

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 2013, 9.4 million patents were in force in the world (+10.0 percent). 89 percent of these patents were valid in one of the IP5 Offices jurisdictions.

In 2013, 2.2 million patent applications were filed worldwide, either as direct national, direct regional or international PCT applications of which 93 percent originated from the IP5 Blocs. In 2014, 2.2 million patent applications were filed at the IP5 Offices (+6 percent).

In 2013, the proportion of applications filed via the PCT was 9 percent for applications originating from the IP5 Blocs.

Together the IP5 Offices granted 955,447 patents in 2014 (-0.1 percent less than 2013).

In 2014, the main developments at the IP5 Offices were:

- IP5: The IP5 Offices launched on January 6th, 2014 the comprehensive IP5 PPH pilot programme for a period of three years ending on January 5th, 2017. The PPH leverages fast-track patent examination procedures to allow applicants to obtain corresponding patents faster and more efficiently. It also permits each office to exploit the work previously done by the other office.
- EPO: The EPO joint IP5 PPH pilot programme started in January 2014. PCT Direct was introduced to facilitate the handling of PCT applications where the EPO acts as ISA. The Quality Management System of the patent granting process received ISO9001 certification. Early certainty from search was introduced to enhance legal certainty of the examination process. EPO launched its European Global Dossier comprising Chinese and other data, for the public.
- JPO: In March 2014, the JPO achieved its ten-year goal of shortening the FA pendency to 11 months or less. Furthermore, the JPO has set a new goal, which is to accelerate the examination process in order to shorten the "total pendency period" and the "FA pendency" to 14 months and 10 months or less within the next 10 years on average, respectively. In addition, the JPO has established a Subcommittee on Examination Quality Management in August 2014 for the purpose of conducting an objective evaluation of quality management for examination.
- SIPO: In 2014, the number of applications for invention patents received by SIPO reached 928,177 (+12.5 percent), and 233,228 patents for invention were granted (+12.3 percent). The average examination period for invention patents continued to decrease to 21.8 months.
- KIPO: In 2014, patent applications totalled 210,292 (+2.8 percent). Also the number of PCT international filings totalled 13,138 (+6 percent). First action pendency was reduced to 11 months.

- USPTO: In fiscal year (FY) 2014¹, the USPTO reduced first and final action pendencies to 18.4 months and 27.4 months, respectively. Concurrently, the backlog of unexamined patent applications was reduced to 605,646, despite an historical average filing growth rate of 5 percent.

¹ USPTO's fiscal year 2014: October 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014.