

# WIPO



PCT/A/31/7  
ORIGINAL:English  
DATE:August19,2002

E

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION  
GENEVA

INTERNATIONAL PATENT COOPERATION UNION  
(PCT UNION)

ASSEMBLY

Thirty-First(18<sup>th</sup>Extraordinary)Session  
Geneva,September23toOctober1,200 2

IMPACT PROJECT STATUS REPORT

*Document prepared by the International Bureau*

## INTRODUCTION

1. In March 1998, the Assemblies of Member States of WIPO approved the PCT automation project now called IMPACT (Information Management for the Patent Cooperation Treaty). It is also agreed that the Assembly of the PCT Union should be kept informed of the development of the automated system (see documents A/32/5 – WO/BC/18/5 and A/32/7). The present document<sup>1</sup> contains a progress report on the development of the IMPACT Projects since the last session of the PCT Assembly. Documents PCT/A/29/2, PCT/A/29/2Add.<sup>2</sup> and PCT/A/30/3<sup>3</sup> contain the previous progress reports to the Assembly.

---

<sup>1</sup> WIPO's Internet site is at <http://www.wipo.int>. For this and other working documents for the Assembly's session, see [http://www.wipo.int/eng/document/govbody/wo\\_pct/index\\_31.htm](http://www.wipo.int/eng/document/govbody/wo_pct/index_31.htm)

<sup>2</sup> Available on WIPO's Internet site [http://www.wipo.int/eng/document/govbody/wo\\_pct/index\\_29.htm](http://www.wipo.int/eng/document/govbody/wo_pct/index_29.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Available on WIPO's Internet site [http://www.wipo.int/eng/document/govbody/wo\\_pct/doc/pct30\\_3.doc](http://www.wipo.int/eng/document/govbody/wo_pct/doc/pct30_3.doc)

## STATUS REPORT ON THE IMPACT PROJECT

2. The following report gives an update on the overall status of the project at the date of this document, followed by an update on project management activities, a report on the status of components of IMPACT and an update on change management related activities within the project team and the Office of the PCT.

### *Overall Project Status*

3. The IMPACT Project was originally planned to last three to four years once the international tender process was concluded. It was subsequently decided to redesign the project implementation approach and to deliver the project in three years, without reducing its scope, by running some of its phases in parallel. Actual development work on the project began in January 2000 after contract signature with the external suppliers.

4. Due to the changes that have occurred within the PCT, in particular the need to provide sufficient computer infrastructure to cope with PCT growth and the need to support and develop the existing computer systems, the current expenditure level on the project is being monitored closely to ensure the completion of the project within the approved budget.

5. According to the current plan, the overall project is on time, despite some delays in individual components. However, as the initial budget was set some five years ago, the basic costs of human resources have increased significantly and all efforts are being made to identify possible savings in this area by relying less on third party consultants, and more on directly recruited WIPO consultants. As identified in the Program and Budget for the 2002-2003 biennium, the need to cope with the continuing growth in the number and size of PCT applications and other changes required by the PCT continue to be monitored in view of their possible impact on the project delivery schedule and the project budget (see document WO/PBC/4/2, page 144).

### *IMPACT Project Management*

6. Procedures for the guidance of the project have been established. This covers practically all aspects from planning through building and testing as well as change management. Based on practical experience with these procedures to date, the project team recognizes that there is a need to give greater prominence to some procedures and to de-emphasize others. Likewise, based on this experience, some are now being refined or simplified. This exercise has also benefited other projects at WIPO, which have drawn up their own procedures based on those prepared for IMPACT.

7. For reasons of efficiency and to maintain a business and delivery oriented focus for day to day activities, IMPACT has been divided into sub-packages. In general, packages correspond to major components of the IMPACT system. Each package has a team leader, who is responsible for the delivery of the package. A brief description of an IMPACT package is provided below.

## DESCRIPTION AND STATUS FOR EACH IMPACT PACKAGE

*Intermediate Scanning Office (ISO)*

8. The Intermediate Scanning Office system handles the scanning and storage of priority documents and the production of DVD with priority documents for designated offices. The system also allows online access to priority documents for PCT staff from the Communication on Request (COR) unit. The ISO operations started successfully in September 2001.

*IMPACT Communication System (formerly known as COR)*

9. The IMPACT Communication System allows national patent offices to receive PCT-related documents on request and systematically. The system is broken down into Systematic Communications, the systematic communication of PCT-related documents, and Specific Communications, the communication on request of PCT-related documents. In order to ensure close cooperation with the users in the Office of the PCT (OPCT), a task force was formed, including IMPACT project members and user representatives, to coordinate and manage the activities related to the deployment of the system when it is released for production. The systematic communications functionality is currently in parallel run and will be operationally deployed in September. National Offices that receive systematic communications of PCT-related documents have received sample electronic media and the necessary documentation to use the system. Specific communication is planned to commence its parallel run in September and is scheduled to be operationally deployed in the fourth quarter of 2002.

*International Bureau (IB)*

10. The IB phase of the project will automate the internal functions of the International Bureau. Most technical analysis activities have been completed and an approach based on re-use of the IMPACT Communications System software elements has been adopted wherever this is appropriate. The IB team has started design and coding activities and work is well under way on the functional components of the system. IB package members participate in the IB deployment task force, which was created to prepare for the deployment of the new system and is led by the Office of the PCT. The current milestone plan targets the system to be ready for deployment at the end of 2002 to be followed by progressive business deployment in 2003.

*Receiving Office of the International Bureau (RO/IB)*

11. The RO/IB phase of the project will automate the internal operations of the Receiving Office of the International Bureau. It is planned to be delivered in a single step past the last phase of the IMPACT project. Work on this package has commenced with the analysis phase.

*Data Receipt (DR)*

12. This package supports the receipt of all documents in paper or electronic form. This includes a generic scanning office, which allows scanning of all types of documents. The data receipt functionality for the Communications System is currently being system tested. In parallel, the scope and planning for data receipt for the IB phase is being refined.

*Forms Generation (Forms)*

13. This package provides the infrastructure and implements the required functionality for the automatic generation of PCT forms. Work is ongoing.

*Security*

14. A security data model for IMPACT has been prepared. It has been reviewed and accepted by the (OPCT) users in July and a plan for the progressive implementation of the agreed measures is currently being reviewed. The plan foresees the implementation of security measures in priority order.

15. Other packages include Architecture, Infrastructure, Integration and Testing, and Operations and Support. These packages provide the infrastructure and services required to support the development of the project and the operation of the new system.

*Change Management Activities*

16. The IMPACT project is part of a broader change initiative for improving the efficiency of the operations of the OPCT. In parallel with the deployment of IMPACT, the OPCT has undertaken a re-organization of the PCT Operations Department, which merges the staff and functions of the current Examination and Publication Sections into a team-based structure. The new structure and operational procedures are intended to allow for more innovative functions and services to be introduced without continually changing the organizational design and to enable staff to be trained to learn a new range of tasks in parallel with the phasing out of old tasks that will become more and more automated.

17. Proof of concept of the new organizational design was obtained in the second half of 2001 by the establishment of an initial team of users regrouped according to the proposed new processing team structure. In the first half of 2002, five more teams have been deployed and the last six teams are scheduled to be deployed before the end of 2002. The deployment of the processing teams and the associated business process re-design will greatly assist the deployment of the IMPACT system and provide significant efficiency gains.

*18. The Assembly of the PCT Union is invited to take note of the progress report on the IMPACT Project contained in this document.*

[End of document]