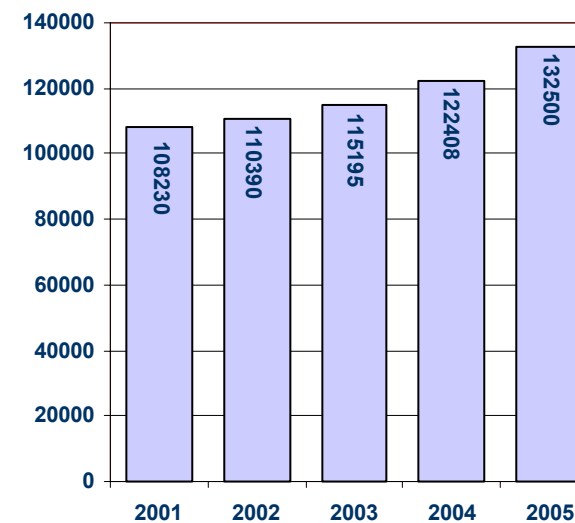
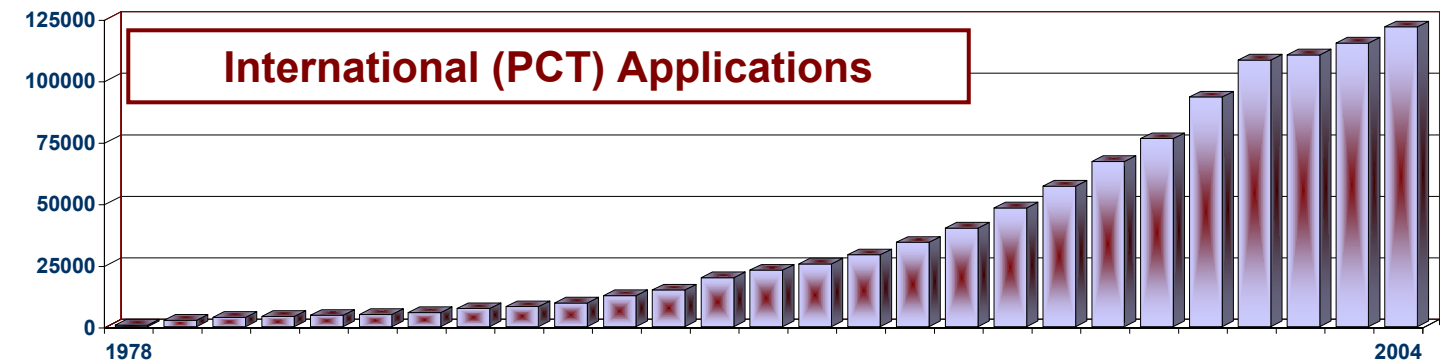


# Newsletter The European Patent Team

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EUROPEAN PATENT & TRADE MARK ATTORNEYS

October 2005

## Trends in International (PCT) Patent Applications



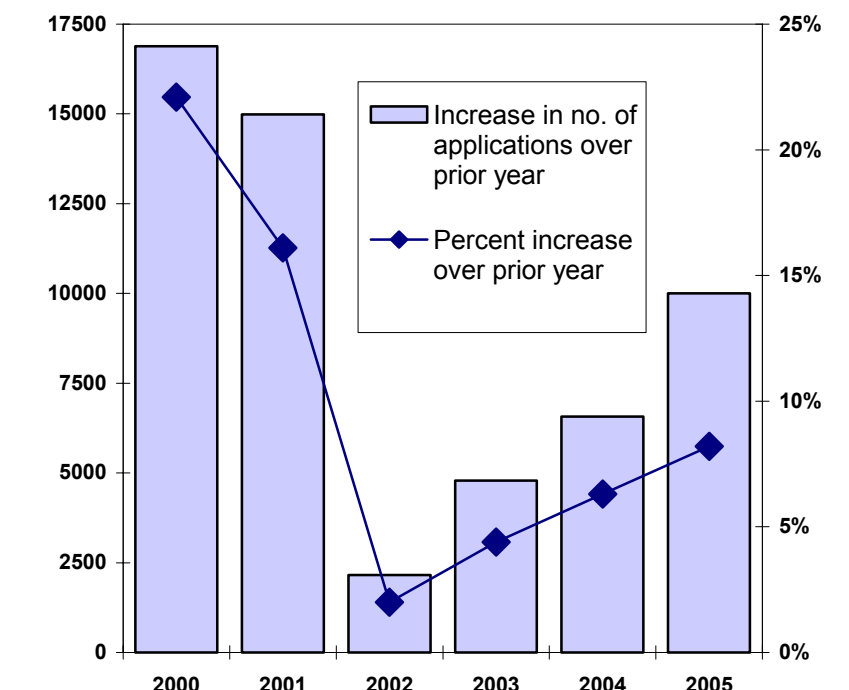
### Continued Growth

Since the inception of the PCT system in 1978 the number of International (PCT) applications being filed year by year – see the charts above and on the left - has maintained an unbroken record of growth. The number of PCT applications filed in 2004, the last year for which complete statistics are available, was well over 120,000.

On the basis of information so far available for 2005, the trend of growth in International applications looks set to continue this year. [The information indicated in the charts for 2005 is based on WIPO estimates using the most recently available filing information for the first part of 2005.]

Up to 2001, year on year growth in the number of PCT applications filed regularly exceeded 10%, reaching a peak of 22% growth in 2000 and continuing with a further 16% growth in 2001. Then, in 2002, year on year growth fell to a record low of only 2%. However, as the chart to the right indicates, growth recovered to over 4% in 2003 and to 6% in 2004.

On the basis of information so far available, 2005 should show stronger growth, of more than 8%.



| TOP PCT FILING COUNTRIES 2004 |                |                   |       |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------|
| Rank 2004                     | Country        | % of Total Applns | Trend |
| 1                             | US             | 37.8              | ↑→    |
| 2                             | Japan          | 17.7              | ↑↑    |
| 3                             | Germany        | 13.4              | ↑     |
| 4                             | France         | 4.5               | →     |
| 5                             | United Kingdom | 4.4               | ↓↑    |
| 6                             | Netherlands    | 3.7               | →     |
| 7                             | South Korea    | 3.1               | ↑↑↑   |
| 8                             | Switzerland    | 2.5               | →     |
| 9                             | Sweden         | 2.5               | ↑     |
| 10                            | Italy          | 1.9               | →     |
| 11                            | Canada         | 1.9               | ↓↑    |
| 12                            | Australia      | 1.6               | ↑     |
| 13                            | China          | 1.5               | ↑↑↑   |
| 14                            | Finland        | 1.5               | ↑↓    |
| 15                            | Israel         | 1.1               | ↑↓    |

| LANGUAGES USED FOR INTERNATIONAL (PCT) APPLICATIONS 2004 |        |
|--|--------|
| English  | 63.30% |
| Japanese   | 15.00% |
| German   | 12.00% |
| French   | 3.70%  |
| Korean   | 1.70%  |
| Chinese  | 1.20%  |
| Spanish  | 0.70%  |
| Russian  | 0.40%  |
| Others   | 2.00%  |

| TOP PCT APPLICATION TECHNOLOGIES 2004   |      |        |
|---|------|--------|
| Technology  | IPC  | Applns |
| Preparations for Medical, Dental, or Toilet Purposes  | A61K | 6,355  |
| Electric Digital Data Processing  | G06F | 5,866  |
| Heterocyclic Compounds  | C07D | 3,070  |
| Transmission of digital information, e.g. Telecommunications  | H04L | 3,029  |
| Semiconductor Devices; Electric Solid State Devices not Otherwise Provided for                      | H01L | 2,993  |
| Investigating or Analysing Materials by Determining their Chemical or Physical Properties           | G01N | 2,688  |
| Diagnosis; Surgery; Identification  | A61B | 2,343  |
| Micro-organisms or Enzymes; Compositions thereof  | C12N | 2,030  |
| Pictorial communication, e.g. Television  | H04N | 1,810  |
| Acyclic or Carbocyclic Compounds  | C07C | 1,457  |
| Transmission  | H04B | 1,439  |
| Filters Implantable into Blood Vessels; Prostheses; orthopaedic, Nursing or Contraceptive Devices   | A61F | 1,435  |
| Selecting   | H04Q | 1,361  |
| Containers for storage or transport of articles or Materials, e.g. Bags, boxes, cans, cartons, etc. | B65D | 1,331  |
| Devices for introducing Media into, or onto, the Body   | A61M | 1,198  |

| TOP FIVE PCT APPLICANTS OVERALL |
|---------------------------------|
| Philips (Netherlands)           |
| Siemens (Germany)               |
| Matsushita (Japan)              |
| Robert Bosch (Germany)          |
| Sony Corporation (Japan)        |

| TOP FIVE PCT APPLICANTS FROM NEW GROWTH ECONOMIES     |
|---|
| LG Electronics (Republic of Korea)                    |
| Samsung Electronics (Republic of Korea)               |
| Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (India) |
| Huawei Technologies (China)                           |
| Ranbaxy Laboratories (India)                          |

| TOP TWENTY PCT APPLICANTS (1995 – 2003) |
|---|
| Philips (Netherlands)                   |
| Siemens (Germany)                       |
| Robert Bosch (Germany)                  |
| Procter & Gamble (US)                   |
| Ericsson (Sweden)                       |
| Matsushita (Japan)                      |
| BASF (Germany)                          |
| Motorola (US)                           |
| Du Pont (US)                            |
| Sony Corporation (Japan)                |
| Bayer (Germany)                         |
| Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (US) |
| The University of California (US)       |
| Intel (US)                              |
| Henkel (Germany)                        |
| Unilever (Great Britain/Netherlands)    |
| 3M Innovative Properties (US)           |
| Infineon Technologies (Germany)         |
| Nokia (Finland)                         |
| Qualcomm (US)                           |

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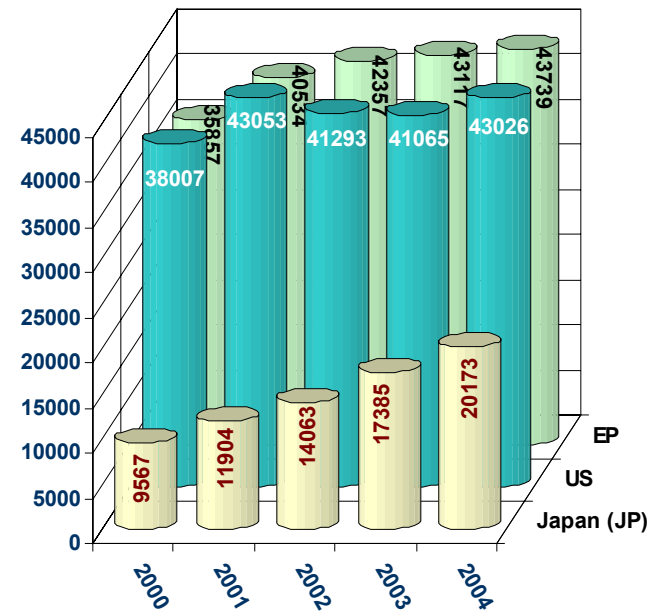
Leeds: West Riding House, 67 Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5AA  
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Applicants from member countries of the European Patent System (EP) file the most International (PCT) applications per year, followed closely by US applicants and then by Japanese applicants.

As the chart on the right shows, the number of applications filed by Japanese applicants has shown consistent strong growth in recent years (from 16% to 28% year on year), and more than doubled from 2000 to 2004.



The chart on the left illustrates growth in filings of International (PCT) applications by applicants from the top filing countries after the USA and Japan.

Germany is by far the most significant single country source of International (PCT) applications after Japan and USA, followed by France, United Kingdom and the Netherlands, other powerful European economies.

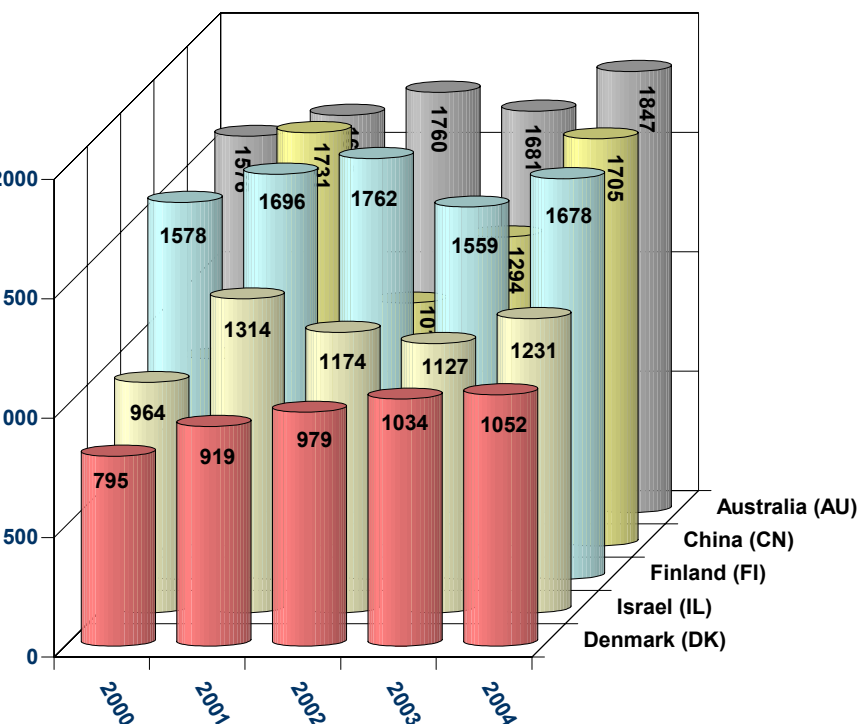
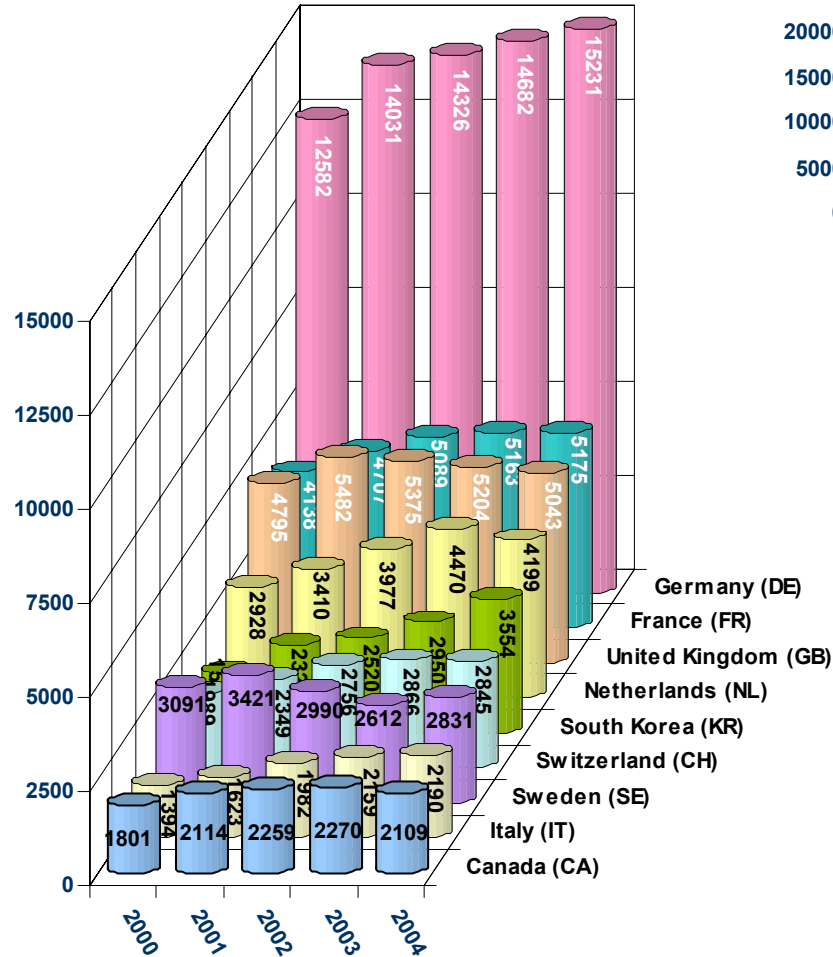
Up to 2003, applications from the Netherlands grew at an impressive rate, but growth stalled in 2004.

Applications from South Korea showed the greatest relative growth over the period 2000 to 2004. If this growth continues, South Korea will soon be challenging for a place in the top five filing countries.

The chart on the left illustrates growth in PCT filings by applicants from further countries.

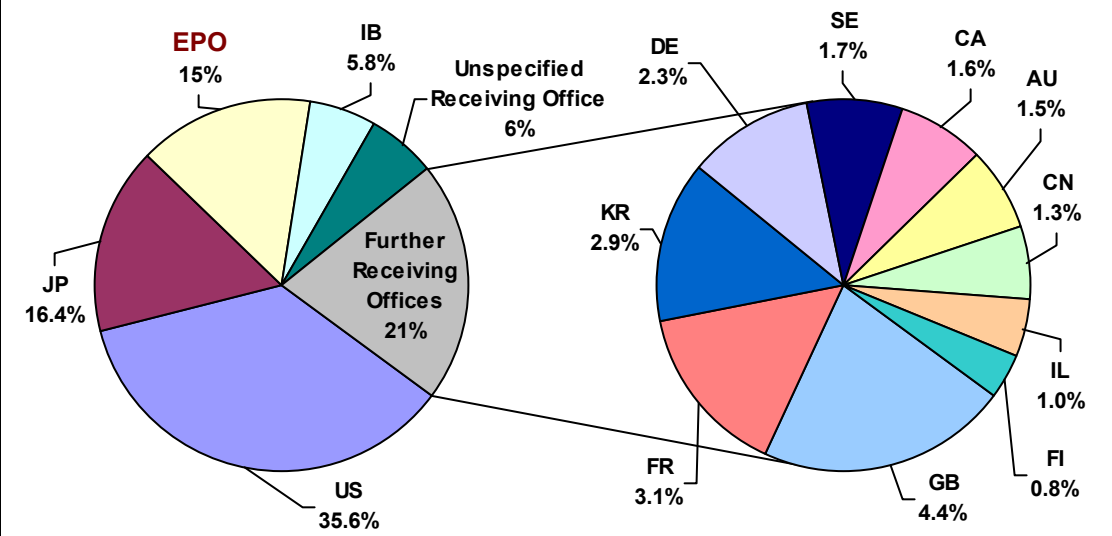
Filings by applicants from China had the strongest rates of growth in 2003 and 2004. If this trend continues into 2005, China will be one of the top ten countries in terms of filings of International (PCT) applications in 2005.

PCT filings by applicants from countries other than those specifically mentioned in the charts, accounting for about 4% of the total, have also increased significantly in recent years.



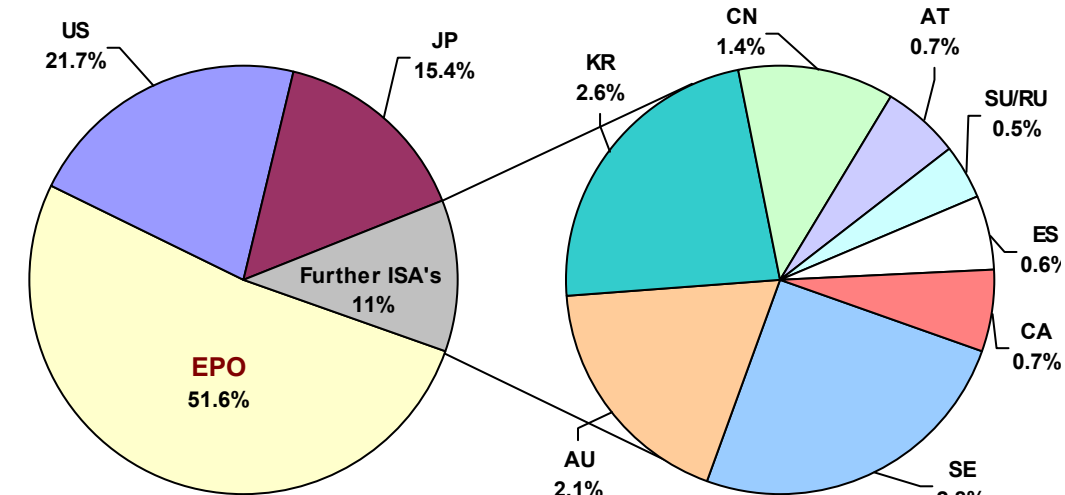
| 2004 - PCT Applications |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Applicant's Country     | % of Total Applns Filed |
| EP                      | 38.4                    |
| US                      | 37.8                    |
| JP                      | 17.7                    |
| DE                      | 13.4                    |
| FR                      | 4.5                     |
| GB                      | 4.4                     |
| NL                      | 3.7                     |
| KR                      | 3.1                     |
| CH                      | 2.5                     |
| SE                      | 2.5                     |
| IT                      | 1.9                     |
| CA                      | 1.9                     |
| AU                      | 1.6                     |
| CN                      | 1.5                     |
| FI                      | 1.5                     |
| IL                      | 1.1                     |
| DK                      | 0.9                     |
| Others                  | 3.8                     |

### PCT Receiving Offices (RO's) - % of Total Applications Received in 2004



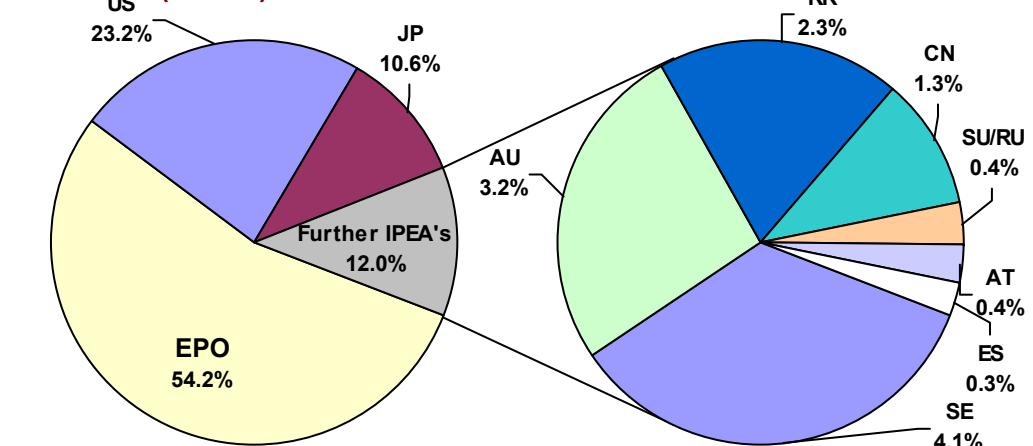
The European Patent Office (EPO) is a key part of the PCT system, as a Receiving Office and as an International Search (ISA) and Preliminary Examination (IPEA) Authority. In 2004, the EPO received 15% of all PCT applications. This indicates at least that applicants from European countries may choose the EPO rather than the national patent offices of their countries as the place to file their PCT applications. In particular German applicants, accounting for over 13% of total applications in 2004, seem to prefer to file at the EPO rather than the German Patent Office (DE) which received only just over 2% of applications.

### PCT International Search Authorities (ISA's) % of Searches Handled



For over 50% of PCT applications filed in 2004, the EPO was named as the International Search Authority (ISA) responsible for carrying out the search in respect of the application. An even greater proportion - nearly 55% - of all demands for International Preliminary Examination filed in 2004 was directed to the EPO as International Preliminary Examination Authority (IPEA).

### PCT International Preliminary Examination Authorities (IPEA's) % of Examinations Handled



The small chart below illustrates the 50% fall in the number of demands for International Preliminary Examination filed per year, since the time limits under PCT Chapters I and II were made the same in 2002. That change was initiated by the EPO.

