

Executive Summary

The IP5 Statistics Report (IP5 SR) is an annual compilation of patent statistics for the five largest Intellectual Property Offices - the Five IP Offices (IP5 Offices) - namely 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).

- At the end of 2012, 8.5 million patents were in force in the world (+8.3 percent). 90 percent of these patents were valid in one of the IP5 Offices jurisdictions.
- In 2012, 2.0 million patent applications were filed worldwide, either as direct national, direct regional or international PCT applications of which 92 percent originated from the IP5 Blocs.
- In 2013, 2.1 million patent applications were filed at the IP5 Offices (+11 percent).
- In 2012, the proportion of applications filed via the PCT remained stable for applications originating from most of the regions.
- Together the IP5 Offices granted 956,644 patents in 2013 (+4 percent).
- In 2013, the main developments at the IP5 Offices were:
 - IP5: Agreement of PPH will reduce examination workload, with expansion globally in order to improve patent quality, which we expect to grow in usage constantly in the future.
 - EPO: In 2013, the EPO celebrated the 40th anniversary of the signing of the European Patent Convention. The EPO and USPTO launched the Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) in January. The EU regulations on the unitary patent protection entered into force. The full suite of languages in Patent Translate was completed.
 - JPO: The JPO achieved a long-term goal proposed in 2004 that it would shorten an average First Action period to 11 months by the end of FY 2013 (FA 11).
 - KIPO: The pendency period was reduced to 13.2 months. Also, organizational restructuring was carried out to build a premium examination service for patent applications of convergence technologies and enhanced systems to protect intellectual property rights (IPRs).
 - SIPO: In 2013, the number of applications for invention patents received by SIPO reached a record of 825,136 (+26.4 percent), and 207,688 patents for invention were granted. The average examination period for invention patents was reduced to 22.2 months.
 - USPTO: In 2013, the USPTO decreased unexamined patent application backlog and lowered patent pendency while concurrently implementing sweeping patent reform legislation and working collaboratively with offices around the world to build a more robust and efficient international intellectual property system.