In 2000, the International Bureau as receiving Office received 2,045 international applications from applicants from 50 countries, and in July 2000, it received its 10,000<sup>th</sup> application since it began operations. The 2,045 applications include 654 (32% of applications received by that Office) 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, for reasons of nationality or residence of the applicant or where the application was not filed in the prescribed language).

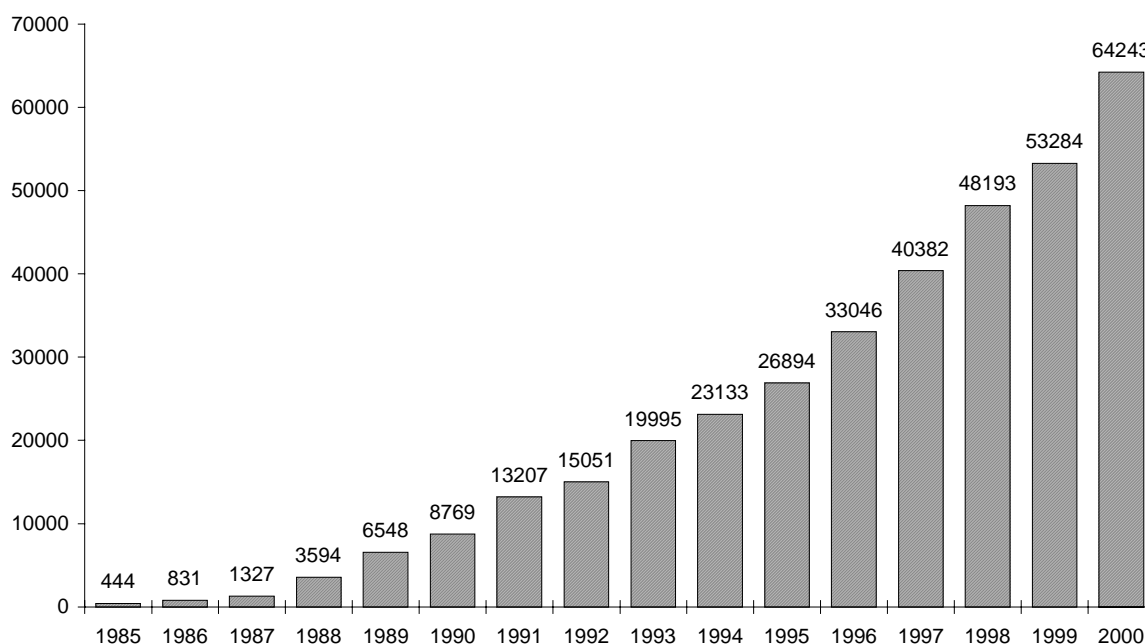
24. A copy of the international application is sent to the International Searching Authority competent for carrying out the international search. Where more than one Authority is competent, the applicant chooses the one he would like to carry out the search. The number of international applications that were sent to each International Searching Authority in 2000 is indicated below:

7. An international application filed in a language other than one of the languages of publication under the PCT are published as a translation into a language of publication; see paragraph 32.

<i>International Searching Authority</i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>
European Patent Office	55,414	(44,713)	60.9	(60.4)
United States of America	17,386	(14,640)	19.1	(19.8)
Japan	8,850	(6,827)	9.7	(9.2)
Sweden	4,040	(4,380)	4.5	(5.9)
Australia	1,886	(1,378)	2.1	(1.9)
Republic of Korea	1,217	(4) <sup>8</sup>	1.3	(<0.1)
Russian Federation	595	(526)	0.7	(0.7)
China	573	(231)	0.6	(0.3)
Austria	545	(965)	0.6	(1.3)
Spain	440	(356)	0.5	(0.5)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>90,946<sup>9</sup></b>	<b>(74,020)<sup>10</sup></b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>

25. The number of demands for international preliminary examination sent to the International Bureau by the International Preliminary Examining Authorities in 2000 amounted to 64,243, which represents an increase over 1999 of 20.6%. The number of demands received in each calendar year since 1985 is indicated below:

*Number of demands received since 1985*



8. The Korean Intellectual Property Office started functioning as an International Searching Authority on December 1, 1999.

9. Two of the 90,948 international applications filed in 2000 are not included in this total because international processing had been discontinued.

10. Three of the 74,023 international applications filed in 1999 are not included in this total because international processing had been discontinued.

26. The number of demands sent to the International Bureau by each International Preliminary Examining Authority is indicated below:

<i>International Preliminary Examining Authority</i>	<i>Number of demands</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>
European Patent Office	37,427	(30,801)	58.3	(57.8)
United States of America	16,389	(14,218)	25.5	(26.7)
Japan	4,401	(3,283)	6.9	(6.2)
Sweden	3,420	(3,007)	5.3	(5.6)
Australia	1,372	(1,126)	2.1	(2.1)
Republic of Korea	346	(1) <sup>11</sup>	0.5	(<0.1)
Russian Federation	342	(244)	0.5	(0.5)
Austria	302	(418)	0.5	(0.8)
China	244	(186)	0.4	(0.3)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>64,243</b>	<b>(53,284)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>

27. The demands for international preliminary examination received in 2000 relate mainly to international applications filed in 1999. Demands are filed in respect of about 85% of all applications.

28. Where required, the International Bureau prepares translations of the international search report and the international preliminary examination report (into English), and of the abstract (into English and/or French). In 2000, the International Bureau translated 102,844 abstracts, 1,000 international search reports and 11,640 international preliminary examination reports.

29. ***Publications under the PCT.*** The *PCT Gazette* contains, in English and French, the following sections:

- Section I: Published International Applications (the bibliographic data, the abstract and any drawing, for each international application published)
- Section II: Notices and Information Relating to Published International Applications
- Section III: Weekly Indexes
- Section IV: Notices and Information of a General Character

The Internet version of the *PCT Gazette* is available, free-of-charge, via the WIPO home page (<http://ipdl.wipo.int>). In this version of the *Gazette*, Section I is fully searchable, with searches possible by single words, symbols or phrases and by a number of fields. Users of the electronic version of the *Gazette* can also link, via the "VIEW IMAGES" button at the top of the page of the *Gazette* entry concerned, to the European Patent Office's esp@cenet service and view the full text of published PCT applications (that is, the bibliographic data, description, claims, drawings and abstract) and corresponding international search reports. This service is available for all international applications published between January 1, 1997, and the last but two current publication weeks.

11. The Korean Intellectual Property Office started functioning as an International Preliminary Examining Authority on December 1, 1999.

30. There are two series of CD-ROMs containing information from the *Gazette*, as follows:
- the monthly ESPACE-FIRST CD-ROMs that are produced by the European Patent Office, in cooperation with WIPO (see also paragraphs 36 and 40);
  - the CD-ROMs produced by Bundesdruckerei GmbH, in cooperation with WIPO, issued every week on the day on which WIPO publishes the corresponding international applications (see also paragraph 41).

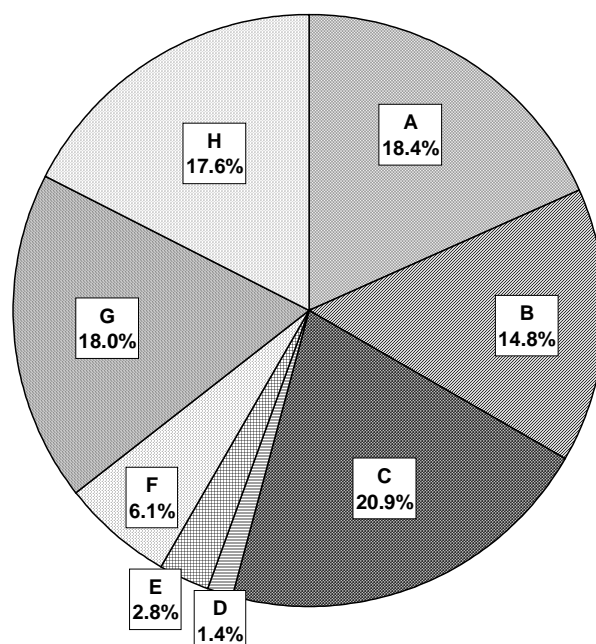
31. In 2000, the *Gazette* included entries relating to the 79,947 international applications (1999: 68,038) which were published in 2000 in the form of PCT pamphlets (in Chinese, English, French, German, Japanese, Russian or Spanish, depending on the language of filing and/or translation furnished) 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 September, a bilingual (English/French) index to the 1999 *Gazette issues*, containing over 1,600 pages, was published. In January and July, special issues of the *Gazette* were published (Nos. S-01/2000 (E) and (F) (January) and S-02/2000 (E) and (F) (July)), in separate English and French versions, containing consolidated general information relating to PCT Contracting States, national and regional Offices and International Authorities under the PCT.

32. The number of international applications published in 2000 in each of the languages of publication was as follows:

<i>Language of publication</i>	<i>Number of applications</i>		<i>Percentage</i>	
	<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>(1999)</b>
English	56,084	(47,389)	70.2	(69.6)
German	12,010	(10,565)	15.0	(15.5)
Japanese	7,057	(5,777)	8.8	(8.5)
French	3,654	(3,334)	4.6	(4.9)
Russian	496	(406)	0.6	(0.6)
Spanish	422	(389)	0.5	(0.6)
Chinese	224	(178)	0.3	(0.3)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>79,947</b>	<b>(68,038)</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>(100.0)</b>

33. The main fields of technology to which those published international applications related were chemistry and metallurgy, human necessities and physics. The chart below shows the breakdown of PCT applications published in 2000 according to the eight main technical fields of the International Patent Classification (IPC) System.

*PCT applications published in 2000: breakdown according to the main technical fields under the IPC*



**Main technical fields (sections) under the IPC:**

A	Human necessities	E	Fixed constructions
B	Performing operations; transporting	F	Mechanical engineering; lighting, heating, weapons, blasting
C	Chemistry; metallurgy	G	Physics
D	Textiles; paper	H	Electricity

34. 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 2000 to include the many changes that had occurred during the year. About 455 updating sheets, per language, were sent to each subscriber in 2000.

35. Twelve issues of the *PCT Newsletter* were published in 2000. 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, lists 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 half-yearly updates.

36. In 2000, the International Bureau continued, in cooperation with the European Patent Office, the weekly production of *SPACE 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 1,221 CD-ROMs had been produced by the end of 2000).

37. In 2000, a new PCT Wheel, covering priority dates from January 2000 to December 2001, was produced and made available to PCT users via the January 2001 issue of the *PCT Newsletter*. The Wheel, which was created by a firm of patent attorneys in Australia (Davies Collison Cave), enables PCT users to quickly calculate the due date for international publication, and the time limits for submitting priority documents, filing a demand for international preliminary examination, and entering the national or regional phase under PCT Chapters I and II.

38. **Ordering of PCT publications.** PCT publications may be ordered from WIPO, Marketing and Distribution Section, P.O. Box 18, CH-1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, fax: (41-22) 740 18 12 or 733 54 28, e-mail: [publications.mail@wipo.int](mailto:publications.mail@wipo.int); electronic bookshop: [www.wipo.int/ebookshop](http://www.wipo.int/ebookshop). Publications of particular interest include:

- the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a five-binder loose-leaf publication of about 1,600 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 32—and containing the title, the abstract and the corresponding international search reports in both the language of publication and English);
- the *PCT Gazette* (available in bilingual (English and French) format) (for electronic version, see paragraph 29);
- 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 31) (in English and French);
- PCT Wheel (see paragraph 37) (priority dates January 2000 to December 2001).

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

40. The ESPACE WORLD CD-ROMs containing published international applications may be ordered from the European Patent Office, P.O. Box 90, A-1031 Vienna, Austria, e-mail: [infowien@epo.org](mailto:infowien@epo.org). However, CD-ROMs containing the international applications published between 1978 and 1989 can be obtained only from WIPO, at the address indicated in paragraph 38.

41. CD-ROMs containing information from the *PCT Gazette*, which are produced by Bundesdruckerei GmbH, may be ordered from the following address: Bundesdruckerei GmbH, Sparte Elektronische Publikationen, Oranienstraße 91, D-10958 Berlin, Germany.

42. **Internet.** During 2000, the PCT website received 7.6 million hits and over this period, some 531,000 visits were made to the site. The following may be viewed, free of charge on the site (<http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/index.html>):

PCT InfoLine and contacts

Filing PCT applications

- Basic Facts about the PCT

- PCT forms

- Direct filing of PCT applications with the International Bureau as PCT receiving Office

- PCT Applicant's Guide

- Practical advice published in the PCT Newsletter between March 1994 and December 1996 (practical advice published after December 1996 is accessed via the PCT Newsletter itself)

PCT-EASY

PCT legal texts

- About the Treaty

- Text of the Patent Cooperation Treaty and Regulations

- Administrative Instructions under the PCT

- PCT Receiving Office Guidelines

- PCT International Search Guidelines

- PCT International Preliminary Examination Guidelines

- Ratification situation

PCT Gazette

PCT News

- PCT Newsletter (No. 01/1997 to current issue)

- PCT press releases/updates

- The PCT in 2000

PCT seminars

PCT meetings

- PCT Assembly documents: 2000, 1999, 1998, 1997

- PCT Informal Consultation Meeting on Electronic Filing (11–14 July 2000)

- PCT Committee for Administrative and Legal Matters documents: 1999

Ordering PCT publications

[End]