IP5 Collaborative PCT Search and Examination Pilot

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PCT CS&E Pilot

- IP5 pilot project aimed at testing the feasibility of collaborative work between examiners of different offices in the international phase of the PCT
- Third stage of pilot between EPO, KIPO, SIPO, JPO and USPTO (IP5)
- First 2 stages included KR, EP and US
- Communications between examiners will take place via a collaboration tool (ePCT) being arranged by WIPO
- Commencement date – July 1, 2018
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PCT Collaboration Pilot Procedure, in general:

– A first office (selected ISA) will prepare a provisional ISR, WOISA and search strategy
– Provisional reports will be presented to peer examiners in other 4 offices
– Peer offices will comment on or complement this provisional work
  • The complement may be a focused search on particular aspects or a full search
  • KR developed peer review form
– First office will issue a final ISR and WO-ISA after considering the peer examiners’ contributions
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• Applicant Driven
  – Must request participation when filing PCT
  – Number of applications per applicant will be limited
• Number of applications
  – 100 as main ISA
  – 400 as peer
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- Final work product will be identified as a collaborative effort
- Applications will be in English
- Other languages may be added after first 6 months
- Examination in US – Hybrid
  - Contractors will do main search
  - OPQA will function as peer examiners
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PCT Collaboration Pilot Results and Recommendations

- Quality: Examiners felt collaboration resulted in more complete final products
  - Sometimes additional citations were included
  - Sometimes not, but discussions provided confidence to examiners about results
  - In 87% of cases, EPO examiners added citations to ISR, and quality improved in 92% of cases
  - In 67% of cases, US examiners felt quality of ISR “greatly improved”
Questions and Comments

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