EPO Proposal for GD next step initiatives
Background

- In the spring of 2014 the EPO carried out a market research study with European industry.

- The Results of this study were presented at the May IP5 WG2 meeting in Korea.

- The EPO has considered legal and technical constraints which limit in the short term the possibility for implementation.
Standardisation of Applicant Names

Disparate applicant naming a problem for patent offices and 3rd parties:

Patent publication databases are harder to search by applicant name which impacts both examiners and 3rd parties

Filing and assignment procedures negatively impacted by multiple names for single legal entities

Transliteration identified as particular source of error in publication databases.

All IP5 offices would mutually benefit from each others correction procedures during filing and database entry.
Legal Status Data

European Industry, especially those involved in patent information argue that legal status data needs to be:

- Consistent
- Comprehensive
- Timely

For freedom to operate searches both bulk database and from on-demand data is necessary. → This data flow can also enrich GD services

The EPO proposes that the IP5 agree:

- Standard for legal status events
- OPD like standardised on demand legal status
- Further promotion consistent timely legal status data provision beyond IP5
Alerting

Several offices already provide services for alerting applicants or the public of changes to application status. However these services are:

- Use disparate channels
- Non standard
- Target different user groups

The EPO proposes that the IP5 federate these services by agreeing and implementing standardised alerting systems.

Standardised alerting enables the further enrichment of GD services by allowing offices to provide bundled status updates for IP5 family members.
Conclusion

EPO proposes that:

- Applicant naming standardisation
- Legal status federation
- Alerting

could be initiatives to focus on in the next phase of GD.

The EPO believes that progress on these issues:

- Delivers direct benefit to users
- Allows for the development of enhanced GD services
- Is not hindered by significant legal or technical hurdles.
Thank you