

Executive Summary

The IP5 Statistics Report (IP5 SR) is an annual compilation of patent statistics for the five largest intellectual property offices – the IP5 Offices – namely the European patent Office (EPO), the Japan patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

- At the end of 2017, 13.6 million patents were in force in the world (+15.9 percent). 91 percent of these patents were in force in one of the IP5 Office jurisdictions.
- In 2017, 2.8 million patent applications were filed worldwide, either as direct national, direct regional or international phase PCT applications, of which 94 percent originated from the IP5 Blocs.
- In 2017, 89 percent of the worldwide patent applications were filed as direct national applications. The proportion of applications filed via the PCT remained stable.
- In 2018, 2.8 million patent applications were filed at the IP5 Offices (+6.0 percent).
- Together the IP5 Offices granted 1.2 million patents in 2018 (+1.4 percent).
- In 2018, the main developments at the IP5 Offices were:
 - IP5: In June, the 11th meeting of the IP5 Heads of Office was held in New Orleans, U.S.. Together with representatives of industry groups from the five regions, the IP5 Heads of Office celebrated ten years of IP5 cooperation. First the first time the IP5 Statistics Report is published online only.
 - EPO: On 1 July 2018, António Campinos took up duty as President of the EPO. In 2018 there was an increase in applications by nearly 5%, while the number of granted patents granted increased by 21%. The backlogs diminished further. A validation agreement with Cambodia entered into force.
 - JPO: With a growing need to shorten the average length of time it takes for the JPO to make decisions to grant or not grant patent rights, i.e. the total pendency, the JPO has been working on initiatives to speed up its examination process. In 2018, the total pendency and the first action (FA) pendency at the JPO are 14.1 and 9.3 months on average, respectively, while the JPO has been maintaining its efficient and prompt examinations, just as it did in 2017. Meanwhile, the number of international search reports the JPO prepared under the PCT has been increasing in recent years and reached a record high of 47,934.
 - KIPO: Prior art searches were expanded, examination quality was enhanced and customized examination services were provided. The annual average first office action pendency period was 10.3 months for patents and utility models. KIPO received a preliminary total of 465,015 applications for IPRs, including patents, utility models in 2018. The number of PCT applications filed from Korea increased by 7.6 percent from 15,790 in 2017 to 16,991 in 2018, which is the 5th largest amount by country of origin.

- CNIPA: In 2018, the reorganization of CNIPA has been smoothly completed. With unified administration of trademark, patent, geological indication and integrated circuit layout design, the management efficiency has been greatly enhanced. Due to these changes, in August 2018 the English name SIPO was changed to China National Intellectual Property Administration (abbreviated as CNIPA). The number of invention patent applications filed for which relevant fees were paid increased by 11.6 percent and grants for inventions by 2.9 percent, while the average pendency period for grants was approximately 22.5 months

- USPTO: In 2018, the USPTO issued its 10 millionth patent on June 19 and unveiled a new U.S. patent cover design to commemorate the event. On February 8, Mr. Andrei Iancu assumed the role of Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. For patent applications at the USPTO, the final action pendency decreased from 24.2 months to 23.8 months (for FY 2018). The overall patent grant rate increased from 71.9 percent to 74.5 percent.