Topics

- PCT Statistics – 2019
- WIPO’s Innovative Tools for IP Offices & Applicants
  - Crisis Management Dashboard
  - COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker
- PATENTSCOPE Database for COVID-19 Innovations
  - Impact on PCT Processing of Applications by receiving Offices and the International Bureau
- Communication of documents to and from the IB
- Current Practices & Safeguards?
153 PCT States

Most recent accession: Samoa 2019

Albania
Algeria
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Barbados
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d’Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
Denmark
Djibouti
Dominica
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Estonia
Finland
France
Gabon
Gambia
Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Honduras
Hungary
Iceland
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Lao People’s Dem Rep.
Latvia
Lesotho
Liberia
Libya
Liechtenstein
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malawi
Malaysia
Mali
Malta
Mauritania
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Montenegro
Morocco
Mozambique
Namibia
Netherlands
New Zealand
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Panama
Papua New Guinea
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Rwanda
Russian Federation
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Samoa (Jan 2, 2020)
San Marino
Sao Tomé e Príncipe
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Serbia
Seychelles
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Slovenia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Swaziland
St. Kitts and Nevis
Sweden
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Tajikistan
Thailand
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Uganda
Ukraine
United Arab Emirates
United Kingdom
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uzbekistan
Viet Nam
Zambia
Zimbabwe

WIPO/PCT
The International Patent System
International applications received in 2019 and Top 20 Origins

- About **265,800** PCT international applications filed in 2019 = increase of 5.2% over 2018

- For the first time, applicants from China filed the most PCT applications vs. the U.S. (the latter held this position since 1978)

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2020
PCT Applications by Region - 2019

Asia accounted for the majority of PCT applications filed in 2019.

A3. Distribution of PCT applications by region, 2009 and 2019

Note: Data for 2019 are WIPO estimates. Each region includes the following number of offices: Africa (21), Asia (36), Europe (43), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) (20), North America (3) and Oceania (4).

Who filed the most applications? Which fields of technology?

### Top 10 PCT applicants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company/Group</th>
<th>Number of published PCT applications</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huawei Technologies</td>
<td>4,411</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mitsubishi Electric</td>
<td>2,661</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samsung Electronics</td>
<td>2,334</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qualcomm</td>
<td>2,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guang Dong Opco Mobile Telecom.</td>
<td>1,927</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOE Technology Group</td>
<td>1,864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LM Ericsson</td>
<td>1,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ping an Technology (Shenzhen)</td>
<td>1,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert Bosch</td>
<td>1,687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LG Electronics</td>
<td>1,646</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Top 5 fields of technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Technology</th>
<th>Number of published applications</th>
<th>Share of total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Computer technology</td>
<td>21,449</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital communication</td>
<td>19,090</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy</td>
<td>17,223</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical technology</td>
<td>16,954</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measurement</td>
<td>11,471</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Almost 98% of all PCT applications were filed electronically in 2019.

Note: PDF, EFS-WEB and XML are the three fully electronic filing mediums. Since mid-2015, PCT applications can no longer be filed using PCT-EASY.


PCT applications filed via the ePCT-filing portal

Applicants filed 34,335 PCT applications using ePCT in 2019, representing an increase of 42.6% on 2018.
WIPO’s Innovative Tools for IP Offices & Applicants:
- Crisis Management Dashboard
- COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker
- PATENTSCOPE Database for COVID-19 Innovations
WIPO Crisis Management Dashboard (1)

- An online dashboard launched on April 15, 2020, to allow stakeholders to follow WIPO’s operational activities during the pandemic.

- Information published on a monthly basis:
  - Filings in WIPO's key Global IP Services: patents, trademarks and industrial designs
  - Financial performance and productivity
  - State of Business Continuity – nearly all WIPO staff working remotely - most services still delivered with high productivity - at or above 90%
  - Rate of fee processing under Madrid and Hague Systems
The Crisis Management Dashboard successfully provides "real-time transparency" on WIPO’s operations during COVID-19.

COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker (1)

On May 5, 2020, WIPO released another online tool in response to the crisis: “COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker”

Goals:

- Informative, one-stop resource, compiling IP policy changes/other measures implemented by WIPO member States during COVID-19
- Provide stakeholders with a web-based repository to stay informed of important legislative developments as they arise; i.e. extension of deadlines, grace periods for fee payments in national/regional Offices
- Contain contributions of libraries/academia to make research publically available
COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker (2)

- Include information about member States and international organizations: currently over 100
- Benefits for Applicants – stay prepared when filing PCT and/or other applications – know the latest measures
- Benefits for IP Offices of member States – can benchmark policy developments with others
- IP Offices: please contact us to contribute your policy changes, if necessary at: pcticd@wipo.int
- Visit the WIPO COVID-19 Policy Tracker and stay informed of IP measures worldwide:
  https://www.wipo.int/covid19-policy-tracker/#/covid19-policy-tracker/ipo-operations
PATENTSCOPE Database – Search COVID-19 Innovations (1)

WIPO’s global patent database, PATENTSCOPE, contains new feature in response to pandemic:

- Search facility that supports COVID-19 innovations

What can the search retrieve?

- Technical information contained in published patent documents that can aid inventors in creating and transferring new technologies to combat COVID-19

- The access is free of charge, disseminating technical information for the benefit of all innovators, and found at: https://patentscope.wipo.int/search/en/covid19.jsf
PATENTSCOPE Database – Search COVID-19 Innovations (2)

PATENTSCOPE COVID-19 INDEX

The WIPO COVID-19 Search Facility of PATENTSCOPE will provide scientists, engineers, public health policymakers, industry actors and members of the general public with an easily accessible source of intelligence for improving the detection, prevention, and treatment of diseases such as the novel coronavirus.

“Given the drastic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on human health and welfare, the world needs easy access to every bit of information available for the successful innovation in the pursuit of vaccines, treatments and cures. Patent documents are rich sources of technological know-how acquired by humans over the centuries,” said WIPO Director General Francis Gurry. “I am pleased that WIPO’s new patent-searching tool helps disseminate information on technologies that others may build upon for the global fight against COVID-19.”

At the time of release, the new PATENTSCOPE search facility provides dozens of search queries specially curated by patent information experts who have identified technological areas relevant to the detection, prevention and treatment of COVID-19.

PATENTSCOPE contains over 90 million patent and related documents, provides comprehensive searching of patent information with multi-lingual search capabilities and an automatic translation system that uses Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies for highly accurate results.

Via the new COVID-19 functionality, thousands of documents deemed of potential use to innovators working on COVID-19 mitigation efforts would be returned.

Full press release

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artificial respiration</th>
<th>Diagnostics</th>
<th>Disinfection</th>
<th>Informatics</th>
<th>Medical Equipment</th>
<th>Medical Facilities and Transport</th>
<th>Medical Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical treatment/Prophylactic</td>
<td>Medical treatment/Therapeutic</td>
<td>Personal protective equipment</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

IPC Symbol(s) | Title | Query
-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
A61H 31/00 | Artificial respiration or heart stimulation, e.g. heart massage |
Impact on PCT Processing of Applications by receiving Offices and the International Bureau

- Communication of documents to and from the IB
- Current Practices and Safeguards?
Current Situation for ROs

Are receiving Offices (ROs) still open for business?

- Most ROs remain open (including RO/IB) for the filing of international applications
- Some ROs are only accepting international applications in electronic form
- Some ROs are not open to accept applications (see https://www.wipo.int/pct/dc/closeddates/faces/page/index.xhtml)
Communication of documents to the IB (1)

- Almost all staff working remotely - processing of international applications at IB generally ensured

Note: IB has suspended the transmittal on paper of PCT documents and notifications (to and from the IB), until further notice due to the crisis

- RO/IB still receives international applications:
  - Electronic filing (ePCT or PCT SAFE software) – this is the best option
  - If not possible, use Contingency Upload Service
  - Last option: fax filings
  - Avoid paper filings - large disruption of postal and private delivery services in many countries
Communication of documents to the IB (2)

- Forms and communications are currently provided to applicants and Offices only in electronic form
- Access Forms in ePCT or (post-publication) on PATENTSCOPE
  - Forms are sent as PDF-attachments
  - Priority documents and certified copies of documents in the file of the IB issued in electronic form only
  - Rely on the Digital Access Service (DAS) where possible to retrieve priority documents
  - Applicants to provide e-mail addresses, if they have not yet, so IB can email Forms/communications:
WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration

Menu – always available across the portal

IP Portal launched in September 2019, and existing ePCT bookmarks redirect to the IP Portal for login.

More detailed info on using ePCT and DAS to send documents to IB: https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/covid_19/communication.html
Particular safeguards under the PCT (1)

- PCT does not currently provide for a general extension of time limits except where Offices are officially closed.

- Local measures which extend national time limits do not apply to PCT time limits during the international phase but may apply to time limits during the national phase.

Priority period:
- Only where an Office has declared itself closed for the filing of applications will the protection of Article 4C(3) of the Paris Convention apply.
- Where Offices remain open, restoration of the priority right (Rule 26bis.3 and 49ter) may be relied upon (where available).
Particular safeguards under the PCT (2)

“Interpretative Statement and Recommended Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Practice Changes in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic” issued by IB on April 9, 2020:

- Rule 82quater.1 - excuse of delay in meeting time limits “due to … natural calamity … or other like reason”
- Rule 82quater.1 applies to all time limits under the PCT (e.g. payment of fees, furnishing of priority documents, correction of priority claims, etc.), except to the priority period and the time limit to enter national phase
- Not require evidence that coronavirus affected locality
- Rules 80.6 and 82: delays in the mail (5- and 7-day-rule)
Particular safeguards under the PCT (3)

- Delayed issuance of Form PCT/RO/117 (“Notification that International Application Considered to be Withdrawn”) by RO/IB
  - where applicant has not paid all required fees
  - RO/IB will issue Form PCT/RO/133 inviting to pay all outstanding fees (however without charging a late payment fee)
  - RO/IB will not issue Form PCT/RO/117 before July 1, 2020 (declaring international applications be considered withdrawn for lack of payment of fees)
  - Director General urges receiving Offices to do the same

Particular safeguards under the PCT (4)

- Missing of time limit under Articles 22 and 39 to enter the national phase
  - Rely on safeguard of PCT Rule 49.6 – “Reinstatement of Rights”
  - More favorable national provisions to reinstate your international application before a DO/EO could also apply

Get the latest information

- Latest information linked from “COVID-19 Update” box at top of main PCT page:  [www.wipo.int/pct/](http://www.wipo.int/pct/)

- Similar information for Madrid and Hague systems available from those pages, and linked from PCT information page
Contact us

For general questions about the PCT contact the PCT Information Service:

Telephone: (+41-22) 338 83 38  
E-mail: pct.infoline@wipo.int

For queries on this Webinar and related information, contact the PCT International Cooperation Division:

pcticd@wipo.int
Even in times of crisis, WIPO maintains its commitment to “lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all.”

Thank you
&
Stay Safe