INPADOC classification scheme

The INPADOC database now contains over 250 million legal event records. Navigating this ocean of data has become a challenge for users. In response, the EPO has introduced a classification scheme for INPADOC legal events, making it easier to understand the nature of these events and easier to retrieve records on them. The scheme comprises a category level and a detailed level.

The EPO is implementing this two-tier classification structure in two phases. The main task in phase I, which is now complete, was to classify the 2,800 INPADOC legal event codes used since 1997 by category. Any new event codes are now being categorised on a monthly basis. The EPO will classify legal event codes on a detailed level at a later stage (phase II).

The INPADOC classification scheme consists of 21 categories, ranging from A (Application filing) to Y (Correction and deletion of event information) and to Z (Classification pending).

Events related to applications for supplementary protection certificates are covered by the scheme in category G (Protection beyond IP right term), making it easier for users to retrieve legal event data on this important type of protection right.

A description of each category, examples of events in individual categories and additional comments for clarification are provided in a document called “INPADOC classification scheme” in the Manuals section on bulk data products.

The category level forms the top level of the scheme and is modelled on the category level of the WIPO ST.27 standard. An article related to this topic was published in the Patent Information News 4/2017 on pages 6 and 7.
GPI becomes first EPO product to incorporate INPADOC legal event categories

One of the strengths of the EPO’s Global Patent Index (GPI) search interface is its flexibility in adapting to changes in the EPO’s data collections. So it comes as no surprise that it already includes the new INPADOC legal event categories.

GPI now offers searchable INPADOC categories, as assigned by the EPO for some 2,800 national, regional and international detailed legal events. These categories make searching and understanding legal event data much easier.

The GPI categories allow users to perform simple queries instead of combining a multitude of underlying legal events. For example, to retrieve documents related to the discontinuation of an application, a searcher would previously have had to enter 222 events (see table).

Example
Using the new categories, it is possible to carry out a search that retrieves patent documents that were subject to some kind of review (e.g., opposition, surrender). These are assigned to category L (“IP right review request”). The example further limits the search to gazettes or bulletins that were published in December 2018 (using the EVD “event date” criterion) and to the companies JFE Steel and NEC (the APP “applicant/proprietor” and EVOW “owner mentioned in the legal event record” criteria). Combing these criteria, the query will look like this:

EVCA = L with EVD = 201812 and APP or EVOW = “JFE STEEL” or NEC.

GPI now also includes an improved legal status display for sorting legal events, making navigation easier.

For more information on GPI or to access the user forum, see epo.org/gpi

1 For more information on the WITH operator and EVOW, see Patent Information News 2/2016, page 6, and 2/2017, page 9, respectively.
Patent information contributing to innovation support around Europe

There are over 300 patent information centres (also called “PATLIB centres”) spread across the EPO’s member states. They provide advice on patents and IP in general to local industry and researchers. Many of them can carry out patent searches and perform in-depth analyses of the patent landscape in a specific technical field.

These patent information centres do not operate in isolation. They are part of a complex web of innovation support services available to Europe’s innovators.

EPO President António Campinos has initiated a project to explore how the patent information centres could do even more. He wants to look at the interwoven nature of innovation support, especially the commercialisation of inventions and technology transfer.

A major conference – the PATLIB Summit – hosted by the EPO, will take place at the beginning of May in Porto, Portugal. Leaders in the field will meet national patent offices, technology transfer experts, business experts and, of course, decision-makers from the patent information centres, to mould a new strategy for the future.

Patent Information News 2/2019 will carry a full report on the PATLIB Summit. In the meantime, please look at the PATLIB directory to find a patent information centre near you: epo.org/patlib-directory.

Richard Flammer
Principal Director Patent Information and European Patent Academy

Sequence listing data: bulk data collection back to 1989 now available

One of the bulk data sets offered by the EPO is the data on sequence listings. This set contains nucleotide and amino acid sequences from newly published European, Euro-PCT and PCT applications where the EPO is the International Searching Authority.

Generally speaking, if nucleotide/ amino acid sequences are disclosed in a patent application, the description must contain a sequence listing. A sequence listing is a list of biological sequences expressed using a set vocabulary (i.e. defined terms for certain features).

Most patent offices now require applicants to file sequence listings in a standardised electronic format (currently WIPO ST. 25). In the past, sequence listings were submitted in multiple formats, including on paper.

The EPO started distributing weekly files containing sequence listings in 2012. Until recently, 2012 was the starting point for the backfile. However, the EPO’s internal database includes a collection of sequence listings in text format dating back to as early as 1989.

The EPO has now extracted all of the sequences available from its internal database. The back-file only contains data filed as a separate machine-readable document, and not strings of data embedded in the text of the specification. The EPO has re-formatted and marked up the data as filed by the applicant, so it is not in its original version.

The collection containing data up to the end of 2018 is available in .txt format.

For more information, see epo.org/searching-for-patents/data/bulk-data-sets/sequence-listing

Some statistics on the EPO’s sequence listing data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCT files, where the EPO is the searching authority</td>
<td>67 275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP files, either direct filings or entering the regional phase</td>
<td>59 527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of sequences in the back file</td>
<td>More than 40 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Once a European patent has been granted, there is a nine-month period within which an opposition can be filed, based on a number of grounds that are specified in Article 100 of the European Patent Convention (EPC).

Strategic use of opposition data
Around 4% of granted EP patents are opposed every year (figures vary by technical domain). Analysing opposition data enables users to identify:

- who is “attacking” whom and when an opposition is likely to occur within a certain industry
- who is successfully defending their own patents against oppositions and attacking competitors’ patents
- whether a patent is valuable (more valuable patents are more likely to be opposed than low value ones).

Where to find EPO opposition information
Accurate information on the number of opposed European patents, as well as on the various areas of technology in which oppositions occur and their outcomes is published in the EPO’s annual reports.

Furthermore, users can specifically search, at different levels, for opposition information.

The European Patent Register allows users to retrieve data using the “Opponent” search field. Users can also search, for example, for oppositions filed in a specific technical domain by searching for the IPC codes or keywords in the title, and combining their query with the code “01” in the Opponent field. “01” is the coding assigned by EPO formalities officers to the first valid opposition filed.

For each retrieved document, the “All documents” function gives users access to all public documentation created during the entire EP procedure. This includes, for example, all correspondence between the examiner and the applicant.

Appeal procedure
Decisions by opposition divisions can be appealed before the boards of appeal within two months of the date of notification of the decision. Appeals can also be filed against decisions by the examining divisions concerning the refusal of European patent applications or the granting of European patents.

The board of appeal decisions database offers advanced search options, including, among others, full-text and type-of-decision search. However, as pointed out by Luca Falcio in his presentation at the EPO Patent Information Conference, database users are not offered the option of limiting their searches to appeals filed only against decisions reached during the examination or the opposition procedures. The EPO is, however, now looking into the possibility of implementing this option. Other
planned improvements, triggered by Luca Falciola, are the addition of a YES/NO limitation option to the advanced search appeal field in the European Patent Register, and the introduction of appeal search criteria to EP Bulletin search.

These developments reflect the fact that the EPO Patent Information Conference is a forum for patent information users to influence EPO patent information policy.

The EPO wishes to thank Luca Falciola for his help in putting together this article. His presentation at the EPO Patent Information Conference is available at epo.org/pi-conference.

FEDERATED REGISTER

Direct link from the European Patent Register to the national patent registers of Malta and Morocco

The Maltese and Moroccan patent registers are now available via deep-links from the European Patent Register. This reflects continuous improvements in the European Patent Register (see Patent Information News 4/2018) and brings the total number of participating states to 37. Morocco is the second validation state to join this service.

Legal status information on European patents that have been validated in Malta and Morocco is just a click away in the “Legal status” and “Federated register” panel views.

Each patent office participating in the Federated Register has defined which of its documents can be accessed via the deep-linking service. A list of participating offices and the data coverage they provide is available at:

epo.org/searching-for-patents/legal/register/documentation/data-coverage.html

Information on the countries’ integration status in the Federated Register and the deep linking service can be also downloaded from the link above.

Patent Information News will keep you informed as more deep links to the registers of the remaining designated, extension and validation states become available.
Introducing Espacenet’s new filter concept

If you have tried out the EPO’s new Espacenet, currently available in a beta version, you will have noticed there is a function for filtering your search results. This article takes a closer look at the filtering function, which helps you to identify those patent documents that are most relevant to your search.

The filtering function is available in several categories. This article will describe each of them in turn, starting with date ranges.

Date ranges
Date range filtering may be helpful in the context of invalidity searches, where you are only interested in prior art published before the priority date of the respective invention. Filtering by publication date allows you to remove all documents that cannot be used as prior art publications.

Countries and languages
If you are interested in patent protection in a specific country, you can apply a filter to show patents from that country only. You should, however, check if international filings via the EPO or the PCT route have to be considered. Similarly, you can limit your search to certain languages and use statistic functions to ascertain how many documents you will need to use Patent Translate for.

IPC and CPC classification
The filter function in Espacenet delivers frequency counts, making it possible to identify the classification symbols that match up best for any given search. Sorting the classification symbols alphabetically also helps you to include similar inventions classified using neighbouring classification symbols. Two-level filtering at the main group level and with the full IPC or CPC makes it possible to select patents from a broader technological area. This in turn reveals which sub-technologies, or technologies of other areas, occur most frequently in recent publications and may help you to spot new technological trends.

Applicants and inventors
The applicant and inventors filter displays the most prominent players. Sorting this list alphabetically and using a special search function helps users to identify spelling variants or entities of the same group of companies.

Boolean operators
At first sight, the filter function does not contain any Boolean operators, but Boolean logic is implemented implicitly. Filters from different categories are combined with the AND operator: setting a filter to “applicant” makes it possible to identify the most frequent classification symbols occurring on that applicant’s patent publications. It also allows you to compare the technology profiles of two competitors, for example. Within a filter category you can choose between the AND and OR logical operators. If, for example, you select several IPC classes to retrieve patent documents fulfilling any of the given criteria, the Boolean OR operator will be applied.

If you select an IPC symbol and apply the filter, the results shown will have the given symbol. The filter function will also show a statistical evaluation of any other classification symbols that have been co-assigned to the documents. This is a very handy feature for analysing multiple IPC symbols for a given applicant or in a given technological area. Similarly, you can use the applicant or inventor filter, and the system will show a statistical overview of co-applicants or co-inventors. This may be useful for exploring patenting networks.
**USER SUPPORT**

**Family and publication level**

Family and publication level filtering is a more advanced concept. Searching in Espacenet initially takes place at publication level. All simple patent family members are subsequently consolidated and the result list shows one result per family. In the document view, you can then view all publications from the patent family in the database if you need to.

Publication level filtering is often the most straightforward approach. You can view documents that are relevant for your target market, for instance, by selecting national filings or filings with the EPO. Excluding a country at publication level will still retrieve patent family members in other countries. This is where family-level filtering comes in: excluding all German applications at family level would exclude all patent families that have at least one German family member.

Family-level filtering also exists for languages and publication dates, and for situations in which you want to include families where at least one member fulfils the given date range.

Please try out the filter function and submit your feedback using the “feedback” link in the new Espacenet:

epo.org/espacenet-beta

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**20 000 e-mails per year**

The Patent Information User Support team is the main contact point for users of the EPO’s patent information products and services. The EPO team aims to offer its users the best possible service and to standardise the user’s experience across all products and services. 2018 was a busy year for the team.

Of the 1 820 customer enquiries received via the customer relationship management (CRM) tool, 94% were successfully closed within 16 working hours. The teams supporting the EPO’s products and services also sent a total of 22 216 emails to users in 2018. The vast majority of these messages concerned Espacenet and Open Patent Services, and dealt with either a technical or data/documentation matter.

The Patent Information Matters forum was actively used to inform users of changes, pass on tips and tricks, and promote events and publications. Two new forums were created in 2018, one for Linked Open EP Data and one for the beta version of new Espacenet.

In 2018, 310 new post threads were created and viewed 219 862 times (a view is counted when a user actively opens a post).

Over 2 600 end users took part in 53 webinars on patent information products and services in 2018. Users can download PowerPoint presentations of the webinars from the Patent Information Training forum after the live session. Users are also informed via the forum as soon as the recordings are available.

All webinars are recorded and published on the e-learning platform within a couple of days.

They remain there for as long as the information provided during the recorded session is still up to date and correct.

New videos were produced to familiarise users with the tools. They are available on the EPO’s e-learning platform and its YouTube channel. For the EPO’s main products (like Espacenet and European Patent Register) help videos are available in English, French and German. For tools within products, like the Federated Register or Common Citation Document, the videos are in English with French and German subtitles.

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\(1\) Please note the exceptions stipulated in EPC 54(3).

\(1\) https://e-courses.epo.org/course/view.php?id=47
Changes to the IPC from 1 January 2019


Full details of the changes to classification symbols are available via a publication platform (IPCPUB 7) on WIPO’s website: wipo.int/classifications/ipc/ipcpub

The platform also includes the former version of the scheme, IPC 2018.01, and all older versions. Just click “2019.01” to open the drop-down version menu.

Once you have accessed the page for the 2019 version of the IPC, click the “Compilation” tab. The French version can be selected in the left-hand column.

Under the “Compilation” tab, the changes are shown in a tabular format, using the following codes:

- **D** – deletion
- **C** – modification with a change of scope, i.e. involving reclassification
- **L** – unchanged in this language version, but changed in the other language version of the IPC
- **M** – modification without a change of scope, i.e. not involving reclassification
- **N** – new
- **T** – target classification symbol for reclassification
- **U** – unchanged, but is displayed to improve the readability of the compilation

The table shows IPC subclasses/main groups that have undergone significant modifications.

The EPO started publishing documents classified under the new version of the IPC on 1 January 2019. The documents in the backfile affected by these changes will gradually be reclassified. Users may wish to supplement their IPC searches with a further search using the symbols from the previous version. Together with the USPTO, the EPO will also endeavour to bring the CPC scheme into line with the new IPC in the first half of 2019.

**IPC subclasses/main groups that have undergone significant modifications**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Subject-matter affected by the changes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A41D 31/00</td>
<td>Materials specially adapted for outerwear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A61K 33/24</td>
<td>Medicinal preparations containing heavy metals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A61K 38/08</td>
<td>Medicinal preparations containing peptides having 5 to 11 amino acids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B29C 48/00</td>
<td>Extrusion moulding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B32B 7/00</td>
<td>Layered products characterised by the relation between layers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B50L 50/00</td>
<td>Electric propulsion with power supplied within the vehicle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B65D 90/50</td>
<td>Leakage-indicating devices for large containers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C02F 11/12</td>
<td>Treatment of sludge by dewatering, drying or thickening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C12C 3/00</td>
<td>Preparation of other alcoholic beverages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F02M 37/22</td>
<td>Purifying liquid fuel for internal combustion engines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F15B 21/00</td>
<td>Common features of fluid actuator systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F24F 1/00</td>
<td>Room units for air-conditioning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G01M 13/00</td>
<td>Testing of machine parts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G01N 33/20</td>
<td>Investigating or analysing metals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G01R 31/36</td>
<td>Arrangements for testing, measuring or monitoring the electrical condition of accumulators or electric batteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G02F 1/00</td>
<td>Devices or arrangements for the control of the intensity, colour, phase, polarisation or direction of light arriving from an independent light source</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G06F 1/32</td>
<td>Means of saving power in data processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G06N 10/00</td>
<td>Quantum computers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G06N 20/00</td>
<td>Machine learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G07D 11/00</td>
<td>Devices accepting coins; devices for handling valuable papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G10C 3/00</td>
<td>Details or accessories for pianos, harpsichords, spinets or similar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G16B</td>
<td>Bioinformatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G16C</td>
<td>Computational theoretical chemistry, Chemoinformatics; Computational materials science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G16Z</td>
<td>Information and communication technology specially adapted for specific application fields, not otherwise provided for</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
EPO study on patenting activity in quantum technology

29 and 30 October 2018, Vienna

The European Union launched its EUR 1 billion Quantum Technology (QT) Flagship programme at the end of October 2018 at a two-day event in Vienna under the aegis of the Austrian Presidency of the EU.

In the decade ahead the programme will supply funding to support innovation in QT, getting it out of the lab and into the market.

Analysis of patenting activity in quantum technology

Patent applications are one indicator of the commercialisation of research results. At the launch event, the EPO presented a study of global patenting activity in QT.

The EPO limited its analysis to “second-generation QT”, which may be defined as the manipulation of physical systems at quantum level involving phenomena like entanglement and superposition, for practical, industrially relevant, and commercially viable purposes. However, separating first and second-generation QT is fraught with difficulty, with disagreement among experts about definitions.

The patent research was limited to quantum metrology and sensing (QMS), comprising five subcategories: gravitation, rotation and accelerating sensing (QGRA), magnetic field sensing (QMag), quantum imaging (QIm), chemical detection (QChem) and time measurement (QTime).

The study revealed a 2000% increase in the number of inventions for which patent applications were published worldwide during the period of 2000-2017. However, second-generation QT is only just emerging, so the entire dataset contained less than 400 inventions described in about 600 patent applications, based on simple patent families.

In terms of national geography, the top three countries of origin of published patent applications are, in decreasing order of magnitude: China, the US, Europe (defined as the EPO member states and five third countries). Japan is in 4th place, and the leading individual European countries are the UK followed by France and Germany. Canada and Korea complete the top ten.

In terms of patent publications on a continental basis, Chinese government research institutions have the highest profile in Asia. In Europe, French government research leads the field, while industry is most active in the US.

A breakdown of patent applications into the five sub-categories mentioned above reveals that the top patent applicants in QGRA are the Chinese government, research institutions and universities. In QTime, the top applicants are Japanese industries, whereas in QMag, US industry files the highest number of applications. In QChem Chinese universities are at the forefront, while German industry tops QIm.

Since 2010 the hottest technologies in terms of published patent applications have been QChem and QGRA.

The EPO’s analysis revealed networks of collaborations, reflected as joint patent applications between two or more organisations. There was a significant cluster of joint patent applications involving two French universities, two French research institutes, Japanese and French industrials and a Canadian university.

Conclusions

Patent activity in QMS is on the increase. The preliminary results of this analysis suggest that the majority of patent applications are in QGRA and QChem. Patent applicants tend to be active in just one technical field. The majority of patents published in QMS originate in China (Chinese National Intellectual Property Agency), the US (United States Patent and Trademark Office) and Europe (European Patent Office).

There is also evidence that R&D is not carried out in isolation, but that the public and private sectors collaborate closely worldwide.

PUBLICATIONS CORNER

“Publications corner” presents the latest statistics on EPO publications.

- EP-A2: European patent applications published without search report
- EP-A3: European search reports
- EP-B1: European patents
- EP-B2: revised European patents
- EP-B3: European patent specifications

Note: The table does not include statistics on European patent applications filed via the PCT route (Euro-PCT applications). These are published by WIPO and are not made available by the EPO unless they are in a language other than English, French or German. Currently about 60% of all European patent applications are Euro-PCT filings.

European patent publications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>European patent publications</th>
<th>January – March 2019</th>
<th>Weekly average 2019</th>
<th>Total Jan–March 2019</th>
<th>Change vs. 2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>EP-A documents</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP-A1</td>
<td>1 662</td>
<td>21 609</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP-A2</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>833</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total EP-A1 + A2</td>
<td>1 726</td>
<td>22 442</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage EP-A1 of total A1+A2</td>
<td>96.3%</td>
<td>96.3%</td>
<td>0.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP-A3</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>696</td>
<td>–47.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>EP-B documents</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EP-B1+B2</td>
<td>2 491</td>
<td>32 384</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Draft amendments to Chinese Patent Law released for comment

After revision by the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress of the People’s Republic of China, draft amendments to the Chinese Patent Law were released for public comment on 4 January 2019. Major aims of the proposed revision are to strengthen patent protection, foster innovation and improve the legal framework.

Proposed changes include:

– increased compensation in infringement cases by raising the minimum fine to 100,000 yuan (EUR 13,000) and the maximum fine to 5 million yuan (EUR 650,000)
– liability of online service providers who fail to prevent acts of infringement in a timely manner
– introduction of the “principle of good faith”
– introduction of a patent term extension system for innovative drugs
– measures to encourage service inventions
– CNIPA to strengthen the building of public information systems and provide basic patent data
– national and local authorities to increase public patent services, fostering patent dissemination and utilisation
– introduction of an open patent licence system
– introduction of domestic priority period of six months for design applications
– extension of the period for submitting a copy of the priority document for patents/utility models
– extension of the patent term for designs to 15 years

Details can be found on the official Chinese website of the National People’s Congress at: www.npc.gov.cn/npc/flcazqyj/2019-01/04/content_2070155.htm

Rospatent plans to launch register on patented pharmaceuticals

The Russian patent office, Rospatent, has recently announced its plans to create a special unified register on patented pharmaceutical products. This special register is being created in co-operation with Russia’s Ministry of Health.

The register will contain data on the patented inventions used in reference to medicinal products related to the active ingredient. It will also document numbers of relevant patents, information on their validity periods and information on patent owners. The data will be added to the register at the request of the patent holder and after verification by Rospatent.


Hong Kong launches a new patent search system

According to an official notice, the Hong Kong Intellectual Property Department (HKIPD) launched its New Integrated IT System (NIS) on 14 February 2019. The new system replaces the IPD Online Search System, the e-filing system and the internal electronic processing systems for the trade marks, patents and design registries.

A new B2B e-filing system will also be launched alongside the NIS. More information can be found in the official notice at: www.ipd.gov.hk/eng/whats_new/news/nis_notice.htm


NIS can be accessed at: https://esearch.ipd.gov.hk/nis-pos-view/pt#/quicksearch

Myanmar adopts trade mark and industrial design laws

On 30 January 2019, new trade mark and industrial design laws were enacted in Myanmar. They entered into force on 11 March 2019.

Among other changes, the new trade mark law introduces a first-to-file system that requires no evidence of prior use or ownership in Myanmar. The law improves the ability of trade mark owners to counter bad-faith trade mark “squatting” and raises the potential damages to be paid in infringement cases. The law also introduces substantive examination of applications, oppositions, and invalidation and cancellation actions.

A newly created intellectual property court will handle all IP disputes.

In addition to the Trademark Law and Industrial Design Law, other IP legislation is also expected to be passed in Myanmar in the near future.

For more information on recent IP developments in Myanmar, see the following article from the Myanmar Times: www.mmtimes.com/news/trademark-law-and-industrial-design-law-enacted.html
New IP Tribunal in China

Based on official provisions (www.court.gov.cn/zixun-xiangqing-137481.html) released on 27 December 2018, the Supreme People’s Court (SPC) of the People’s Republic of China established an IP Tribunal in Beijing on 1 January 2019.

According to the provisions, the IP Tribunal has jurisdiction over appeals against first instance judgments for civil and administrative litigation in cases involving significant technical issues. The Tribunal will also be in charge of significant or complex nationwide civil or administrative cases in the first instance.

More information on the types of IP rights that may be appealed at the new IP Tribunal, along with other details, can be found in the above-mentioned provisions. After registration, parties to proceedings may search for litigation documents and judgments of the IP Tribunal in the China Judicial Process Information Online service (in Chinese only) at: https://splcgk.court.gov.cn/gzfwww/.

For more news from Asia, see the Updates section at epo.org/asia.

EVENTS

"East meets West" forum in Vienna, Austria, 11 to 12 April 2019

The EPO’s annual “East meets West” forum is a two-day event aimed at helping participants to:

– perform effective searches in the growing volumes of patent data from Asia and other regions
– monitor changes in IP legislation

The forum will provide valuable insights into:

– recent improvements in IP courts in China
– detecting data from ASEAN member states
– validation states – Cambodia, Moldova, Morocco, Tunisia.

This year’s event has a new format, offering participants a selection of workshops hosted by experts from the EPO and other organisations, who will share their practical experiences with a small group of participants.

Users are invited to bring their questions and feedback to the sessions, or simply take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about a new topic.

"East meets West" offers the chance to catch up on emerging trends in the Asian patent information market during a poster session and exhibitor presentations. There will also be plenty of scope for one-on-one discussions and exchanges throughout the forum with representatives from patent offices, agencies, academia and industry.

This year’s programme and further details can be found at epo.org/emw. For more information on last year’s event, see Patent Information News 2/2018.

Registration deadline: extended to 29 March 2019

For any further questions, please contact asiainfo@epo.org. The team looks forward to welcoming you in Vienna!
Save the date!
EPO Patent Information Conference 2019

The EPO Patent Information Conference is the place to be this autumn for anyone who deals with patent data in their work. It will be held in Bucharest from 29 to 31 October 2019 (with training courses on 28 and 31 October).

The EPO Patent Information Conference 2019 will be organised in co-operation with the Romanian Patent Office (OSIM).

A full conference programme and information on how to register will be available in June 2019.

Go to epo.org/pi-conference to register for e-mail alerts about this event.

The PATLIB Summit

Porto, Portugal, 6 & 7 May 2019

The PATLIB Summit will bring together experts on innovation support across Europe to formulate a new strategy for the PATLIB network of patent information centres in Europe.

It will take place in Porto, Portugal, on 6 and 7 May 2019. Participation will be by invitation only.

For more information see epo.org/patlib.

Who uses linked open EP data?

The EPO is keen to find out how linked open EP data is used or integrated with other data sets and is calling current and potential users of linked open EP data to get in touch. If you would like to share your thoughts and experience, please write to pim@epo.org.

Thank you in advance!