Europäisches Patentamt
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IP5 - Projects, Status and Future Plans

Overview of recent activities and of what can be expected

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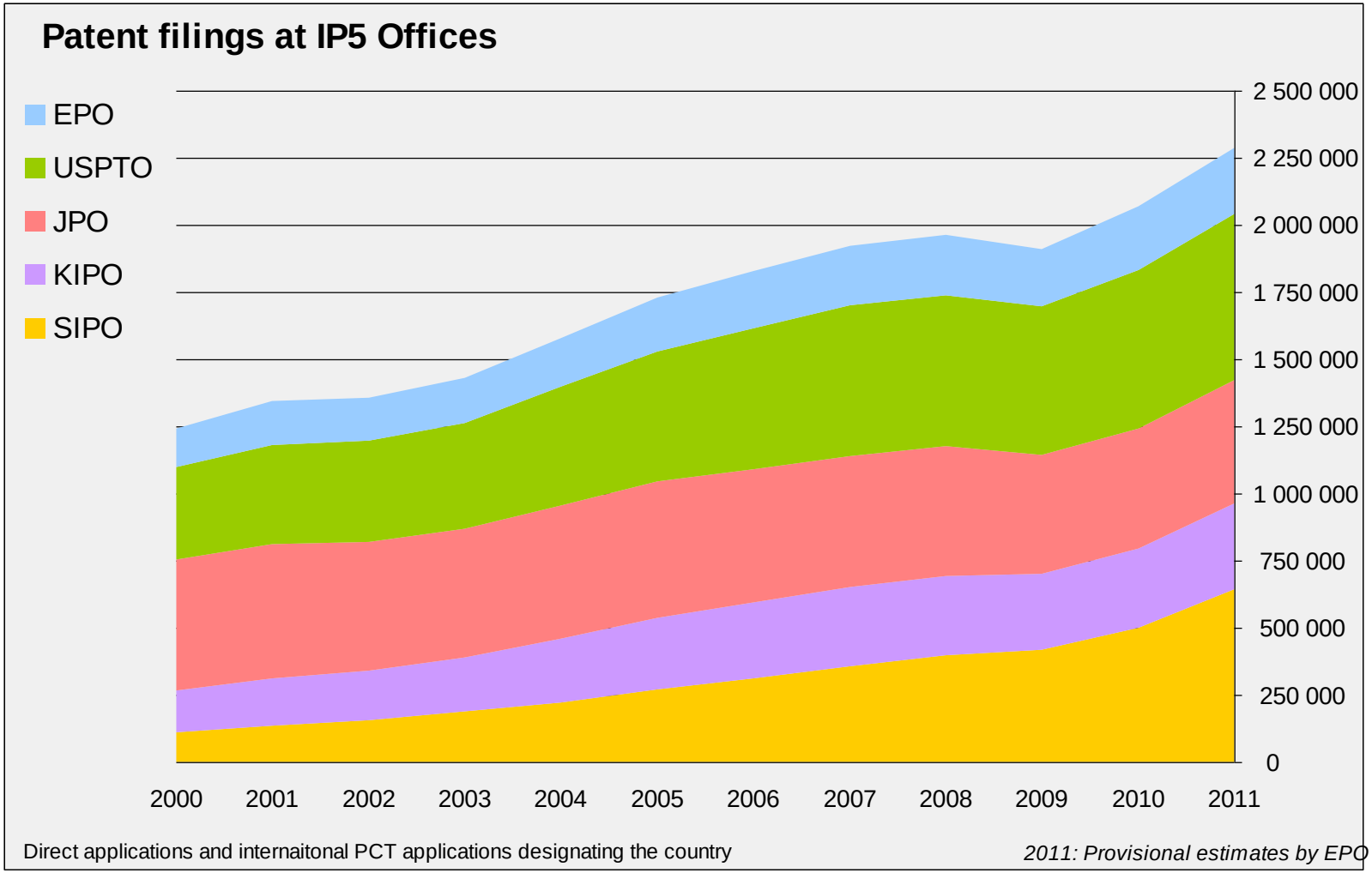
The IP5 context



Global patent filings rising continuously, especially Chinese applications

The IP5 work sharing vision

- In view of the following observations:
  - growing number of filings and pending applications in all five offices
  - the impact thereof on the operation of the patent system
  - the urgency of taking action
- The Heads of Offices agreed on the following vision in October 2008 :
  - "The elimination of unnecessary duplication of work among the offices, enhancement of patent examination efficiency and quality, and guarantee of the stability of patent right".

The IP5 Cooperation activities: Classification

- **Common Hybrid Classification** (CHC) project
  - in June 2012, IP5 Heads agreed to a new mandate
    - acceleration of the CHC through **prioritisation of areas** to be revised in the IPC from 2013 onwards
    - acknowledgment of the discontinuation of ECLA and USPC and the **creation of the Cooperative Patent Classification**

The IP5 Cooperation activities: Classification

- In parallel to CHC, the **Cooperative Patent Classification** (CPC)
  - Bilateral EPO-USPTO project initiated on 25 October 2010
  - Joint refined scheme of the EPO and USPTO initially based on ECLA, comprising **250 000 subdivisions**
  - Was made **public on 1 October 2012** via www.cpcinfo.org
  - Will be in production on Espacenet in December 2012
  - Will be in force at the EPO and at the USPTO on **1 January 2013**
  - Major **milestone towards harmonisation** of classification systems

The IP5 Cooperation activities: Patent Information

Inclusion of Patent Information in IP5

- IP5 Heads agreement to include Patent Information activities in IP5 "Common Documentation" Foundation Project (lead EPO)

- First priority - EPO leads drafting of IP5 Patent Information Policy, **promoting barrier-free dissemination**
  - agreed "in principle", but some details still to be resolved at working level

- IP5 Offices agreed to **co-operate on activities relating to PI** conferences and fairs, communication with commercial providers, data quality initiatives and other PI-related activities

The IP5 Cooperation activities: Common Documentation

Other Common Documentation activities:

- IP5 Offices agreed in Phase 1 of Implementation Plan for Common IP5 Documentation Dataset
  - Access to all IP5 Patent Literature

- Agreement of each IP5 Office to produce "**Authority File**" to standard specification before end 2012
  - Authority File to give Date, Title, Publication number of all Patent publications of an IP5 Office
  - Standard specification agreed; to be "model" for other IPOs

- IP5 Offices agreed to continue development of **Media-less data exchange** for all aspects of Patent Literature

- All IP5 Offices agreed to participate in **Common Citation Document** (adding KIPO and SIPO)

The IP5 Cooperation activities: Global Dossier concept

- Key features in the proposal
  - Cross Filing
  - Work sharing
  - Collaboration
  - Machine Translation
  - Non-patent Literature
  - Support for Due Diligence etc.

- Most of these features are planned already at the EPO via its internal IT Roadmap
  - For the EPO, Global Dossier will be an extension of its IT Roadmap

The IP5 Cooperation activities: Global Dossier concept

- To date
  - Agreement to set up **Global Dossier Task Force**, including members from IP5 Offices, WIPO and IP5 Industry
  - Global Dossier Industry representative nominated by BUSINESSEUROPE
  - Mandate for the Global Dossier Task Force was approved by the Heads on 3 October in Geneva
- Next steps
  - EPO to meet with BUSINESSEUROPE representative to align EPO and European Industry needs
  - EPO to host **first meeting of the Task Force** end of January 2013

The IP5 Cooperation activities: Strategy on Timeliness

Proposals from IP5 Offices :

- EPO produces first Office of First Filing (OFF) search and examination results at approximately six months after filing
- EPO strives to produce most Office of Second Filing (OSF) first results before 18 months' publication
- EPO therefore requires results from other IP5 OFFs at 15 months to allow utilisation

- USPTO plan to produce all OFF first results by 10 months by 2015
- JPO produce some results early through JP-FIRST, but JPO currently do not favour prioritising further OFF actions
- KIPO have proposed to produce search report only for their OFF applications
- SIPO have changed their law to allow acceleration of OFF applications also filed at another IP5 Office

The IP5 Cooperation: improve and promote the PCT

- EPO intends to **strengthen PCT** by improving its own services (based on the principle of "equal service levels") and by making proposals to further develop PCT:

- EPO will launch a web-based user consultation on 8 October 2012 to gather feedback from users

- EPO has recently launched a PCT market research to assess its products and services with its users (results in November).

- EPO will table proposals at next PCT MIA (EPO, Munich, Feb. 2013) to
  - improve timeliness to issue PCT search reports on time for international publication,
  - clarify missing parts provisions,
  - introduce top-up searches in Chapter II (at the option of IPEAs), and
  - include quality metrics in PCT international search guidelines

The IP5 Cooperation: Machine Translation

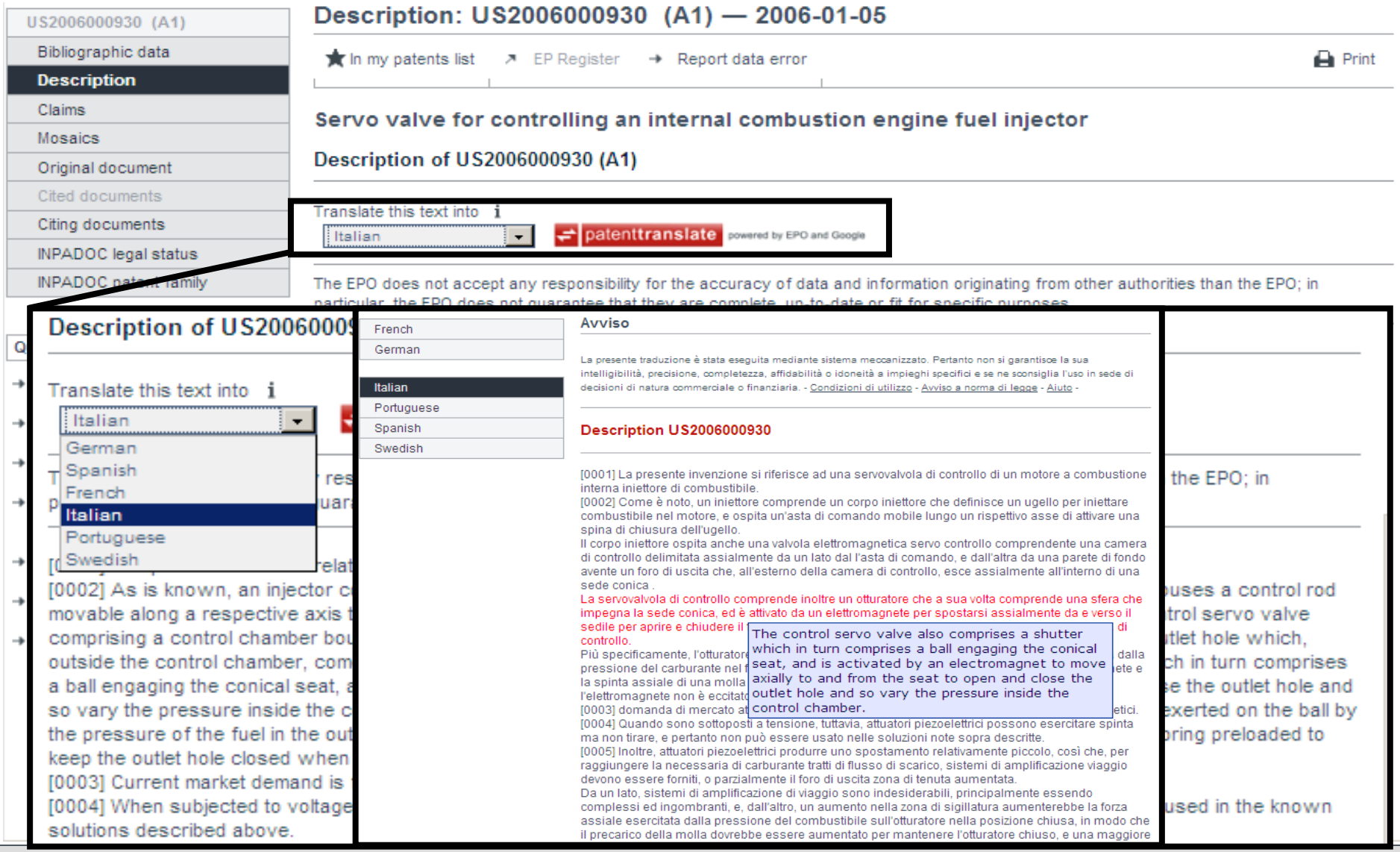
- EPO's machine translation service **Patent Translate** was launched on 29 February 2012 and is integrated in Espacenet, the EPO publication server and EPOQUE

- Patent Translate is the result of a collaboration between the EPO and Google
  - Patent documents and their "human" translation/corresponding documents are prepared and stored in a **corpora** repository
  - The translation system is trained using this corpora
  - Languages with a **sufficient quality** are offered to the public
  - Batch1: **EN-(FR,DE,PT,IT,ES,SV)** in production
  - From all over the world **35 000 requests per day** for Patent Translate
  - **90 million** different machine translations of complete patent documents can be accessed 'on the fly', using the current language pairs offered

The IP5 Cooperation: Machine Translation

- Next steps:
  - additional corpora is collected in order to **improve the translation quality** for already publicly available languages and to achieve a sufficient quality level for the so far not publicly available languages. Machine Translation MoU were signed with JPO, SIPO, ROSPATENT and INPI Brazil for exchanging corpora
  - next training session includes **7 additional languages** including a first corpora batch for **Chinese English**
  - in **2014 all languages** (32 in total including JP/CN/KR/RU) can be expected to be publicly available

The IP5 Cooperation: Machine Translation



The IP5 Cooperation: other activities

- **Collaborative PCT Metrics Study** moved from Trilateral to IP5 level

- Updated **Catalogue of Differing Practices** (CDP) at IP5 level and published on www.fiveipoffices.org

- **Common Application Format (CAF) Definition v2.0** agreed and published on www.fiveipoffices.org
  - feedback from Industry is welcomed

- Publication of the **first IP5 Statistics Report** in November 2012

Need more information?

www.epo.org

www.cpcinfo.org

www.fiveipoffices.org

Thank you for your attention!

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