Update on Recent and Future Developments in the PCT System

Virtual seminar
Geneva, November 2, 2020
Program

- 8:35 – 9:00: Amendments to the PCT Regulations
- 9:00 – 9:30: Other recent and future PCT developments
- 9:30 – 10:00: ePCT: Latest and future developments
- 10:00 – 11:00: Open PCT Q&A session
Session 1: Amendments to the PCT Regulations as from 1 July 2020
Amendments to the PCT Regulations as from 1 July 2020 - Overview

- Clarification of processing of erroneously filed elements and parts
- Transmittal of certain Chapter II documents by the IPEA to the IB
- Correction or addition of indications referred to in Rule 4.11 (Rule 26quater)
- Safeguards in case of outages affecting Offices (Rule 82quater.2)
- Transfer of PCT fees through International Bureau
Clarification of processing of erroneously filed elements and parts
Clarification of processing of erroneously filed elements and parts

- Amendment of PCT Rules 4, 12, 20, 48, 51bis, 55 and 82ter, and new Rules 20.5bis and 40bis

- Clarification that, in addition to incorporating missing elements and parts, in the case of erroneously filed elements or parts, the correct element or part can also be incorporated by reference, if contained in an earlier application.

- New legal basis for cases where incorporation by reference was not successful or applicable, to replace an erroneously filed element or part with the correct element or part (impacting the international filing date).

- Apply to any international application filed on or after 1 July 2020.
Missing ≠ erroneously file ≠ completed/corrected

Later IFD

P-Doc

Update GVA- Asia 7
02.11.2020
Overview of options in case of missing parts or erroneously filed elements or parts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incorporation by reference</th>
<th>Completion/Correction</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missing part</td>
<td>Missing part</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erroreously filed element or part</td>
<td>Erroreously filed element or part</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Main rules**
  - 20.5(d), 20.5bis(d), 20.6

- **Int. Filing Date**
  - Maintained
  - Will be changed

- **Applicability**
  - Not applied at some ROs and DOs
  - All ROs and DOs

- **How erroneously filed sheets are dealt with**
  - N/A
  - Remove in the application (published as part of the application—moved to the end of the respective element, e.g., description)
  - N/A
  - Removed from the application (and not visible on PATENTSCOPE)
Main considerations in cases of erroneously filed elements or parts

Does your RO accept incorporation by reference in case of erroneously filed elements or parts?

- If not, would it be acceptable for the application to be transferred to RO/IB?

Would it be acceptable if the international filing date is changed?

- Unproblematic where new international filing date is still within priority period
- If new filing date is outside the priority period, could a request for restoration of priority right be successful?

Would it be acceptable if the erroneously filed elements or parts remain in the application, and thus in the international publication?

- If not, incorporation by reference should be avoided
- Correction will still leave them in the file of the IB but not visible on PATENTSCOPE; withdrawal and refiling of the application may be considered

Fee implications
Incorporation by reference in case of erroneously filed elements and parts: understandings

**PCT Assembly Understanding**

- In adopting PCT Rule 20.5bis, the Assembly agreed that, where a correct element or part had been incorporated by reference under PCT Rule 20.5bis(d), the ISA would not need to take into account any erroneously filed element or part which remained in the application.

- In adopting PCT Rule 20.8(a-bis), the Assembly agreed that, where an RO could not incorporate a correct element or part because that Office had submitted a notice of incompatibility under this Rule, the RO concerned and the IB should agree to apply PCT Rule 19.4, with the authorization of the applicant.

- Where an applicant had not paid additional fees following an invitation (PCT Rule 40bis) (when the ISA is notified that a correct element or part replaces the erroneously filed element or part or is incorporated by reference only after it had begun to draw up the ISR), the ISA would not need to take into account that correct element or part for the purposes of international search.
Transmittal of certain Chapter II documents by the IPEA to the IB
IPEAs required to copy certain documents in their files to the IB (Rules 71 and 94)

- Requires the IPEA to copy certain documents from its file to the IB, which the IB would make available to the public on behalf of the elected Office

- Apply to any document received at or established by the IPEA on or after 1 July 2020

- However, implementation of the sending of such documents will also depend on whether IPEAs are technically ready to do so
Rule 26\textit{quater} (correction or addition of indications referred to in Rule 4.11)
Rule 26quater (correction or addition of indications referred to in Rule 4.11)

- New PCT Rule 26quater
  - Allows for correction or addition, during the international phase, of indications referred to in Rule 4.11 in the request form, namely, indications of the applicant’s wish that the PCT application be treated in a designated State as:
    - continuation or continuation-in-part of an earlier application
    - patent of addition, certificate of addition, inventor’s certificate of addition or utility certificate of addition
  - Applicants will be able to submit a notice of correction or addition to the IB within 16 months from the priority date

- Applies to any international application filed on or after 1 July 2020
Excuse of delay in meeting time limits due to Office system unavailability (Rule 82quater.2)
Excuse of delay in meeting time limits due to Office system unavailability (Rule 82quater.2) (1)

- Allows an Office to also excuse delays in meeting a time limit due to the unavailability of any permitted electronic means of communication at that Office, such as unforeseen outages or scheduled maintenance.
- Does not apply to the priority period and the time limit for entering the national phase.
- Applies to any time limit fixed in the Regulations that expires on or after 1 July 2020.
- Offices providing for such a safeguard under their national/regional law will inform the International Bureau:
  - of such provisions in general
  - of any specific occurrence of their system outage
- Information will be published by the IB at the following webpage: https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/texts/unavailability.html
Excuse of delay in meeting time limits due to Office system unavailability (Rule 82quater.2) (2)

- Application of PCT Rule 82quater.2(a) at the International Bureau (also as receiving Office):

  - Delays in meeting time limits may be excused where the ePCT system or the PCT Contingency Upload Service was unavailable for a minimum of a continuous one hour period on a specific working day at the International Bureau, subject to the applicant:
    - submitting a request indicating that the time limit was not met due to that reason
    - performing the action on the next working day at the IB when ePCT or the PCT Contingency Upload Service is available again
Transfer of PCT fees through International Bureau
Transfer of PCT fees through International Bureau

- Amendment of PCT Rules 15, 16, 57 and 96
  - Expressly allows the transfer via the IB of fees collected by one Office for the benefit of another Office
  - Apply to any international application for which fees will be transferred by the collecting Office on or after 1 July 2020
  - Details set out in new Annex G of the AIs
Session 2: Other recent and future developments in the PCT
Status update
The International Patent System

02.11.2020

PCT States

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 (Dec 8, 2016)
Cameroon
Canada
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
China
Colombia
Comoros
Congo
Costa Rica
Côted'ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People’s Republic of Korea
Denmark
Djibouti (Sept 23, 2016)
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
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Japan
Jordan (Jun 9, 2017)
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait (Sept 9, 2016)
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 Principe
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
### Countries not yet PCT Contracting States (40)

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23 ISAs/IPEAs

- Twenty three (23) Offices now hold the status as ISA/IPEA
  - State Intellectual Property Service of Ukraine (SIPSU) started operations as an ISA/IPEA on 5 February 2016
  - Visegrad Patent Institute started operations as ISA/IPEA on 1 July 2016
  - Turkish Patent and Trademark Office started operations as from 8 March 2017
  - Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines started operations as from 20 May 2019

see also: [www.wipo.int/pct/en/access/isa_ipea_agreements.html](http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/access/isa_ipea_agreements.html)
Distribution of ISRs established by ISA

- EPO issued nearly 80,800 ISRs
- China, Japan and Korea, combined, more than 50% of ISRs issued in 2019
- IP5 Offices produce 93.2% of International Search Reports

Source: PCT Yearly Review 2020, C17 and C18, based on WIPO statistics Database, March 2020

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Growth in PCT applications since 1978

Year 2019: 265,800 (+5.2%)
International applications received in 2019 and Top 20 Origins

Asia: 52.4%  
Europe: 23.2%  
North America: 22.8%

92.8% of filings from top 15 countries

Source: PCT Yearly Review (2020), A8, PCT applications for the top 20 origins, 2019
PCT applications for the top five origins

- Applicants from China became the biggest users of the PCT system in 2019
  - 58,990 originating in China (+10.6%)
  - 57,840 originating in US (+2.8%)
  - 52,660 in Japan (+5.9%)

- The top 5 countries accounted for 78.2% of all PCT applications filed in 2019

Distribution of PCT Applicants in 2019

86.0%

6.0%

6%

2.0%

- Businesses
- Individuals
- Universities
- Government

127 (unchanged) Countries in which PCT applications were filed

56.9% (-0.5 percentage point) Share of PCT national phase entries in worldwide non-resident filings

18.7% (+1.6 percentage points) Share of women among PCT inventors
Participation of women inventors

A25. Share of women among listed inventors and share of PCT applications with at least one woman as inventor for the top 20 origins, 2019

- 18.7% of all inventors listed in PCT applications are women in 2019 (+4.1 from year 2014, +1.6 from 2018)
- China, Republic of Korea had the highest shares of women inventors

Source: WIPO Statistics Database, March 2020
Top PCT Clusters 2014-2018

S1. PCT application density per 100 square kilometers, 2014–2018

### Top PCT Applicants in 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranking</th>
<th>Change in position from 2018</th>
<th>Applicant</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Published PCT applications</th>
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PCT filings by technical fields 2019

- **Computer technology**: 21,449 (8.7%)
- **Digital communication**: 19,090 (7.7%)
- **Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy**: 17,223 (7.0%)
- **Medical technology**: 16,954 (6.9%)
- **Measurement**: 11,471 (4.7%)
PCT filing activities in 2020

Source: WIPO Crisis Management Dashboard, September 2020
Best Means of Communication with the IB
Current situation at the IB

- Since January 2020, the IB provides only limited fax services for PCT applications (including receiving documents and sending communications)

- Since the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, most staff are currently working remotely (while services being delivered as normal)

- Paper communication suspended; electronic communication only

- We aim at moving to electronic communications in the long run
Submitting documents to the IB

- For fling new applications or sending post-filing documents to the IB
  - Applicants should preferably use ePCT (or PCT-SAFE in case of new filings)
  - In urgent cases or if ePCT is down, applicants may use the Contingency Upload Service
  - If nothing else works, may use fax (IB only maintains limited fax services)

- Information on how to best communicate electronically with the IB available on the PCT website (https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/covid_19/communication.html)
Receiving communications from the IB

- IB currently sends communications to applicants only in electronic form (as PDF attachments)
  - Access communications in ePCT or (post-publication) on PATENTSCOPE
  - No communications sent by fax since January 2020
- 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
- For quickly receiving communications from the IB:
  - Authorize the IB to send communications by e-mail, or
  - Access the IA in ePCT (with strong authentication)
Procedural Safeguards for Meeting Time Limits in the PCT
Procedural safeguards on time limits (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:
- Rule 80.5 and Article 4C(3) of the Paris Convention: when the Office is closed, or postal service is closed.
- Where Offices remain open, restoration of the priority right (Rule 26bis.3 and 49ter) may be relied upon (where available).
Procedural safeguards on time limits (2)

- **Rule 82quater.1** - excuse of delay in meeting time limits “due to … natural calamity … or other like reason”
  - applies to all time limits fixed in the Regulations (e.g. payment of fees, furnishing of priority documents, correction of priority claims, etc.), but not to the priority period and the time limit to enter national phase
  - IB will treat requests favorably
  - Not require evidence that virus affected locality
Procedural safeguards on time limits (3)

- Missing of time limit under Articles 22 and 39 to enter the national phase
  - May rely on safeguard of Rule 49.6
  - More favorable national provisions to reinstate your international application before a DO/EO could also apply
WIPO’s COVID-19 IP policy tracker

- collects information on measures adopted by IP offices in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including extension of time limits and other special measures, plus their status of operation (https://www.wipo.int/covid19-policy-tracker/#/covid19-policy-tracker/)

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Other Recent Developments
Color drawings (1)

- Applications containing color or greyscale content
  - Not permitted in PCT applications (Rule 11)
  - Since applications often contain color or greyscale content, the IB has included some features in ePCT and PCT-SAFE
    - ePCT-Filing will automatically detect color or greyscale content and warn the applicant that the application content should be in black and white
    - PCT-SAFE allows applicants to indicate (checkbox) that the application contains color or greyscale content (only for filings with RO/IB)
  - A dedicated preview function has been made available by the IB in order to allow applicants to view the application content as it will be rendered by the IB
    - Directly available in ePCT-Filing
Color drawings (2)

- Publication of applications containing color or greyscale content
  - The application will be converted into black and white format for further processing and publication by the IB
  - If the application contained color or greyscale content, the front page of the published PCT application will contain a notice to that effect
  - Any original color or greyscale content will be made available on PATENTSCOPE as part of the public application file

- Attention:
  - Designated Offices are not obliged to take the color or greyscale content into account, and may rely on the PCT application as published in black and white
PATENTSCOPE

- **PATENTSCOPE** is a free of charge patent search system provided by WIPO allowing access to millions of patent documents
- Interface available in 10 languages (plus mobile version)
- Most comprehensive collection on PCT applications
- Information on national phase entry for more than 65 countries
- “Documents” tab includes a new section “Search and Examination-Related Documents”
- In addition to PCT applications, access to more than 55 searchable national and regional patent collections
1. WO2018002018 - COMPOSITION FOR CONTROLLING GASTROESOPHAGEAL REFLUX DISEASES

Available information on National Phase entries [more information]

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<td>MX/a/2018/012372</td>
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<td>Published: 29.07.2020</td>
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<td>Republic of Korea</td>
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<td>1020197001217</td>
<td>Published: 06.03.2019 Withdrawn: 28.07.2020</td>
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WIPO Translate

- WIPO Translate
  - an AI-powered, instant patent translation tool, designed specifically to translate patent texts
  - based on neural machine translation technology that enables it to convert highly technical patent documents into a second language
  - available in 18 language pairs.
  - seamlessly built in PATENTSCOPE system
  - access is free-of-charge

See further: https://www.wipo.int/wipo-translate/en/
Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) and PCT

- Accelerated examination in the national phase based on a positive work product of an International Authority (written opinion of the ISA or the IPEA, IPRP (Chapter I or II))

- Conditions:
  - At least one claim has been determined by the ISA or the IPEA to meet the PCT criteria of novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability; and
  - ALL the claims must sufficiently correspond to the claims deemed to meet the PCT criteria (they are of the same or similar scope or they are of narrower scope than the claims in the PCT application)

- Some multilateral agreements
  - Global PPH, currently 27 participating Offices
  - IP5 PPH
  - PROSUR PPH
One-stop shop to all WIPO’s online IP services, launched on 17 September 2019

Unified navigation
– Harmonized top navigation on all existing IP services, facilitating movement between services

Single sign on
– Log in just once using your existing WIPO Account username and password to navigate freely between services

Common look and feel
– Integrated services are implementing a common user interface for a consistent, unified user experience
WIPO IP Portal (2)

- Customizable dashboard
  - new widget-based dashboard for logged in users where you can customize your chosen IP services and see your transactions, portfolios, or outstanding actions

- Streamlined payment
  - view and process payments in the IP Portal for Hague transactions. PCT and Madrid transactions will be introduced later

- Single messaging system
  - Gradual introduction of a centralized messaging system for our IP services
Collaborative S&E Pilot

- A pilot project among the IP5 Offices, for the establishment of ISR and WO/ISA under the PCT

- Procedure:
  - Main ISA establishes provisional ISR and WO
  - Peer ISAs make contributions on them
  - Main ISA finalizes the ISR and WO (only the final products count)

- All reports and peer contributions will be made available on PATENTSCOPE

- Limitations: 100 applications per ISA; maximum 10 applications per applicant for the same ISA (from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2020)
PCT ISA
checks CS&E criteria fulfilled, formalities examination, confirms acceptance

ISA Examiner (Step 1)
Carries out search, prepares provisional opinion and provisional search report

“Peer” examiners
4 other IP5 Offices
Contribution based on ISA provisional opinion and search report

ISA Examiner (Step 2)
Produces final International Search Report and Written Opinion

Evaluation
CS&E metrics will be monitored over the lifetime of the 500 applications

Product
CS&E International Search and Written Opinion

Expected Benefits
Earlier information from all IP5 offices
All offices contribute to product quality

Collaborative Search & Examination (CS&E)
Applicant driven
100 files per ISA over 2 years
PCT Working Group and CTC (Oct 2020)

- WG recommended amendments to the PCT Regulations and Administrative Instructions to implement WIPO Standard ST. 26
  - Sequence listings may only be filed in XML format
  - No need to repeat language-dependent free text in the main body of description
- WG reviewed supplementary international search system
- CTC unanimously recommended EAPO to be appointed by the PCT Assembly as an ISA/IPEA
- Next Assembly planned to be held in the first half of 2021
Question and help

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

RO/IB
- Telephone: +41 22 338 92 22
- E-mail: ro.ib@wipo.int

PCT eServices Help Desk
- Telephone: +41 22 338 95 23
- E-mail: pct.eservices@wipo.int
ePCT – WIPO’s online service for filing and managing patent applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)

https://pct.wipo.int
Contents

■ ePCT and WIPO IP Portal
■ ePCT Modes and Main Functionalities
■ ePCT-Filing
■ Management of Applications
  ◼ eOwnership and access rights
  ◼ eHandshake
■ Post-filing Submission
  ◼ Upload documents
  ◼ ePCT Actions
■ What’s next
What is ePCT? (1)

- Web portal developed by WIPO that provides PCT online services for both applicants and IP Offices
  https://pct.wipo.int

- User interface available in all PCT publication languages

- Provides secure and direct interaction with PCT applications maintained by the International Bureau

- ePCT-Filing at 70+ PCT receiving Offices

- ePCT allows applicants to conduct a number of electronic PCT transactions (‘Actions’) with the IB and other participating IP Offices
What is ePCT? (2)

- RO, ISA, IPEA + DO role-based access to PCT applications via secure ePCT Office accounts

- Increasing number of IP Offices now using ePCT for their regular PCT business using services hosted by WIPO

- ‘Office profile’ function allows you to look up if an Office is using ePCT and other useful reference data
  
  [https://pct.wipo.int/ePCT/private/officeProfile.xhtml](https://pct.wipo.int/ePCT/private/officeProfile.xhtml)
ePCT Statistics

2019

PCT applications filed via the ePCT-filing portal

Applicants filed 34,335 PCT applications using ePCT in 2019, representing almost 13% of the total number of PCT applications filed and an increase of 42.6% from 2018.

C3. Trend in PCT applications filed using ePCT, 2014–2019


2020 (Jan to Aug)

Top 5 countries: US, KR, CA, AU, TR
WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (1)

- IP Portal launched in September 2019
- Existing ePCT bookmarks redirect to the IP Portal for login
- Notifications (bell icon in navigation bar) include all your messages from WIPO, e.g., ePCT, Madrid, WIPO Current Account, etc.
WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (2)

Menu – always available across the portal

- PATENTS
  - Patentscope: Search among international Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications.
  - ePCT
  - PCT Time Limit Calculator
  - WIPO Pearl
  - DAS
  - CASE

- Classification Tools
  - IPCPUB
  - IPRCMS: IPC Revision Management Solution to help manage the workflow during the IPC revision process.
  - IPC RECLASS
  - IPC EFORUM

- Legal Texts
  - WIPO Lex
  - WIPO IP Portal
ePCT Modes

- Sign in without strong authentication:
  - Only a WIPO Account (username and password) required
  - Limited functionality: upload correspondence, actions Article 19 amendment and Rule 92bis (for published IAs), ePCT messages, and third party observations

- Sign in with strong authentication:
  - Authentication via one-time app or SMS or digital certificate (WIPO, EPO)
  - Access to full range of services and functions
  - Access to applications filed as of January 1, 2009
Main Functionalities

■ Create new international application
■ eOwnership request
  ❑ At the time of filing
  ❑ After filing
■ Create e-Handshakes with colleagues
■ Manage access rights
■ Perform Actions on IAs, including upload documents
■ Access to documents as held by the IB, but also other Authorities, RO, ISA, IPEA
File a new PCT application

- Web-based filing of PCT applications available to all PCT applicants
- Request form can be prepared in all PCT publication languages
- Real-time validation of data against the electronic processing system of the International Bureau
- Fill in the screens in the order in which they appear to benefit from re-use of certain data
eOwnership and Access Rights

- Access rights (eOwnership) allow you to manage a PCT application in ePCT
- eOwnership is automatic via ePCT-Filing
- If ePCT-Filing is not used, additional steps are required to take eOwnership in PCT-SAFE, JPO-PAS, eOLF
- eOwnership can be obtained to all PCT applications, paper-filed or electronically-filed
- Access rights can be assigned even to drafts prior to filing – practical for signing purposes (ePCT-Filing)
- eOwner can share access with eHandshake contacts
- Other roles: eEditor and eViewer
Share Access Rights – eHandshake

- First step in sharing access rights to PCT applications
- Consists in the association and trusted recognition between different WIPO User Accounts with strong authentication before access rights can be shared
- eHandshakes do not directly result in shared access rights which have to be specifically assigned (default access rights options can be pre-defined)
- Best practice - always have at least 2 eOwners to facilitate access rights management
Upload Post-filing Documents

- ‘Upload documents’ (mostly PDF format) to the IB and also to participating Offices in capacity as RO, ISA, IPEA
  - Types of document selectable depend on recipient selected
  - A cover letter is automatically generated – user can type a message to be included in the cover letter
- Simple, secure alternative to sending documents by mail
- Current date and time at the recipient Office is displayed in the interface and set as date of receipt
- After upload, documents are visible under Documents and the recipient Office is notified by the system
Access to Documents on Record

Access to documents on Record as held by the IB, but also documents submitted to ePCT participating Offices in their capacity as RO, ISA, IPEA
ePCT Actions

Full suite of Actions only available if signed in to ePCT with strong authentication and with eOwner/eEditor access rights to an application
Benefits of Using ePCT Actions

- “Actions” should be used instead of the equivalent document upload.
- The user benefits from pre-filled bibliographic data and automated validations to avoid errors; time limit checks.
- Data and documents submitted through Actions are directly imported for processing with no need for retyping (reduces potential transcription errors).
- Secondary workflow benefits, e.g.,
  - Action to withdraw application automatically prevents publication if technical preparations not yet complete.
  - Action to submit Chapter II Demand reroutes to IB if required for time limit (e.g., time limit just expired at IPEA/AU).
File View

- Date and time in Geneva, Switzerland, is displayed at the top of the screen to facilitate awareness of deadlines
- Timeline: graphical representation of PCT time limits
- Summary of key dates
- Publication date and front page preview
- E-mail alerts for most of these time limits can be set up in Notifications Preferences
What’s Next

- Offer full web-services for machine-to-machine access to ePCT for large companies and Offices
- Other means of strong authentication
HELP with ePCT

■ DEMO mode for practice https://pctdemo.wipo.int

■ Interactive FAQ via the HELP link on ePCT portal https://pct.wipo.int

■ ePCT for applicants and third parties https://pct.wipo.int/ePCTExternal/pages/landing.xhtml

■ PCT eServices Help Desk

  ❑ Tel: +41-22-338-9523

  ❑ E-mail: pct.eservices@wipo.int

  ❑ Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm Geneva time

  ❑ Chat feature available
Useful ePCT Articles

- **Getting started**
- **ePCT strong authentication methods**
- **eOwnership, eHandshakes and Access Rights**
- **External signature**
- **Actions**
- **ePCT Filing**
  - Filing at RO/IB (as an example of ePCT-Filing)
  - Filing at RO/US using ePCT in combination with EFS-Web
Thank you!