

Addition of National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland as Participating Foreign Intellectual Property Office in Electronic Exchange of Priority Documents

The National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland (NBPR) announced that it joined the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) Digital Access Service (DAS) as both a DAS depositing Office and a DAS accessing Office on April 15, 2011 (see the announcement at the WIPO Web site <http://www.wipo.int/patentscope/en/pdocforum/participating.html> and at the NBPR Web site http://www.prh.fi/en/uutiset/P_247.html). Through the WIPO DAS, the NBPR has the ability to exchange priority documents electronically with the USPTO.

The NBPR in its capacity as a DAS depositing Office:

On July 5, 2011, the USPTO begins automatic attempts to retrieve priority applications filed with the NBPR, including PCT international applications filed with the RO/FI, to which foreign priority is claimed in U.S. nonprovisional applications filed under 35 U.S.C. 111(a).

Information about how an applicant may specifically request the NBPR to make an application available to the WIPO DAS digital library for access by the USPTO, which applications are eligible, and any associated costs can be found at the NBPR Web site http://www.prh.fi/en/uutiset/P_247.html.

Successful electronic retrieval of a NBPR priority document requires proper identification of the priority document including the participating office, the document number (see below for proper format of NBPR documents), and the priority document's filing date on the Oath or Declaration, or Application Data Sheet (ADS). Additionally, the NBPR priority document must be registered into the WIPO DAS and steps taken to permit access to the priority document by the USPTO.

Formats for NBPR document numbers:

FI YYYYYNNNN (e.g., FI 20101234)
PCT/FIYYYY/NNNNN (e.g., PCT/FI2011/0123456)

The NBPR in its capacity as a DAS accessing Office:

Applicants can indicate to the NBPR when a prior U.S. application is accessible to the NBPR via the WIPO DAS.

For information about how to make a U.S. priority application available to the NBPR in its capacity as a WIPO DAS accessing Office, please see *Access to U.S. Priority Applications by the WIPO via the WIPO Digital Access Service* (http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/file/pdx/permitting_access.pdf).