

OTHER NEWS

Some important telephone numbers

Espacenet helpdesk

Tel.: +49 89 2399 4550
e-mail: espacenet@epo.org

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e-mail: epal@epo.org

INPADOC helpdesk

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Fax: +43 1 52126 3292
e-mail: inpadoc@epo.org

Asian patent information

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Fax: +43 1 52126 4197
e-mail: asiainfo@epo.org

Training

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Fax: +43 1 52126 4533
e-mail: pittraining@epo.org

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Fax: +43 1 52126 2491
e-mail: csc@epo.org

for subscriptions:

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Fax: +43 1 52126 2492
e-mail: csc@epo.org

Switchboard

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EPO Customer Services are open for your enquiries on all matters relating to European patents:

Tel.: +49 89 2399 4636,
e-mail: info@epo.org

Romania joins the publication family

At the beginning of February, the Romanian Patent Office launched its own new publication server, providing users with an authoritative online source for its patent documents.

The Romanian publication server is the latest to use the EPO's publication technology. The EPO offers the technology it adopted a few years ago for its own publications to other patent offices. This policy saves others from having to develop their own systems and helps ensure that patent data around the world is available in one format.

Country Publication server

AT	http://pubserv.patentamt.at/PublicationServer/search.jsp?lg=de
EP	https://data.epo.org/publication-server
FI	http://patent.prh.fi/pubserver/index.html
GB	http://www.ipo.gov.uk/types/patent/p-os/p-find/p-find-publication.htm
MA	http://62.251.161.39/publication-server/search.jsp
PL	http://pubserv.uprp.pl/PublicationServer
RO	http://pub.osim.ro/publication-server
RS	http://89.216.38.53/rs-pubserver/search.jsp
SI	http://www3.uil-sipo.si/PublicationServer/index.jsp?lg=en

The table shows the publication servers that are already online.

India outsources prior art searches

The Indian Patent Office has started outsourcing prior art searches for a limited number of patent applications to the Unit of Research and Development of Information Products (URDIP), which is a wing of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). The move to outsource patent searches to CSIR, one of the largest domestic

patent filers in India, has stirred some debate within the Indian patent community.

Read more at www.financialexpress.com/news/patent-office-outsources-authentication-searches-to-csir/749158/o.

Annoyed by something in patents?

Intellogist has launched a new platform called "Gear Grinder" to discuss patent-related issues that get on people's nerves. The "Gear Grinder" blog is written by a fictitious character, called Danny Rooney, who has some strong opinions.

Read more at <http://intellogist.wordpress.com/>.

PUBLICATION INFORMATION

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EPO and USPTO to co-operate on joint classification system

The EPO and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) have agreed on the launch of the new Cooperative Patent Classification.

A new joint classification system, scheduled for introduction at the end of 2012, will be co-managed by the EPO and USPTO. The Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) will use the European Classification System (ECLA) as a basis and incorporate the best classification practices of the USPTO. It will be more detailed than the IPC, to improve patent searching.

Benefits for patent searchers

The new system will bring advantages to patent searchers, the most

notable being more consistency between the schemes that the EPO and the USPTO use to classify their document collections. For searchers who already use ECLA, the CPC will seem very familiar.

Initially, the CPC will have a one-to-one match with ECLA structure and content. ECLA currently has approximately twice as many subdivisions as the IPC, and therefore breaks down technology into more categories, with fewer documents in each category. Moving ECLA to the

CPC will mean that patent searchers using ECLA today will easily be able to search US documents and those of any other patent office that later chooses to use the CPC scheme. It is also planned that the CPC scheme will incorporate the EPO's internal ICO codes, an additional refinement which will further facilitate the search process.

Concerning format, the only difference will be that letters appearing

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