

PatCom 2014-2015 AGM Draft Minutes.

Meeting held at EPO Room 348, Vienna Office. 10am – 12noon on 17th March 2015.

Participants:

Martine Massiera, Questel. (MM) (President)
Armin Foerderer, FIZ Karlsruhe. (AF) (Treasurer)
Jane List, Extract Information. (JL) (Secretary)
Jurjen Dijkstra, LexisNexis Univentio
Rob Poolman, Minesoft
Robert Fokkema (RF), Lighthouse IP
Lee Smith, RWS.

Apologies:

Paul Peters, CAS.
Richard Lambert, TR

1. Welcome and Approval of the Agenda

The president opened the meeting and welcomed all to the AGM.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Bologna AGM 2013

The minutes of the Bologna AGM were approved.

3. Annual Report of the President (MM)

The report will focus on the patent office meetings held this year, and the President's plans to expand the network.

Patent Office Meetings 2014 -2015

This year PatCom have held 5 meetings, two with EPO, and 1 each with WIPO, DPMA, and INPI. PatCom plan to continue to meet the EPO twice a year, to keep the dialogue open on issues of concern, as this is the most active office. The current working relationship with the EPO is positive and cooperative. The relationship with WIPO is positive, and the global climate is positive for growth in patent information activities. PATCOM members cooperate with WIPO through the ASPI programme. The meeting with DPMA was very informative this year, and useful for future commercial activities on both sides. PatCom plan to meet OEPM before June 2015 to complete the regular planned meetings cycle.

Expanding the Network

The President wishes to expand the PatCom network by setting up meetings with additional offices in Europe. Italy, and Sweden are heading the list (two PatCom representatives visited Sweden previously, but there has been no formal PatCom meeting), with Portugal a possibility because of the links with Brazil (though most PatCom have this data already so

not a priority). PatCom will also again attempt to arrange a meeting with the GB IPO, last meeting held was in 2011. It would be useful to have more contact with the Russia IPO, starting at the EPO PIC in Copenhagen, as a meeting at the office is unlikely to be realised. Further discussion on this issue (see 8).

PatCom currently has 12 members, and there are two proposed new members (see 7).

4. Report of the Treasurer and Financial Issues (AF) (See attached sheet for the detail).

AF needs to have the previous accounts audited, and will contact the accountant directly to arrange this, up until now all communication has been through LHIP.

The financial situation is currently stable, so the Treasurer recommended that fees remain at the same level for the next term July 2015-June 2016. Expenses for running PatCom are secretary fees and expenses, website, hosted by IT Control (who bill on an hourly basis for work) and accountancy. The registered office needs to be in the Netherlands, and is currently at Lighthouse IP old office address. Changing this would incur additional costs, and it is currently felt not necessary, as RF has access to the office. Membership Fees are based on patent information income, (with three tiers of payment), and there is also an option to take Associate Membership (with lesser voting rights). There is still one payment outstanding from 2014-2015. Subscriptions are due every July, for one calendar year.

5. Report of the Secretary (JL) ExCO

The secretary focused on the ExCo meetings. During 2014-2015 PatCom held two ExCo meetings, in July following the INPI meeting, and in February before the WIPO meeting. . Next year an additional ExCo could be held at EPO PIC if needed, in between the planned July INPI ExCo and the next one in Geneva in February 2016.

There are 7 members of the ExCo who remain elected until June 2016,: Questel, FIZ Karlsruhe, CAS, LNU, Minesoft, TR, LHIP. Some items discussed at the ExCo are added to the Agenda for final decision by the wider membership (see 7,8,9).

Website

The Secretary plans to update the website, adding a 'Forthcoming Meetings' page, which should enable everyone to have a clear view of which meetings are planned for when, and make travel arrangements accordingly. This should be more efficient than relying on email. Working with Tanja Windbiel (FIZ Karlsruhe) JL has established an off-website Archive of all the meeting documents for security, held at FIZ and by the Secretary.

Member Contact Details

The Secretary will be updating the contact details held by PatCom of each member company. Each member will be invited to submit a primary and back up contact, these will form the mailing list for meetings, and appear on the website.

Two additional Agenda items were added as a result of the President, Treasurer and Secretary Reports a) review of PatCom mission and b) using the PatCom Funds.

6. Status of the Technical Working Group

The Technical Working Group has been dormant for a couple of years, and there are currently no technical issues requiring attention. Should technical issues arise, the group may be reformed on an ad hoc basis.

7. Proposed new PatCom Members

It was agreed at the last ExCo that JL should approach FairView (IFI) and MM should approach GenomeQuest and invite them to join PatCom. This has been done, and those present at the AGM were in agreement with the proposed new members. It is a prerequisite that any proposed new member should be acceptable to the existing members, any one of whom may veto a proposed new member. Requirements for PatCom membership were discussed and agreed as a) The company should have the requirement to directly purchase data from the patent offices. b) The company should be willing and able to participate at the patent office meetings, to create a strong impression, and so a European presence is desirable.

It could be of benefit to increase membership of PatCom, new companies may have new ideas from which everyone can learn, and may enhance participation at patent office meetings.

8. Proposed additional patent offices for PatCom to visit.

This was introduced in the President's address. The expansion of the network will remain in Europe for this year. It was agreed that for the first meeting with the new offices, who are not yet selling data, and PatCom aims to encourage data sales, it might be appropriate for a small number (minimum of two – maximum 3-4) PatCom members to attend and represent the group. Prior to the meeting PatCom should present a strong Agenda, and be prepared to present PatCom mission and purpose. (see 10a). The Offices should be made aware that PatCom members wish to purchase data. Establishing contact and a meeting with the Italy Office is our top priority.

If PatCom wish to discuss with the Asian offices, we could consider doing so at East Meets West in 2016. The IP5 also now have a website, and have published the Common Citation Document and Global Dossier, is it time for PatCom to establish contact with this group? This should be monitored during 2015.

9. Participation of PDG at PatCom patent office meetings

It was agreed at the last ExCo meeting that PDG should NOT be invited to attend PatCom patent office meetings. PatCom should continue to engage with PDG when invited to attend their meetings, and through 'Super Workshop' and similar events at conferences. The AGM approved this decision.

10. A) The original mission of PatCom is quite broad, and has not been updated since PatCom was established in 1999. Following discussion on the primary mission of PatCom (to create a level playing field for the purchase of data, to continue to demand quality of data supply from the offices, and to encourage further offices to provide data.) It was not felt appropriate for PatCom to attempt to make group purchase of data. It was agreed that the Secretary should submit a proposal to rework the PatCom mission for marketing purposes and to update this on the website. The Secretary should check options for using a PatCom email address.

B) PatCom currently has some funds further than required for running the organisation. There were some discussions on whether PatCom should spend some of the money. The

Treasurer would prefer to keep the funds to ensure stability of PatCom, and this was approved by the AGM. Two Suggestions for using some of the surplus were:
Using the money to improve PatCom marketing material, to raise awareness of the group. This should be low key, similar to PatCom stickers on exhibition stands used previously.
A PatCom Award e.g. , for a new patent information initiative, to be presented at a suitable conference or event.

11. Date of Next meeting. It was proposed that the 2015-2016 AGM be held at the same time and location if possible. In Vienna, co-located with the EPO –PatCom meeting and the Raw Data Day in March 2016.

Jane List, Secretary, PatCom, Cambridgeshire, March 18th, 2015