UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE







INVENTION-CON 2017

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USPTO's Inventors Conference · August 11-12 · Alexandria, VA



International Protection: Patents

Presented By:

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Session on International Protection: Patents

- Patent Protection Outside the United States
 - Paris Convention Basics
 - Patent Cooperation Treaty Basics
- Global Dossier at the USPTO



Patent Protection Outside the United States



Foreign Patent Protection

- Patent protection can be an important part of overall business strategy in today's global marketplace
- In general, patent rights are territorial in nature
 - Protect against infringing activities occurring within the country or region in which the patent was granted
- To obtain patent rights in foreign countries, U.S. applicants must apply for a patent in each country or region of interest
 - A world-wide patent does not exist



Business Considerations in Filing Foreign Patent Applications

- Business considerations
 - Exclusive rights
 - Return on investment
 - Opportunity to license or sell the invention
 - Increase in negotiating power
 - Positive image for business
 - Patent procurement and maintenance costs
 - In 2002, GAO estimated costs of between \$160,000 to \$330,000 for obtaining and maintaining patents in 9 countries
 - France, Germany, Italy, Ireland, Sweden, United Kingdom,
 - Canada, Japan, & South Korea



Legal Considerations in Filing Foreign Patent Applications

- Patent law considerations
 - Standards of patentability in country/region
 - Patentable subject matter differences
 - Prior art differences
 - Grace periods
 - Geographical restrictions
 - First-to-file
 - Utility model protection
 - Patent enforcement laws
 - Does the country/region have effective laws and procedures for enforcing the patent?

Who Grants Patents?

- National patent offices
 - E.g., USPTO, JPO, KIPO, etc.
- Regional patent offices
 - Grants patents with effect in some or all member countries
 - African Intellectual Property Organization (OAPI)
 - African Regional Intellectual Property Organization (ARIPO)
 - Eurasian Patent Office (EAPO)
 - European Patent Office (EPO)
 - Patent Office of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC Patent Office)



Regional Patent Offices

AP (ARIPO)

BW	Botswana
GH	Ghana
GM	Gambia
KE	Kenya
LR	Liberia
LS	Lesotho
MW	Malawi
ΜZ	Mozambique
NA	Namibia
RW	Rwanda
SD	Sudan
SL	Sierra Leone
ST	Sao Tome and Principe
SZ	Swaziland*
TZ	United Republic of Tanzania
UG	Uganda

EP (EPO)

AL	Albania	IT	Italy*
ΑT	Austria	LI	Liechtenstein
BE	Belgium*	LT	Lithuania*
BG	Bulgaria	LU	Luxembourg
CH	Switzerland	LV	Latvia*
CY	Cyprus*	MC	Monaco*
CZ	Czechia Czechia	MK	The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
DE	Germany	MT	Malta*
DK	Denmark	NL	Netherlands*
EE	Estonia	NO	Norway
ES	Spain	PL	Poland
FI	Finland	PT	Portugal
FR	France*	RO	Romania
GB	United Kingdom	RS	Serbia
GR	Greece*	SE	Sweden
HR	Croatia	SI	Slovenia*
HU	Hungary	SK	Slovakia
ΙE	Ireland*	SM	San Marino
IS	Iceland	TR	Turkey

OA (OAPI)

GC (GCC)

ΑE

ВН

KW

OM

QΑ

BF	Burkina Faso*
BJBe	nin*
CF	Central African Republic ³
CG	Congo*
CI	Côte d'Ivoire*
CM	Cameroon*
GΑ	Gabon*
GN	Guinea*
GQ	Equatorial Guinea*
GW	Guinea-Bissau*
KM	Comoros*
ML	Mali*
MR	Mauritania*
NE	Niger*
SN	Senegal*
TD	Chad*
TG	Togo*

EA (EAPO)

ZM Zambia

ZW Zimbabwe

AM	Armenia
ΑZ	Azerbaijan
BY	Belarus
KG	Kyrgyzstan
ΚZ	Kazakhstan
RU	Russian Federation
TJ	Tajikistan
TM	Turkmenistan

EP (EPO) Extension Countries

BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina
ME	Montenegro
MA	Morocco
MD	Republic of Moldova

* States for which ONLY regional patent can be

Invention-Con 2017 - International

Protection - Patents

United Arab Emirates

Bahrain

Kuwait

Oman

Oatar Saudi Arabia

obtained via the Patent Cooperation Treaty

Options for Foreign Filing

- File a patent application directly with a foreign national or regional patent office
 - A foreign filing license may be required
 - Required for offices that are not a party to the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
 - See MPEP § 140
- File an international patent application under the PCT
 - A foreign filing license may be required when the international application is to be filed with a foreign receiving Office
 - See MPEP § 1832



Paris Convention



Priority Under the Paris Convention

- Typical scenario of priority under the Paris Convention
 - Applicant first files a patent application in the U.S.
 - Within 12 months of the U.S. filing, applicant files a subsequent application in a foreign office
 - The subsequent application claiming priority to the U.S. application
 - The foreign Office recognizes the priority claim for the same invention
- See

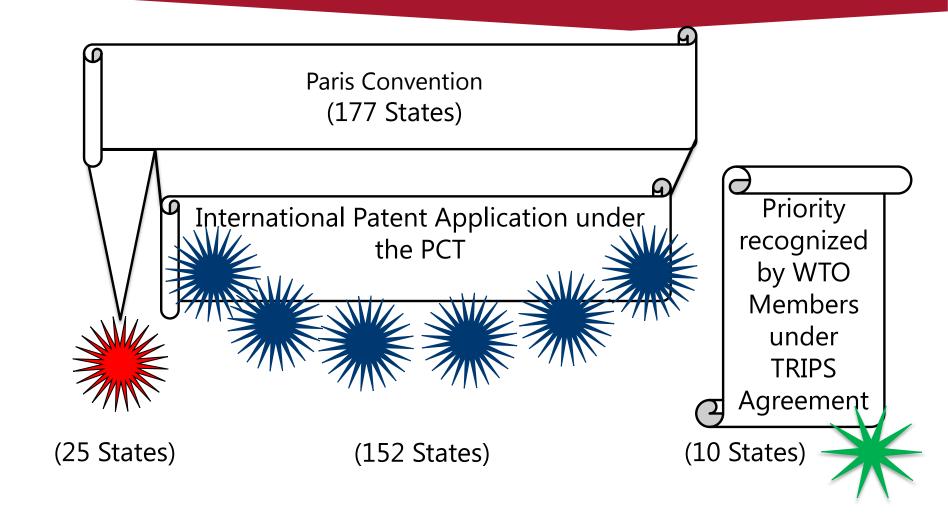
http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/pct/en/texts/pdf/pct_pariswto.pdf



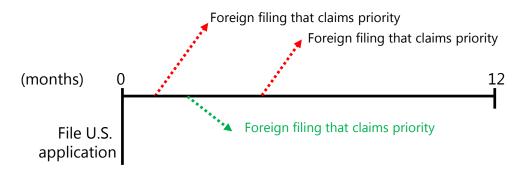
Membership of Paris Convention and PCT

- 177 States Party to the Paris Convention
 - 25 States Party to the Paris Convention, but not the PCT
 - 152 States Party to the Patent Cooperation Treaty
- 10 of the 164 Members of the World Trade
 Organization are not a States Party to the PCT or the
 Paris Convention, however,
 - Priority claim is recognized by virtue of the TRIPS Agreement (Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights)





Foreign Filing After U.S. Patent Application



- U.S. patent application followed within 12 months by foreign application(s) filed with Offices that recognize the Paris Convention
 - Party to the Paris Convention
 - Members of the World Trade Organization, by virtue of the TRIPS Agreement (Trade-Related Aspects of IP Rights)
- The foreign application(s) claim priority to the U.S. patent application
 - If the invention in the foreign application(s) is entitled to the priority, the filing date of the U.S. application will be used for prior art purposes

Filing Under the Patent Cooperation Treaty



The Patent Cooperation Treaty

- A United Nations Treaty
 - Became operational June 1978
 - Administered by the International Bureau (IB)
 - Of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, Switzerland

WIPO
WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION



International Patent?

- An international application may be filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) but...
 - There is no "international patent"
 - The PCT functions as a patent application filing system
 - The international application must still be prosecuted
 - In each national or regional office where patent protection is desired



The International Application

- A single application
 - Filed together with a request
 - By a resident/national of a PCT Contracting State
 - Filed in one language
 - Filed in one patent office
 - The receiving office (RO)
 - Usually the applicant's home patent office, such as the USPTO (RO/US)
 - Treated as a national application
 - In each designated State as of the international filing date (IFD)
- Formalities in compliance with the PCT
 - Must be accepted during national phase



(months)

File U.S.
application

International application filed under the PCT that claims priority

- Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
 - Effectively permits the filing of a single international application
 - Treated as "a regular national application in each designated State as of the international filing date" (PCT Article 11)
 - Priority may be claimed to an earlier U.S. application in a subsequent international patent application filed under the PCT for the same invention
 - Generally within 12 months of the earlier U.S. filing
 - 152 States are party to the PCT
- (http://www.wipo.int/export/sites/www/pct/en/texts/pdf/pct_paris_wto.pdf)

Current List of PCT Contracting States

ΑE	United Arab	CU	Cuba	IR	Iran (Islamic	MG	Madagascar	SD	Sudan (AP)
	Emirates	CY	Cyprus (EP)2		Republic of)	MK	The former		Sweden (EP)
AG	Antigua and Barbuda	CZ	Czechia (EP)	IS	Iceland (EP)		Yugoslav Republic		Singapore
	Albania (EP)	DE	Germany (EP)	ΙT	Italy (EP) ²		of Macedonia (EP)	SI	Slovenia (EP) ²
AM	Armenia (EA)	DJ	Djibouti	JO	Jordan		Mali (OA) ²	SK	Slovakia (EP)
ΑO	Angola	DK	Denmark (EP)	JΡ	Japan		Mongolia		Sierra Leone (AP)
AΤ	Austria (EP)	DM	Dominica	KE	Kenya (AP)		Mauritania (OA) ²		San Marino (EP)
ΑU	Australia	DO	Dominican Republic		Kyrgyzstan (EA)	MT	, ,		Senegal (OA) ² Sao Tome and
ΑZ	Azerbaijan (EA)	DΖ	Algeria	KH	Cambodia		Malawi (AP)	01	Principe (AP ⁵)
BA	Bosnia and	EC	Ecuador		Comoros (OA) ²		Mexico	SV	El Salvador
	Herzegovina ¹	EΕ	Estonia (EP)	KIN	Saint Kitts and		Malaysia Mozambique (AP)	SY	Syrian Arab Republic
BB	Barbados	EG	Egypt	KP	Nevis Democratic		Namibia (AP)		Swaziland (AP) ²
BE	Belgium (EP) ²	ES	Spain (EP)	KE	People's Republic of	NE	Niger (OA) ²	TD	Chad (OA)2
BF	Burkina Faso (OA) ²	FI	Finland (EP)		Korea		Nigeria	TG	Togo (OA) ²
	Bulgaria (EP)		France (EP) ²	KR	Republic of Korea	NI	Nicaragua	ΤH	Thailand
	Bahrain		Gabon (OA) ²	ĸW	Kuwait	NL	Netherlands (EP) ²	ŢJ	Tajikistan (EA)
BJ	Benin (OA) ²		United Kingdom (EP)	ΚZ	Kazakhstan (EA)		Norway (EP)		Turkmenistan (EA) Tunisia
BN	Brunei Darussalam		Grenada	LA	Lao People's Demo-	ΝZ			Turkey (EP)
	Brazil		Georgia		cratic Republic	OM	Oman		Trinidad and Tobago
	Botswana (AP)		Ghana (AP)	LC	Saint Lucia			ΤŻ	United Republic of
BY	Belarus (EA)		Gambia (AP)	LI	Liechtenstein (EP)		Peru		Tanzania (AP)
	Belize	GN	Guinea (OA) ²	LK	Sri Lanka		Papua New Guinea	UA	Ukraine
	Canada	GQ	Equatorial Guinea (OA)		Liberia (AP)		Philippines		Uganda (AP)
CF	Central African		Greece (EP) ²	LS	Lesotho (AP)	PL	Poland (EP)	US	United States of
	Republic (OA) ²		Guatemala	LT	Lithuania (EP) ²	PT	Portugal (EP)		America
	Congo (OA) ²			LU	Luxembourg (EP)	QA			Uzbekistan
	Switzerland (EP)		Honduras Creatic (ED)	LV	Latvia (EP) ²		Romania (EP)	VC	Saint Vincent and
CI	Côte d'Ivoire (OA) ²		Croatia (EP)		Libya		Serbia (EP) Russian	V/NI	the Grenadines Viet Nam
	Chile		Hungary (EP)		Morocco ³	ΚU			South Africa
	Cameroon (OA) ²	ID IE	Indonesia		Monaco (EP) ² Republic of	DW	Federation (EA) Rwanda (AP)		Zambia (AP)
	China	IL.	Ireland (EP) ² Israel	IWID	Moldova4	SA	Saudi Arabia		Zimbabwe (AP)
	Colombia Costa Rica	ΪΝ		ME	Montenegro ¹	SC	Seychelles	-"	2
	Costa Rica	113	India	IVIL	montenegro		o o j o no no o		

Extension of European patent possible.

May only be designated for a regional patent (the "national route" via the PCT has been closed).

Validation of European patent possible for international applications filed on or after 1 March 2015.

Validation of European patent possible for international applications filed on or after 1 November 2015.

Only international applications filed on or after 19 August 2014 will include the designation of Sao Tome and Principe for an ARIPO patent.



PCT World Map



PCT Benefits for Offices

- Provides every regional and national patent Office, where protection is sought, the benefit of office actions prepared by international authorities
 - International Search Report (ISR) and Written Opinion of the International Searching Authority (WOISA)
 - By an International Searching Authority (ISA)
 - Optional Supplementary International Search Report (SISR)
 - By a Supplementary International Searching Authority (SISA)
 - Optional International Preliminary Report on Patentability (Chapter II) IPRP (Chapter II)
 - By an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA)



PCT Benefits for Applicants

Simplifies the process of filing foreign applications

- One set of formal requirements
- Establishes a filing date in all PCT Contracting States

Cost-Savings

- May be cost-effective if seeking protection in more than a few countries
- Postpones costs for filing in the national/regional Offices, such as
 - Translation fees, filing fees, attorney fees

Provides

- An early indication of prior art, and
- A written opinion as to the novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability of the claimed invention

Provides additional time

- For assessment of commercial potential in the various foreign markets
- Preserves patent rights if uncertainty exists over which countries to pursue
- Allows optional amendments and further examination

Two Phases of the PCT

International phase

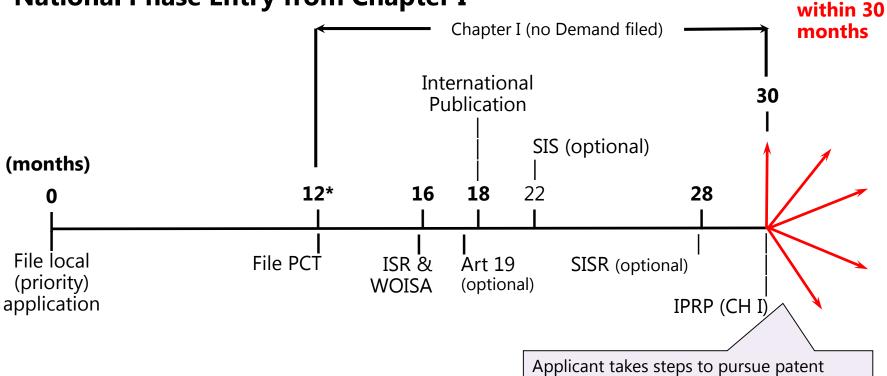
- Chapter I
 - Mandatory international search and examination
 - Optional amendment to claims for purposes of international publication
 - Optional supplementary international search(es)
- Chapter II
 - Optional response to mandatory international search and examination and demand for further examination

National phase

• Optional submission(s) to seek patent protection in the various PCT Contracting States through the national or regional offices

PCT System – Chapter I

National Phase Entry from Chapter I



Applicant takes steps to pursue patent protection in various States

- Express intention to enter national phase
- Pay fees
- · Provide translation

Enter

national phase

PCT System – Chapter II Enter national **National Phase Entry from Chapter II** phase within 30 Chapter I Chapter II months **30** SISR (optional) International Publication SIS (months) (optional) 12* 18 28 File local File PCT IPRP(CH II) (priority) Demand application Applicant takes steps to pursue patent protection in various States Express intention to enter national phase Pay fees

Provide translation

28

National Phase Requirements

- PCT Articles 22 and 39 require furnishing of the following for national/regional stage entry
 - A copy of the international application (unless already provided by the International Bureau)
 - A translation of the international application (where appropriate)
 - The national fee
- National/Regional Offices may have additional requirements
 - PCT Applicant's Guide provides details http://www.wipo.int/pct/en/appguide/

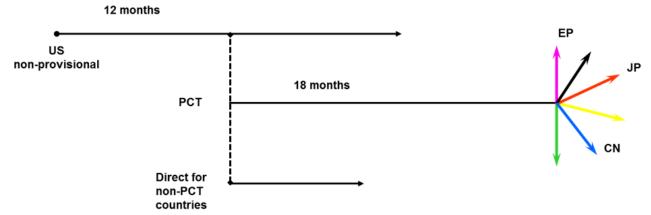


PCT Route Filing Strategies

- Some options for foreign filing using the PCT*
 - Option 1: Nonprovisional followed by PCT
 - Option 2: Provisional followed by PCT
 - Option 3: Provisional followed by Nonprovisional and PCT
 - Option 4: PCT filed first
- * List is not exhaustive



Option 1: Nonprovisional Followed by PCT



- File U.S. nonprovisional application
- Within 12 months,
 - File PCT application, and
 - Direct file in any non-PCT country where foreign protection is desired
- Nationalize PCT in foreign countries and continue with U.S. nonprovisional

Option 1 Considerations

Advantages

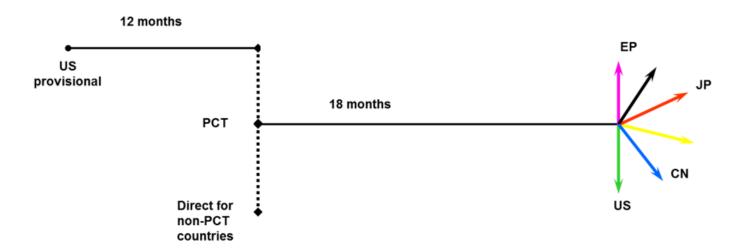
 Useful where there is a need to obtain a U.S. patent quickly

Disadvantages

 Higher costs incurred at an early stage for filing and prosecuting the nonprovisional application



Option 2: Provisional Followed by PCT



- File U.S. provisional application
- Within 12 months,
 - File PCT application, and
 - Direct file in any non-PCT country where foreign protection is desired
- Nationalize PCT in U.S. and foreign countries

Option 2 Considerations

Advantages

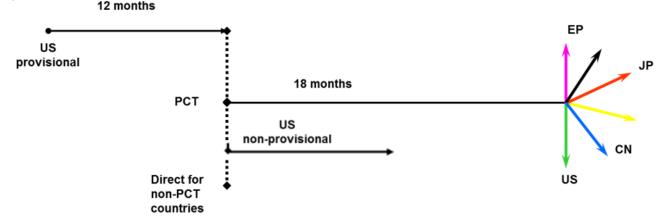
- Lower upfront costs
- Obtain benefit of PCT search/written opinion before incurring substantial filing costs
- Provides more time to assess commercial viability of invention before incurring substantial filing costs

Disadvantages

• May delay prosecution in U.S.



Option 3: Provisional Followed by Nonprovisonal and PCT



- File U.S. provisional application
- Within 12 months,
 - File PCT application,
 - File U.S. nonprovisional application, and
 - Direct file in any non-PCT country where foreign protection is desired
- Nationalize PCT in foreign countries and continue with U.S. nonprovisional

Option 3 Considerations

Advantages

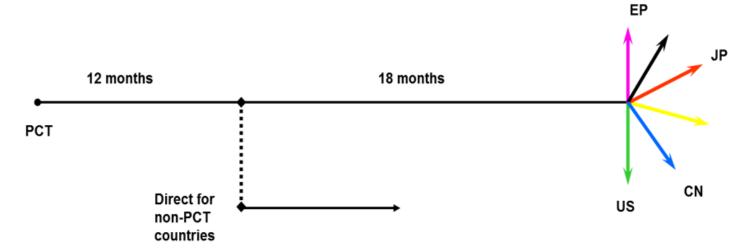
- Lower initial costs
- Provides more time to assess commercial viability of invention before incurring substantial filing costs
- Useful where there is a need to obtain a U.S. patent quickly after filing a provisional

Disadvantages

- Non-provisional filed without benefit of PCT search/written opinion
- More expenses come sooner than under Option (2)



Option 4: PCT filed first



- File PCT first.
- Within 12 months, direct file in any non-PCT country where foreign protection is desired
- Nationalize PCT in U.S. and foreign countries



Option 4 Considerations

Advantages

- Obtain benefit of PCT search and written opinion before incurring substantial costs in pursuing patent protection in the U.S. and abroad
- Beneficial where there is no need to file provisional first and no urgency in obtaining a U.S. patent
 - Can nationalize early in U.S. if needed

Disadvantages

- May not be advantageous if there is a benefit in filing a provisional, e.g.,
 - Time to study the market or raise money, or
 - A need to obtain a U.S. patent quickly



Filing Directly in a Foreign National or Regional Patent Office

- May be cost effective if protection is desired in only a few countries
- Beneficial when applicant is certain as to which countries protection is needed
- Applicant is prepared to pay filing costs early
 - E.g., filing fees, translation costs, attorney fees
- Required for countries not party to the PCT
- Priority must be claimed to first U.S. application for the same invention



Direct Foreign Filing Considerations

- Considerations for multiple foreign applications within 12 months and claiming priority under the Paris Convention
 - Multiple formal requirements for each foreign filing
 - Separate prosecution of applications with each foreign office, usually requires representation by foreign practitioner
 - Translations and national/regional filing fees required within 12 months



Avoid Common Mistakes

- Protect confidentiality
 - Avoid making the invention public prior to filing a patent application
 - Many countries have an absolute novelty requirement
- Keep track of important dates and deadlines
 - Under U.S., foreign and international laws
 - *E.g.*, 12 month deadline from first filing in U.S. to file in foreign countries to preserve priority
- Consider consulting a registered patent attorney or agent who prosecutes patent applications internationally
 - If unfamiliar with complex procedural issues associated with obtaining foreign patent rights
 - To avoid potentially losing patent rights



Grace Period

- Time prior to filing during which public disclosure by an applicant or inventor will not be considered prior art
- Differs among various intellectual property offices
 - US 1 year (35 U.S.C. 102(b)(1))
 - EP None
 - JP 6 months under certain circumstances



Global Dossier



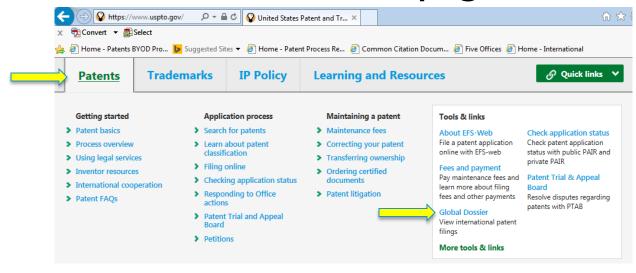
Global Dossier

- The Global Dossier allows you to look at dossiers/file wrappers for patent applications from EPO, JPO, KIPO, SIPO, USPTO, and WIPO
- Automatic machine translations into English are available for certain Chinese, Japanese or Korean document types (e.g. Office actions, claims, etc.)



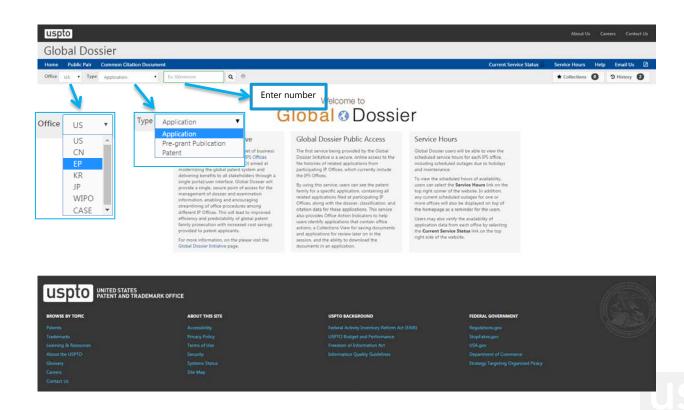
GD – Global Dossier

- The Global Dossier site can be accessed directly using the url: https://globaldossier.uspto.gov
- Or from the USPTO homepage:

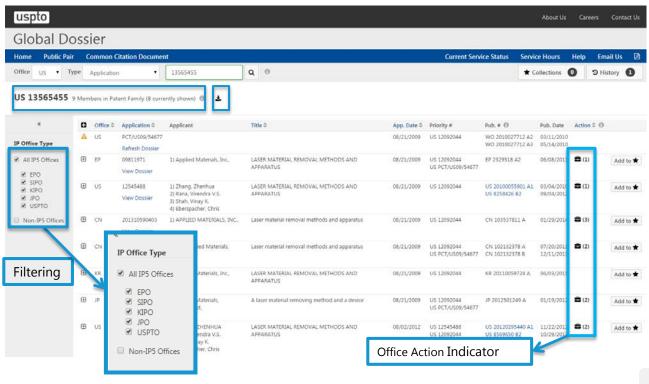




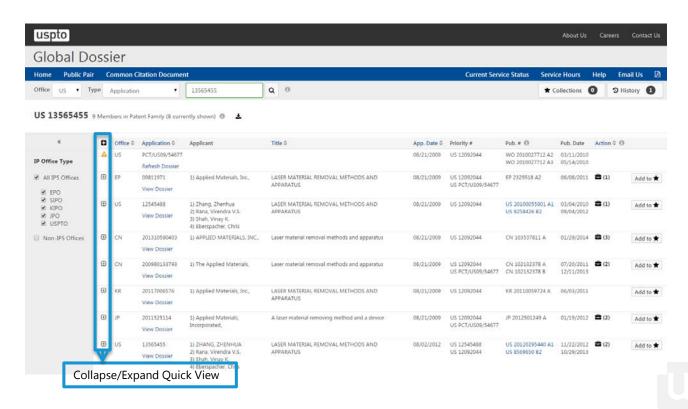
Global Dossier Family List



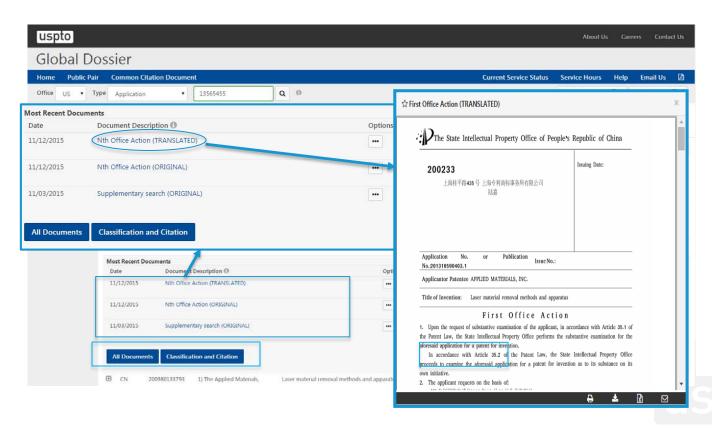
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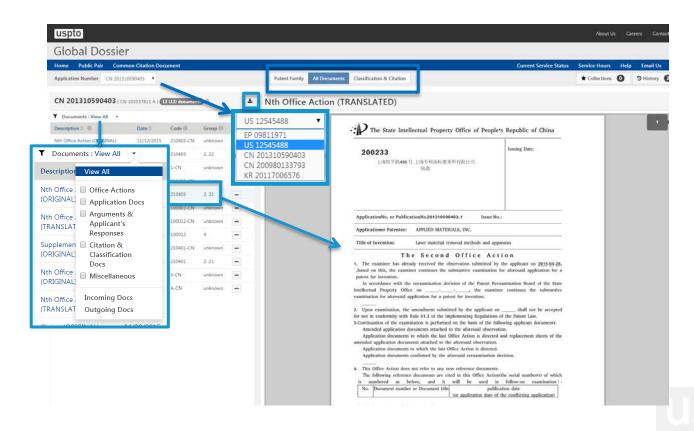
Global Dossier Quick View



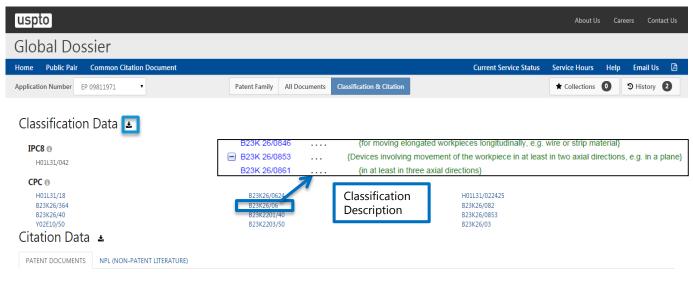
Global Dossier Quick View



Global Dossier - Dossier View



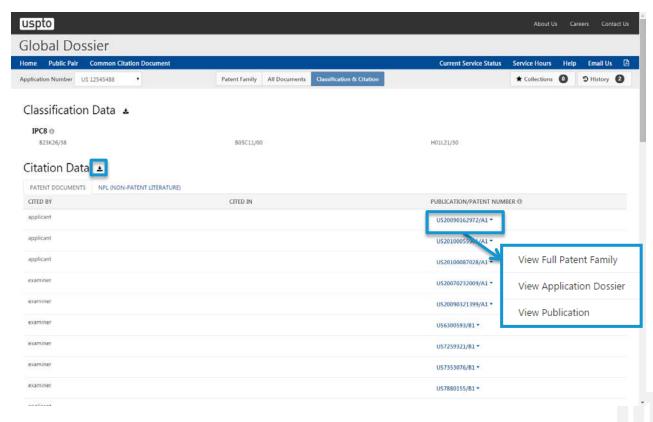
Global Dossier Classification Data



No matching citation data found.



Global Dossier Citation





Thank You!



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