



Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
Office européen
des brevets

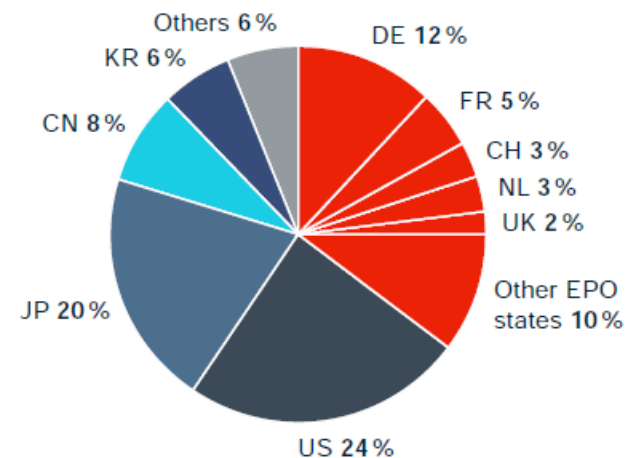
Update on the EPO's recent policies



Key figures in 2013

- 265 690 patent filings (+2.9% vs 2012)
- 66 712 patents granted (+1.6% vs 2012)
- 65% of filings from non-European countries
- 35% from EPO member states
- Top five countries, in terms of filings:

– US:	24%
– JP:	20%
– DE:	12%
– CN:	8%
– KR:	6%



- Top three filers: Samsung, Siemens, Philips

Highlights in 2013

Patent Translate

- Launched in February 2012, co-operation with Google
- December 2013: all 28 official languages of EPO member states, plus Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Russian (completed one year ahead of schedule)
- Available free-of-charge via Espacenet
- **17 000** translations/day
- Continuous further improvements



Abstract of EP1693640 (A1)

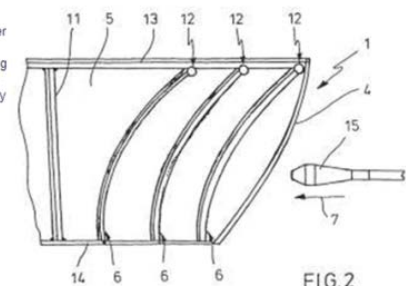
Translate this text into

patenttranslate powered by EPO and Google

Translate this text into

- Danish
- Dutch
- Finnish
- French
- German**
- Greek
- Hungarian
- Italian
- Norwegian
- Polish
- Portuguese
- Spanish
- Swedish

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Highlights in 2013

Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)

- In force at EPO and USPTO since 1 January 2013
- Other patent offices have joined this endeavour (China, South Korea, Russia, Brazil, UK and seven further EPO member states – with further in the pipeline)
- CPC is an important element for technical harmonisation of the patent system
- Alignment of CPC and JPO's FI in progress within the IP5



www.cpcinfo.org

PCT – a priority for the EPO

- In 2013, the EPO established:
 - **77 445** International Search Reports (38.4% of the total)
 - **7863** International Preliminary Examination Reports (50%)
- Improving the services for users:
 - Top-up search in the IPER as of 1 April 2014
 - Freezing of the international search fee until April 2016
 - EPO to join WIPO ePCT and WIPO DAS

EPO's Asian patent documentation

- EPO addresses the challenges posed by the rapid growth in Asian documentation
- Documentation, tools, translation options, training and knowledge of Asian documentation is revolutionising the work of examiners
- For bibliographic and image patent data, the EPO has almost 100 % coverage for the major Asian countries:

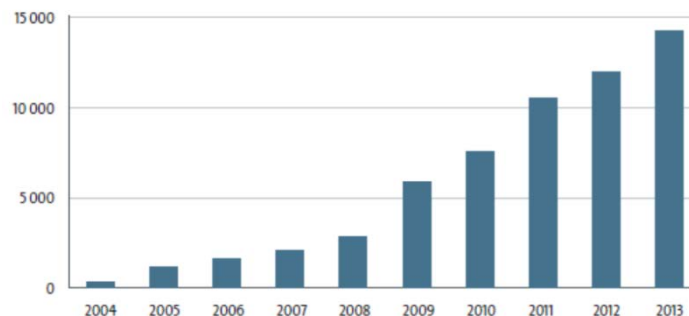
Origin	Number of documents	Time coverage
China	6.5 million	from 1985
Japan	22 million	from 1931
Korea	2.6 million	from 1978

- 21% of the cited documents in EPO search reports in 2012 had an Asian priority

Patents and standards

- The EPO has a policy of co-operation with key standards development organisations
- Collection of documentation from ETSI, 3GPP, MPEG, ITU, IEEE-SA, and many more
- EPO examiners are trained in searching more than 1.6 million standards documents incorporated in internal EPO databases
- Over 14 000 standards documents were cited as prior art in 2013

No. of standards citations in EPO search reports



Quality at the EPO

- High specialisation and intense training of EPO examiners
- State-of-the-art tools allowing efficient access by examiners
- Very comprehensive prior art coverage: almost 90 million documents available to examiners
- Regular quality meetings with user organisations:
 - in Europe and the US since 2005
 - in Japan since 2012
 - plan to extend quality meetings to China and Korea

EPO Federated Register and Global Dossier

- Federated Register:
 - Common point of access to register data from the EPO and participating IP offices of the EPC contracting states
 - Unified display of legal status of patents in the national phase
 - Deep linking in production: direct access to individual national patent registers from a record in the European Patent Register
- EPO Global Dossier service:
 - Single point of access to IP5 dossier content, launched today with SIPO file wrapper data

Early certainty from search

- EPO provides search reports with written opinion on patentability a few months after the filing date:
 - 5.2 months for the first filings
 - 15.1 months for the PCT
= 9.2 months on average
- New priority scheme for more legal certainty at early stage:
 - 6 months to provide the search report for all files
 - Applicant and third parties may accelerate start of examination
- User consultation on-going; decision in July 2014

Recent developments: Unitary patent

Unitary patent protection (UPP)

- Select Committee: necessary legal, technical and financial framework currently being prepared with EPO support
- Language regime: EPO regime + machine translation
- UPP system should become available in 2015



Unified Patent Court (UPC)

- Preparatory Committee (EPO as observer)
- Selection of judges (1 300 potential candidates!)
- Judges' Training Centre in Budapest (with EPO support)





www.epo.org

Thank you for your attention!