

Proposal of PatCom for

Training Assistance to the European Patent Office to enhance “Patent Information Usage for Innovation” and “The European Information Society“ for SMEs

Prof.Dr.-Ing Georg F. Schultheiss, PatCom Secretary 14.11.2004

PatCom (Commercial Patent Information and Service Group) in Europe has 11 members from 6 nations, from which 4 are already member of the European Union.

The association and its secretariat propose a project over three years to enhance regional awareness upon developments and arising problems related to the fast development of the international information network and the European information society. The program shall be developed and performed in close cooperation between EPO, PatCom, National Offices and EC. Target entities are the Industry (especially SMEs), Universities, Administration and legal organisations in EPO countries.

Each year at least 10 (at the minimum 8 / up to 14) conferences/workshops/training meetings in EPO member countries shall be organized. The topics of the events will be arranged according to local needs. Events can be repeated where and when necessary and if the experts are available. Topics are e.g.:

- Value of Patenting
- Information Literacy for the Patent Sector
- Information Services and Management
- Professional Patent Information Usage
- E-Business, e-Publishing, training tools
- Public Information Supply, etc.

The organisation will be performed by an EPO/PatCom secretariat in close cooperation with national offices and including regional entities to encourage them to continue the started efforts in the respective country.

Plans have to be prepared for the first year of the effective project in advance within a pre-project of 6 months duration. The latter is also necessary for marketing the events in the selected regions and in the EPO membership. The following yearly plans shall be presented at latest four months before start of the next period.

EPO and EC shall foster the pre-project with € 100.000 and each following year with up to EUR 1.000.000 depending on a positive

decision after presentation of the yearly plan as a milestone for reconsideration. The budget will include secretariat capacity, travel costs, organizing of events and speakers/trainers, sponsoring of participation e.g. for academia, information material and marketing.

But already now it is seen as fact, that local networks have to be built/used in every individual country using local entities like chambers of industry and commerce etc. For that additional common planning and respective distributed funding will be necessary.

PatCom and its members will participate with their market know how and the already working training forces. For the cooperation, the planning procedure and the performance of the project PatCom has established a respective Working Group on Training Activities. The PatCom Executive Committee nominated as chairman Prof. Dr.-Ing. Georg F. Schultheiss, Secretary of PatCom.

Next possible steps may be:

- Exchange of ideas, material and preparation of a first official contact between EPO and PatCom experts
- Collection of material from all partners
- Contact to the EC by EPO to find out if within the 6.FP there is still room for such a project
- Adding the topic to the next official EPO-PatCom Meeting in 2005 in Munich
- Concrete Planning
- Announcing the project to the EPO member states and asking for interested nations to start preparatory contacts