



## UKIPO PatCom Meeting Minutes

Location and date of meeting: Newport, 25<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, 11:00

1. Glyn Hughes (GH) welcomed PatCom to the UK IPO and everyone introduced themselves, as this was the first meeting for some years.
2. The agenda was approved. (*See below for Agenda*).

3. **A. UKIPO infrastructure and data**

(GH) explained that the UKIPO is modernising internal processes as it works towards a completely digital model. The UKIPO maintains separate systems for patents, designs and trademarks, some actions are common to all three IP rights, but examination is different. Separated systems are still in place for some tasks. For instance information on applicants must be updated several times by IPO officers for different IPRs. A fully digital system would enable the applicant to control their own information, which would need only to be updated once. The UKIPO refers to international standards on best practice for data governance to guide the transformation. GDPR applies to information held on individuals but not companies. Data input by applicants will need to be verified. It is not compulsory for companies to input their registration number, a number of parameters are used as identifiers. Registered office address of a company is not always the IP office address. (CH) explained that fuzzy matching techniques will be used e.g. Bayes (using available information such as other IP rights held, funding awards, VAT number). Applicants and their Agents (representatives) need to access IPR files at UKIPO. Agents may operate on behalf of numerous applicants. Applicants may work with several Agents. The UKIPO are prioritising digitisation projects according to value as part of a three year transformation. The first project looks at change – of owner and / or representative. A new renewal service allows applicants to pay fees for any IPR.

#### **UKIPO data**

The UKIPO receive 22,000 patent applications each year, of which 18,000 go on to publication. 8,000 are granted each year. There were typically 50,000 trademark applications a year, but in 2018 this rose to 90,000. Some of this rise may be due to double (EU-UK) filing, but is also from single-right applicants. Designs – historically 4,000 – 5,000 a year applications. There has been an increase in filings, probably due to reduced fees, and the easier application procedure. 10-20,000 were filed in 2018.

**Full text (FT) data.** The UKIPO is not using the EPO system. Some UK data is available as FT. The UKIPO are using the image and annotating it. The EPO OCR scheme does not produce good quality, and the quality requirement is not enforceable. The publication of data is part of legacy main frame system, which generates batch file each week. This would need to be synced with EP FT / OCR. The UKIPO aim to work with digital text from the beginning, and are currently evaluating software.

#### **File History information**

The publication server holds all PDFs of any document (file history). Document by document.

#### **B. Patent Analytics**

(CH) updated PatCom on the work of the patent analytics group. There are 17 people in the team, including examiners who are called on for technical expertise when required. The UKIPO focuses on UK government and international work to enable modelling, and forecasting, looking at trends, and for IPO workflows. The team uses PatStat. For instance the UKRI (UK Research and Innovation)

<https://www.ukri.org/>, and other DTI (Department of Trade and Industry) departments. Recent work

has focussed on the four grand challenges – 1) AI, 2) Aging Population, 3) Clean technologies, 4) Mobility. The AI report will be published in June. Other projects have been commissioned by the UK space agency. Reports are usually published. The patent analytics group cooperate with the OECD to define technologies, and to ensure reports are comparable. The group no longer undertake commercial work.

PatCom Q : Does the group also analyse NPL information?

UKIPO A: NLP and business information to complement patent analytics can be important for UKRI colleagues. UK universities tend to publish academic papers.

4. **Access to IPO** data for third parties is changing. A charge was introduced on 1<sup>st</sup> April. There is a need to balance open access to data with fair usage. An API access option will be made available to enable easier access to data. Biblio data (XML) and legal status data is available from an ftp site for all IPRs. Data available includes - Patents – non-text image A and B specs. Designs – image. PatCom would be interested in bibliographic XML data for designs. The OJ is available for use. It is available in XML to download. There is a small charge for using the ftp service. The digital data will be cleaned up, but this is time consuming and expensive. A back file is available but it is not validated.

**Contact GH for access information for the ftp.**

5. **Liaison** with UK government departments. (See 1 patent analytics).
6. **UKIPO Cooperations** with other offices. Vancouver Group, (VG). WIPO, OECD. EPO.
  - A. The UK, Canada and Australia established the Vancouver group 10 years ago. The offices are of similar size, and so can share best practice, learn from each other and understand issues each faces. The VG discuss policy, and collaborate in broader forum such as at WIPO policy discussions. There is an informatics project, led by Australia. AU have created TM Link which aims to gather together trademarks representing the same product / brand: <https://www.tmlink.net.au/about> . The database will be free for one year, and then may be monetised, (cf. the EPO's PatStat.)
  - B. WIPO. The UKIPO collaborate with WIPO on economics, statistics and information services. WIPO and UKIPO are hosting a conference in London focussing on AI and Ownership issues: <https://orcula.com/ipo/>. WIPO are taking the lead in AI for IP information processing, the UKIPO are leading with regard to ownership / inventorship and AI generated technologies.
  - C. The IP Statistics task force is a collaboration with the OECD, and includes EPO, IT, CH, JP and KR.
  - D. The UK has country representation at the EPO.

## 7. **Brexit**

The UKIPO is preparing to ensure IPRs are valid in the UK post Brexit. Trademarks (TM )s will be cloned to the UK Register. A date will be selected and all marks will be carried over on that date. Expired rights will be removed, and applicants will be able to remove their TM if they do not want rights in the UK. The TM register will become much larger, EUIPO has 1 million marks. There will be a sign to distinguish EUIPO from UKIPO TMs.

The UK court is ready for the unitary patent. The UK has ratified the agreement for the Unitary patent, but ratification is now held up in Germany. The UP is unlikely to be established prior to Brexit. The UKIPO has a brief to provide IP education and raise awareness in the UK This is led by the Outreach team.

8. Both parties agreed that a meeting in April 2020 would be useful.

## **Agenda:**

### Introductions

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Update on UKIPO Data and Patent analytics Projects
3. Access to UKIPO data for commercial sector e.g. legal status, full text data
4. Liaison with other UK government departments e.g. companies house. Use of data.
5. UKIPO cooperations with other offices. E.g. Canada , Australia.
6. Brexit preparations and implications for IPRs and IP information.
7. Date of next meeting in 2020.

## **Attendees:**

### **UKIPO**

Glyn Hughes, Chief Data Officer (GH)

Chris Harrison, Head of IP Analytics and Data Science (CH)

### **PatCom**

Ann Chapman, Minesoft, President

Jurjen Dijkstra, LexisNexis Univentio

Anne Jones, CAS

Felix Coxwell, Questel

Rosa Alentorn, IFI Claims

Bob Stembridge, Clarivate.

Lee Smith, RWS.

Jane List, Extract Information, Secretary

Apologies: Robert Fokkema, Lighthouse IP Group

Jane List, Secretary, PatCom, Cambridgeshire 09/05/2019