



Europäisches
Patentamt
European
Patent Office
Office européen
des brevets

European Patent Office

Main results 2016

Trilateral, Seville, 29 March 2017

Challenges for the EPO

Consistent growth in demand for patents

Competitive international environment

Technically complex applications

Users' expectations in terms of costs and timeliness

Our strategic priorities

- + Increase quality
- + Increase efficiency
- + Increase timeliness
- + Control costs



**THE RESULTS
IN 2016**

2016 = Better performance to tackle our challenges

+8.5%

PRODUCTION

Search, examination, opposition



Production increase



60% due to productivity gains



40% due to capacity increase

2016 = 396 000 products

+40%

GRANTED PATENTS

Published patents



2016 = 96 000 patents

-25%

REDUCING OUR STOCK

Search, examination, opposition



**Stock reduction in months of work
over 2 years**

-20%

REDUCING OUR COSTS

Unit cost



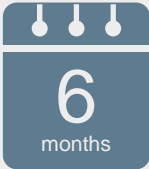
3rd consecutive year of falling unit cost

2016 = 80% of the unit cost of 2006

Early Certainty: Speeding up our work processes

Know what's ahead

1



Search reports

We deliver search reports within 6 months of receipt.

Actual Search timeliness
5.1 months

Reliable rights on time

2



Examination time

We are reducing examination times to just 12 months on average by 2020.

Actual Examination timeliness
23.3 months

Challenges resolved faster

3

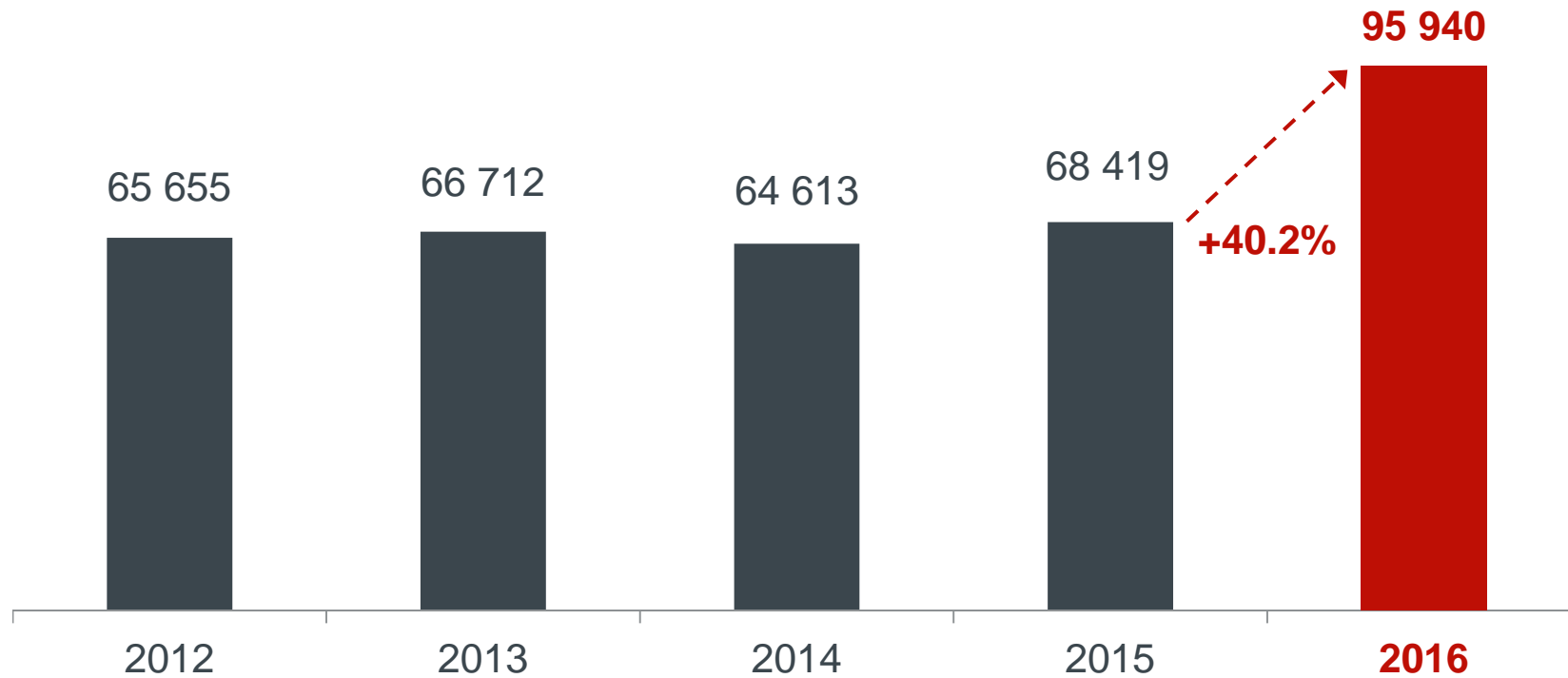


Opposition time

We aim to conclude oppositions to newly granted patents in just 15 months on average.

Actual duration of oppositions
24.8 months

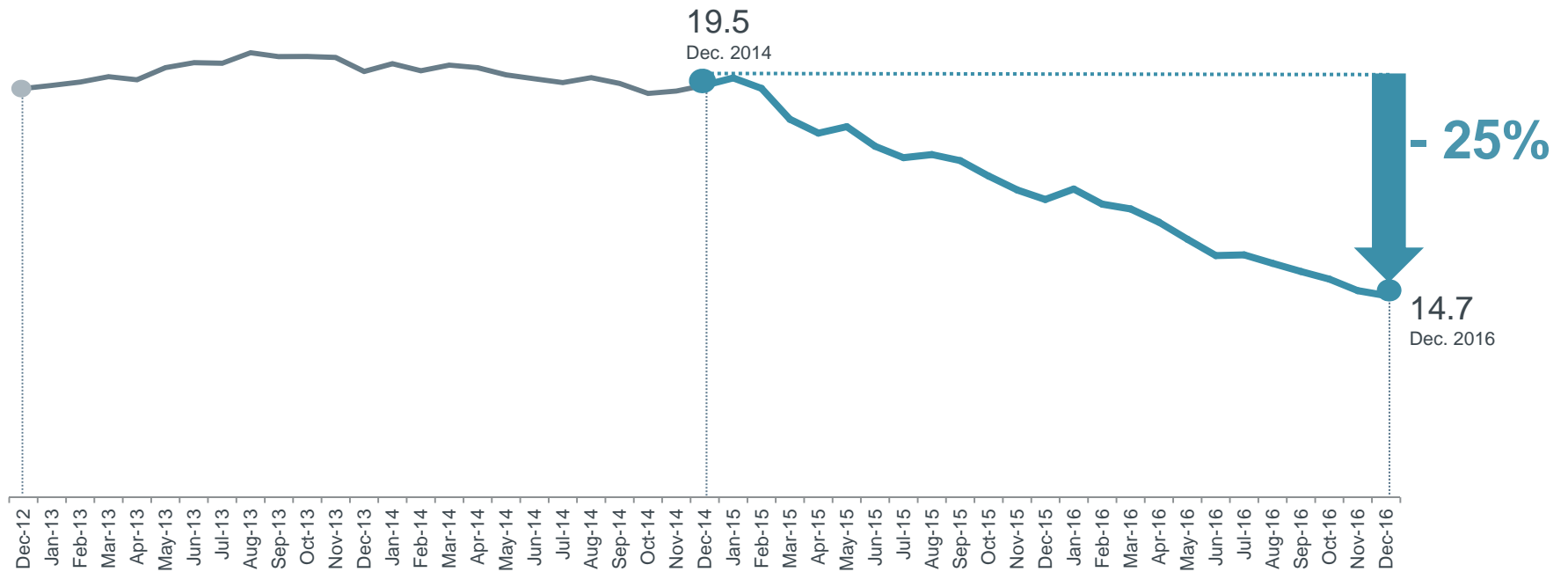
Granted patents: an unprecedented surge



Note: this analysis is based on granted patents published.

Stock has been reduced by 25% over the last two years

Stock in months of work



The EPO's priorities for 2017

Patent granting process:

- First priority: to continue to deliver high quality / legally solid patents
- Implementation of the Quality and Efficiency Policy
- Moving towards a fully end-to-end digitalised “EPO 4.0”

International co-operation:

- To foster discussions with our partners for harmonised rules and practices in close connection with the user community
- Validation agreements

2017 = year for the Unitary Patent