

## Chapter 6

# OTHER WORK

This brief chapter contains statistics about other work done on IP rights that is not common to all five offices. The data presented below supplement the information appearing in earlier chapters of this report.

This includes applications for plant patents (USPTO), reissue patents (USPTO), provisionals (USPTO), applications for patents other than those for inventions: utility models (JPO, KIPO, CNIPA), designs (JPO, KIPO, CNIPA, USPTO), trademarks (JPO, KIPO, USPTO), and search requests to be performed on behalf of national offices (EPO).

The utility model is different from the patent for invention<sup>43</sup>, because it is used to protect a device in relation to the shape or construction of articles or combination of articles (JPO, CNIPA), or to protect a creation of a technical idea using the rules of nature regarding the shape, structure, or combination of subjects (KIPO). A utility model is registered without a substantive examination as long as it meets basic requirements. The maximum period of protection for a utility model in Japan, R. Korea, and P.R. China is 10 years, which is shorter than for a patent for invention (typically 20 years).

A provisional application is an unexamined application which allows applicants to secure an early effective filing date without a formal patent claim, oath or declaration, or any information disclosure (prior art) statement.

The numbers of requests received for these types of other work are shown for 2019 and 2020 in Table 6.

**Table 6: STATISTICS ON OTHER WORK**

Activity	Year	EPO	JPO	KIPO	CNIPA	USPTO
Search for national offices	2019	25,380	-	-	-	-
	2020	27,577	-	-	-	-
Design applications	2019	-	31,489	65,039	711,617	46,847
	2020	-	31,752	67,583	770,362	47,537
Utility model applications	2019	-	5,241	5,447	2,268,190	-
	2020	-	6,018	4,981	2,926,633	-
Plant patent applications	2019	-	-	-	-	1,134
	2020	-	-	-	-	991
Re-issue applications	2019	-	-	-	-	1,110
	2020	-	-	-	-	1,129
Trademark applications	2019	-	190,773	221,507	7,837,441	673,569
	2020	-	181,072	257,933	9,347,568	851,333
Provisional applications	2019	-	-	-	-	170,089
	2020	-	-	-	-	171,968

In 2020, the number of utility model applications increased 9 percent and 16 percent at the CNIPA and the JPO, decreased by 9 percent, at the KIPO. The number of trademark applications increased by 16 percent at the KIPO and 26 percent at the USPTO. For design applications, there were increases at the KIPO, CNIPA and the USPTO by 4 percent, 8 percent, and 1 percent respectively.

<sup>43</sup> Not to be confused with the utility model, the USPTO's main type of patent, called a utility patent, is a patent for invention that is similar to the standard patent at the other IP5 Offices.