



Minutes: 16. INPI-PatCom Meeting, Held Virtually on 18 June, 2020

SB and SD welcomed PatCom to the first virtual meeting with INPI.

SB and SD took us through the Agenda points, with an accompanying presentation using the INPI netviewer platform. The presentation shared was updated considering the discussions during the meeting. The updated presentation is attached and used throughout the minutes. (See *Patcom20200617_V1.1.ppt*)

1. News and INPI Data Dissemination (SD) (see slides 3- 8)

Some key facts and figures from the annual report (attached) were presented to provide an overview of INPI activity. There were 15.8 thousand French patent applications in 2019, the volume is slightly down from recent years. The French automotive sector files the most patent applications. Valeo and PSA remain the top two applicants. INPI provides IP information free on its website, see slide 8, including 9.7m patents (FR, PCT and EP).

2. During the Covid period (slide 9)

INPI have continued operations all working remotely from the office, but people are now gradually returning. The IP activities are all steadily continuing. Deadlines have been extended for applicants needing to make renewals, reply to examinations etc. from 12 March. The extension was in force when we spoke, and it is likely to continue until July or August 2020.

3. The PACTE Law (slides 10 – 13)

The PACTE Law was first published in 2019 and continues to be developed. Article 40 published in January 2020 of the Pacte Law seeks to extend the validity of Utility certificates from 6 to 10 years and to permit the change from Utility Certificate to Full patent application. Article 42 establishes a patent opposition procedure against FR patents which will be handled by INPI. Article 42a strengthens the patent examination procedure by allowing invalidity claims against inventive step and obviousness. On 1st July provisional patent applications will be allowed. Applicants need to file short description only of the invention and will have up to one year to complete the application.

4. Open data – (slide 14-16).

A total of 847 licences for IP data and 1860 licences for company data have been issued. FR A full text applications will soon be available. Test data can already be requested, and the collection should be ready by September. Company information is available from 7 million French companies. See slide 15 for the dates of availability. API access for company data is already available. IP data will be available soon.

5. INPI Data Portal (slide 17-18-)

The COP programme continues to bring improvements of data availability for INPI IP and RNCS data, and searching options, including search by SIREN (company registration) number. By the end of 2020 an advanced or expert search tool should be available on INPI website for users.

6. The 2021 meeting will be scheduled for June, hopefully in person at Courbevoie.

Attendees

PatCom:

Ann Chapman, Minesoft Limited
Aurelie Brunet, Questel
Robert Fokkema, LHIP
Armin Foerderer, FIZ Karlsruhe
Jurjen Dijkstra, LexisNexis Univentio
Lee Smith, RWS
Rosa Alentorn, IFI Claims
Jane List, Extract Information, PatCom Secretary.

INPI:

Severine le Brun DPI / Departement des donnees
Sabine Darrigade DPI / Open data

Apologies:

Paul Peters, CAS
Margit Hoehne, patentGate
Andrew Samm, Patently

Jane List, Secretary, PatCom, Cambridgeshire 4 July 2020.