



Minutes: 14. Meeting with DPMA 31st January 2018

1) Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves, and HR informed us that Mrs. Christine Moosbauer has been promoted and is now Vice President of DPMA and Hubert Rothe is now Head of Directorate General 2 – Information.

2) Minutes of the 2017 meeting were approved.

3) Update on DPMA Patent information initiatives (HS)

The DPMA publishes each year its official annual statistics in the March edition of BLPMZ (Blatt für Patent-, Muster- und Zeichenwesen).

https://www.dpma.de/english/our_office/publications/blatt_fuer_pmz/index.html. Early indications show that new patent filings through PCT are up 5%, and that national filings are stable compared to the previous year. DPMA has plans to recruit 200 new examiners, however the DPMA cannot proceed until there is an effective German government in place to provide leadership. Applicants are currently content with the time taken for examination, and there is anyway the possibility for an applicant to request a 'fast track' examination. At DPMA applicants have up to seven years to file a request for examination. International applications to DE through PPH schemes have accelerated. DPMA now have 21 schemes in operation. The DPMA have a new website, and 85% of the content is available in English. The website:

https://www.dpma.de/english/our_office/about_us/index.html.

A re-organised customer service team was set up in 2016 and operates from locations in Munich, Jena and Berlin as well as by phone and comprehensive information is available on the website also. Information is provided on all IPRs.

https://www.dpma.de/english/services/customer_care_services/index.html

4) Machine Translation at DPMA (HR)

There is as yet no MT project at DPMA, however, it is clear that DPMA examiners do need access to Asian information in order to perform a thorough search and to understand the documents retrieved. This applies for both NPL and patent documents. Recent statistics (2016) have shown that Asian language documents are now 57% of all patents published (21% USA, 22% everywhere else). The DPMA currently uses a number of routes to access Asian literature, including EPOQUEnet, commercial databases accessed through a DPMA portal, and internal resources. The need for Asian NPL / patent literature varies according to technical field. The DPMA will start by defining key aspects for the MT project, such as target and source languages. Options are to translate into English (EN) or German (DE). Korean (KO), Japanese (JA) and Chinese and Traditional Chinese (ZH) are all important. Other languages are also under consideration, e.g. Thai (TH), Malay (MS) for MY patents. The DPMA would like to obtain searchable collections of SG, MY, TH, TW patents as well as KR, JP and CN. The first MT project will assess the quality of the different methods of translation currently available. For SG and MY it may be difficult to obtain sufficient training documents.

The DPMA in DPMA-recherche uses a semantic + multilingual search approach in two areas a) CASE

management system which can be searched full text, and b) in DEPATISnet examiners have access to a cognitive search / semantic function which can work cross-lingual. (slides 7-8)

5) Developments in DPMA Services (FC)

Recent updates on the two flagship products - there are now 108 million documents in DEPATISnet and DPMA Register contains mp3 and mp4 files of trademarks. These are searched using the descriptions, no image search capability yet. All descriptions of trademarks are in German. German designs are now available for search in Design View at EUIPO and WIPO collections. DPMA Register will be connecting to Federated Register in 2018.

6) Update on Unitary Patent Planning

DPMA are ready on the technical front, but officially have halted preparations whilst the legal challenge is reviewed. There will be no progress until March 2018 at the earliest, and the court's decision could take until Q4 2018.

See the presentation attached **20180130_Ps_PatCom_Rothe.pdf** for more details on 4 - 6).

7) Classification matters (CPC)

DPMA have assessed CPC and concluded that it is not in the DPMA's interest to join this initiative in the short term. IPC remains the classification in use at the DPMA for organisational and search purposes. Furthermore retaining IPC enables full participation with WIPO in IPC revisions. For the time being DPMA will continue to use DEKLA as an additional national classification for further fine classification.

8) Industry 4.0

The DPMA is anticipating an increase in patent applications relating to Industry 4.0 technical fields.; However, many of the concepts should be well known, and may not be patentable, novelty may lie in new methods of interconnection, and possibly in the electronics, and communications aspects. Industry 4.0 related patent applications may be filed in several classes, DPMA do not however plan to use a tagging system to link them, preferring to develop the existing classification to accommodate new fields. The JPO is advanced in its preparations for handling Industry 4.0 patent applications.

9) AOB:

PatCom raised the question of GDPR preparation at DPMA. GDPR comes into effect in the EU in May 2018. The aim of the GDPR regulation is to rebalance the right of the individual to maintain privacy of data, and as such may affect handling of inventor addresses, and other legal / financial information held by the Office. The DPMA anticipates that new agreements will need to be put in place with the commercial vendors. However DPMA believes that German IP Law will take precedence over the new privacy law. Therefore it should be possible for the DPMA to continue to publish the publications unchanged even after the GDPR has entered into force.

Agenda Items:

- 1) Introductions
Confirmation of approval of minutes of 14. Meeting.

- 2) Update on DPMA patent information initiatives
- 3) Machine Translation project
- 4) Developments in DPMA services:
 - a. Depatis / DEPATISnet
 - b. Federated Register
 - c. Patent, trademark, design examination
- 5) Update on Unitary patent planning
Classification matters (CPC)
- 6) Industry 4.0
- 7) AOB (Any other Business)

Attendees:

PatCom

Jane List (Extract Information) (Secretary)
Armin Foerderer (FIZ) (Treasurer)
Jochen Lennhof (Minesoft)
Jurjen Dijkstra (Lexis Nexis Univentio)
Anna Maria Villa (PatentSight)
Aur lie Brunet (Questel)

DPMA:

Dr. Florian Chmela, Head, Division 2.4 - IT Operation and IT User Support
Dr. Harald Seitz, Head, Section 2.1.2 - Customer Care and Services
Hubert Rothe, Head, Directorate General 2 - Information