

## Executive Summary

The IP5 SR is an annual compilation of patent statistics for the five largest Intellectual Property Offices- the IP5 Offices - namely EPO, JPO, SIPO, KIPO and USPTO.

- At the end of 2014, 10.0 million patents were in force in the world (+6.2 percent). 90 percent of these patents were valid in one of the IP5 Offices jurisdictions.
- In 2014, 2.3 million patent applications were filed worldwide, either as direct national, direct regional or international phase PCT applications, of which 93 percent originated from the IP5 Blocs.
- In 2015, 2.4 million patent applications were filed at the IP5 Offices (+8 percent).
- In 2014, the proportion of applications filed via the PCT was 9 percent for applications originating from the IP5 Blocs.
- Together the IP5 Offices granted 1,017,375 patents in 2015 (6.5 percent more than 2014).
- In 2015, the main developments at the IP5 Offices were:
  - IP5: On May 22, 2015, the 8th Meeting of the IP5 Heads of Office was held in Suzhou, China. At the meeting, requests from users were discussed to expand the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) program to more offices and improve the operation of the PPH. The meeting decided to discuss PPH initiatives within the IP5 with the aim of improving accessibility for users. In addition, the IP5 Offices reached common recognition on plans on collaborative new IT-related collaborative services.
  - EPO: In 2015 the EPO further modernised its structure and increased efficiency and quality, leading to 6% more granted patents. Early certainty from search led to some significant improvements in timeliness. ISO 9001 certification was extended to patent information and post-grant activities. EU member states adopted a complete secondary legal framework for the unitary patent and the rules of procedure were adopted for the Unified Patent Court.
  - JPO: The JPO achieved a long-term goal (FA11), at the end of FY2013<sup>1</sup>, to shorten the period from filing a request for examination to issuing a first action (FA pendency) to 11 months or less. Now, the JPO is steadily moving toward the next decade goal, which is further shortening "total pendency" and "FA pendency" to 14 months or less on average and 10 months or less on average, respectively. In 2015, while speeding up the examination process, the JPO also focused on improving examination quality. As a result, the number of first actions issued was 235,809, and the number of patent grants was 173,015.
  - SIPO: In 2015, the number of applications for invention patents received by SIPO reached 1,101,864 (+18.7%), and 359,316 patents for invention were granted (+54.1%). The average examination period for invention patents was 21.9 months. In December 2015, the State

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<sup>1</sup> JPO's fiscal year 2013: April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014.

Council of the P. R. China issued Some Opinions of the State Council on Accelerating the Construction of the IP Powerful Nation under the New Situation, which was another programmatic document for guiding the IP work after Outline of the National Intellectual Property Strategy.

- KIPO: In 2015, patent applications submitted to KIPO amounted to 213,694, showing a 1.6 percent increase from 2014, and the number of PCT phase international filings reached to 14,594, a 11.1 percent growth rate. Despite receiving an ever-increasing number of applications, the KIPO reduced first action pendency to 10 months in order to afford its customers timely protection.
- USPTO: In fiscal year (FY) 2015<sup>2</sup>, the USPTO reduced first and final action pendencies to 17.3 months and 26.6 months, respectively. Concurrently, the backlog of unexamined patent applications was reduced to 553,221, despite an historical average filing growth rate of 5 percent.

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<sup>2</sup> USPTO's fiscal year 2015: October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015.