

## Executive Summary

The 2011 IP5 Statistics Report (IP5 SR) is an annual compilation of patent statistics for five Intellectual Property (IP5) Offices – the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), the State Intellectual Property Office of the People’s Republic of China (SIPO), and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). This is the first annual statistics report that covers the patent statistical activities of all five offices.

- At the end of 2010, 89 percent of the 7.4 million patents in force were valid in one of the IP5 Offices jurisdictions. There were 68 thousand (1 percent) more patents in force in 2010 than in 2009.
- Worldwide filing activities, measured in terms of direct national, direct regional and international Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications increased about 5 percent from 2009 to 2010, to 1.63 million patent filings of which nearly 90 percent originated with the IP5 blocs.
- In 2011, a total of about 1,694,000 patent applications were filed at the IP5 Offices, an increase of 10 percent from 2010 (1,547,000).
- Physics and electricity technologies made up the largest proportion of filings at the IP5 Offices. The proportion of technologies filed at each office has been fairly consistent.
- The proportion of PCT applications continuing to the national/regional phase increased for all IP5 Offices in 2011, which means that applicants have chosen to pursue protection in those countries or regions.
- Together the IP5 Offices granted a total of 791,773 patents in 2011, which were 87,405 more than in 2010. This is an overall year-to-year growth rate of 12 percent. The number of patents granted increased at each IP5 office in 2011.
- In 2011, the EPO launched plans to implement its new strategy framework. Significant progress was made on patent classification and machine translation.
- In 2011, the JPO furthered their efforts to meet applicant needs by promoting their Accelerated Examination System, implementing a Super Accelerated Examination System with first action within one month, and accepting requests under their Green Accelerated Examination System for inventions that have energy-saving effect and contribute to the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>.
- In 2011, the KIPO developed the 3<sup>rd</sup> generation KIPOnet which launched on January 1, 2012. The system provides a more simplified e-filing software suite

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and Easy-Web filing system, both of which support an automated search function for similar prior patents of each application.

- In 2011, the SIPO promulgated the 12<sup>th</sup>-Five-Year Plan for Intellectual Property Business Development in the P.R. China and the 12<sup>th</sup>-Five-Year Plan for Patent Business Development in the P.R. China.
- In 2011, the USPTO began its implementation of the America Invents Act (AIA) which transitions the U.S. from a first-to-invent to a first-inventor-to-file system, allows for third party submission of prior art, provides enhanced proceedings for post-grant patent reviews, and authorizes establishment of the USPTO satellite offices beyond the Alexandria, VA/Washington, D.C. area.