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December 19, 2003

Madam,  
Sir,

1. This circular, which is addressed to your Office in its capacity as receiving Office, International Searching Authority, International Preliminary Examining Authority and/or designated or elected Office under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), provides information on changes to the layout of, navigation to and information provided in the *PCT Gazette* in electronic form ("*PCT Electronic Gazette*"). It is also addressed to certain non-governmental organizations and users of PCT data.
2. As you may be aware, after the amendment of PCT Rule 86 (The Gazette) at the twenty-fourth session of the PCT (Patent Cooperation Treaty) Union Assembly (from September 16 to October 1, 1997), the publication of the *PCT Gazette* in both paper and electronic forms began as from January 1, 1998 (see <http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/gazette/gazette.htm>). The *PCT Electronic Gazette* initially made accessible, in searchable format, including bibliographic information and abstracts, along with drawings of published international applications (see Section 407 of the *Administrative Instructions under the PCT*) is available in English and French versions.
3. The Annex to this Circular contains an explanation as to the changes to the *PCT Electronic Gazette* which have been tested over the course of this year and  
./... which are now going to be incorporated into the production version.

/...

4. Most of the new features and functionalities outlined in the Annex have been tested by way of the “PCT Full Text Database Prototype”, and have been available on the WIPO website (see <http://ipdl.wipo.int/en/search/search.shtml>) during 2003. The Prototype, having been made available for test purposes, and having received comments from users and having added further enhancements to it in the course of the year, will become the production version of the *PCT Electronic Gazette* effective as from January 1, 2004. It is intended that the *PCT Electronic Gazette* will be further enhanced on an ongoing basis in the future. Comments and suggestions from users of the *PCT Electronic Gazette* and on the services provided continue to be welcome.

Sincerely yours,



Francis Gurry  
Deputy Director General

Enclosure: Annex – Changes to the *PCT Electronic Gazette*

CHANGES TO THE PCT ELECTRONIC GAZETTE

*Images of the published pamphlet on the date of international publication*

1. The *PCT Electronic Gazette* will provide access to the images of the pages of published pamphlets on the date of international publication.

*Full text of the description and claims*

2. The *PCT Electronic Gazette* will provide access to the full text of the description and claims for published international applications which are published in languages which use latin characters (English, French, German, Spanish). The searchable text of claims and descriptions of published international applications will be available as soon as possible after international publication (generally 2 to 3 days after the publication date), and is available for international applications published from April 1998.

3. The full text of the description and claims is available from the main page of any *Gazette* entry, with a link entitled "Description and Claims" and giving the size of the electronic file. Next to this link, the link to the images of the as-published application has been renamed "Images".

4. The elements of the description and claims would also be searchable from the PCT Database Search Page; users of the *Gazette* could choose to search in either the "Front Page" (which would include the bibliographic data and abstract) or in "Full Text" (which would contain the description and claims).

5. Note that the text of the description and claims is made available through a process of scanning and optical character recognition (OCR). As a result, there may occasionally be characters or terms which the OCR process does not recognize; such characters or terms will be highlighted in red in the text of the description or claims.

*Republication data/information*

6. Data concerning international applications which are republished is also included in the *PCT Electronic Gazette*, starting with international applications which have been the subject of a republication starting in April 1998. As a result, applications which have been republished would appear in the list of search

results with the indication “Repub: [date]” when searching in the *PCT Electronic Gazette*.

7. In the case of a republication, an indication of whether that republication is a corrected or a revised version of the (previous) publication will be included at the top of the page of each entry in the Gazette. Under INID Code (48), the date of the republication will be indicated. Under INID Code (15), information about corrected or revised versions will be provided by way of a reference to the specific issue of the (paper) *PCT Gazette* containing the corresponding entry in Section II of the *PCT Gazette*. Where possible, the actual text of the entry in Section II (explaining why the application is being republished) is reproduced. INID Code (88) has also been added to provide for the publication date of the international search report.

8. In addition, the International Bureau will make available the images of the republished pages by linking to PDF files containing the pages concerned. As a result, applicants and third parties will be able to find out not only the fact that an international application has been republished and why, but also will be able to assemble their own up-to-date version of the published application by combining the images of the as-published version of the pamphlet (see paragraph 1, above) and the images of the republished pages from the *Gazette*.

#### *Links to full titles of INID Codes*

9. As a further improvement to the *PCT Electronic Gazette*, a new functionality will be implemented whereby the INID codes themselves are links: resting the cursor on the code will cause the corresponding title of that code to appear in the browser status bar, and clicking on the code will cause a dialog box to appear containing the code title.

#### *Layout changes*

10. The current version of the *PCT Electronic Gazette* provides users with several distinct layouts for displaying the international application data: “Basic”, “Gazette” and “Front Page”, each of which provides the same data but in slightly varying presentations. The new version of *Gazette* will be simplified by reverting to a single layout (the one currently entitled “Basic”), thus eliminating the “Gazette” and “Front Page” layouts. In addition, the indication “(12) PUBLISHED INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION” will appear at the top of each entry in the *Gazette*.

11. In line with those changes, the possibility of seeing a page of the *PCT Electronic Gazette* formatted to accommodate either a large or a small image of the drawing published with the international application will also be removed. The small image would be the default setting, although a larger view of the image could still be viewed by clicking on the small image.

12. Further layout and navigation changes have also been included as a result of a redesign of WIPO's Intellectual Property Digital Library (IPDL) site.

[End of Annex]