



WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
GENEVA

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

INTERIM ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE QUESTIONS

Eighth Session

Geneva, October 10 to 18, 1977

PROGRESS REPORT CONCERNING THE PRINTING
OF PCT PUBLICATIONS

prepared by the International Bureau

Background to this document

1. At its seventh session, held in Geneva from November 1 to 8, 1976, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Interim Advisory Committee for Administrative Questions (hereinafter referred to as "the Interim Committee") considered a draft of the Guidelines for Publication under that Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) prepared by the International Bureau.
2. The Interim Committee, in its session referred to above, held only a general discussion on the subject covered in the PCT Publication Guidelines and decided to establish a PCT Working Group on Guidelines for Publication and for Drawings (hereinafter referred to as "the Working Group") mainly "for the purpose of assisting in the establishing of the Guidelines for Publication and Guidelines for Drawings" (see document PCT/AAQ/VII/19, paragraph 138).
3. The Working Group in its session in Geneva from February 21 to 25, 1977, reviewed a comparative analysis of printing methods and costs prepared by the International Bureau, with a view to preparing recommendations on the most economical and practical methods for the printing of the pamphlet and the Gazette. In this context, the Working Group agreed, in view of the need for a rapid decision on the method of printing for the pamphlet and the Gazette, that the preparation of the master images (manual processing) by the International Bureau and the offset reproduction and binding by a commercial printer constituted a printing method acceptable for the expected low volume of printing work in the initial period of operation of the PCT.
4. It was, however, understood, that the practicability and economic viability of a printing method involving the production of the master image of the front page of the pamphlet by computer-assisted photocomposition and offset reproduction of that photocomposed front page as well as of the other typewritten parts of the international application by a commercial printer, would be further studied. It was suggested in this context that it could be possible, if the front page of the pamphlet were to be produced by computerized photocomposition, to use the machine-readable data carrier, which would include bibliographic data appearing on the front page and the abstract, for generating the Gazette entries as well as the indexes (and eventually also classified abstracts) and that the additional cost incurred in producing the front page by photocomposition might be offset by the savings derived from automatic production of Gazette entries and indexes from the

same data base. It was also suggested that, by the time the International Bureau was in a position to use computer facilities for administrative purposes in relation to its other functions under the PCT and it had, in a machine-readable form, the necessary data for the preparation of the front page, computerized photo-composition could be envisaged.

5. The Working Group proposed the following procedure for the selection of the commercial printer who should be entrusted with the printing work in connection with the PCT publications (pamphlet, Gazette and annual indexes):

(i) Those of the countries represented in the Working Group willing to do so would nominate to the International Bureau, from among the commercial printers in such countries, one or more printers who seemed to be qualified for printing PCT publications and might be interested in tendering for the work. These printers should, in general, be selected from among those having successfully demonstrated experience in the actual printing of patent documents or other appropriate experience rendering them competent to perform the work. In preparation for the selection and nomination process, the countries would, if necessary, provide interested printers with a general description of the PCT publications and printing methods thereof based on existing working documents as well as on the conclusions reached by the Working Group. Any nomination of printers should reach the International Bureau by May 1, 1977, at the latest.

(ii) In the meantime, the International Bureau would, in cooperation with the United Kingdom and Switzerland, whose offers to assist the International Bureau in this matter were accepted with gratitude by the Working Group and the International Bureau, prepare detailed and precise specifications with respect to PCT publications as a basis for a call for tenders.

(iii) Since it was found desirable to conclude, for the initial operational period and to the extent feasible, only one contract for publication in all languages, the specification to be submitted to commercial printers should not provide for an offer limited to one or some of the languages. The specification should also call for offers relating to the distribution of the publication in order to enable a cost comparison between a system of distribution to regular subscribers to PCT publications by the International Bureau or by the commercial printer entrusted with the printing work.

(iv) The specification should also contain information permitting printers to include in their tender an offer for computer-assisted photocomposition of the front page of the pamphlet combined with the first section of the Gazette and the indexes. This could be on the basis of keyboarding by the printer.

(v) The specifications should be available by May 1, 1977, at the latest. On the basis of the nominations made by the countries, the International Bureau would, before June 1, call for tenders by using the above-mentioned detailed specification. The deadline for tenders from the commercial printers would be August 1, 1977.

(vi) Thereafter, the Director General of WIPO would select the printer to be retained and would, once agreement with the printer had been reached, start detailed preparations for the PCT publication in cooperation with that printer (see the report of the session of the Working Group, document PCT/WG/GPD/I/7, paragraphs 11 to 15).

6. The present document contains a report on the actions taken pursuant to the proposals of the Working Group.

Progress Report

Nominations of commercial printers

7. In accordance with the suggestion of the Working Group referred to in paragraph 6(i), the following seven countries nominated to the International Bureau, from among the commercial printers of those countries, one or more printer: Austria (1 printer), France (11 printers), Germany (Federal Republic of) (3 printers), Japan (3 printers), Netherlands (3 printers), Switzerland (1 printer) and United Kingdom (3 printers).

Preparation of specifications with respect to PCT publications

8. In compliance with the procedure suggested by the Working Group, as mentioned in items (ii) to (iv) of paragraph 5 above, the International Bureau prepared, in close cooperation with the United Kingdom and Switzerland, detailed and precise specifications with respect to PCT publications.

9. The said specifications were issued in the form of a document entitled "Tender for Printing and Delivery," containing the following items:

- (i) Tendering Rules and Information
- (ii) Conditions of Contract
- (iii) Six different Schedules providing for the following:
 - Schedule A Production, and charging, of the pamphlet from camera-ready copy supplied.
 - Schedule B Production, and charging, of the Gazette from camera-ready copy.
 - Schedule C Production, and charging, of the cumulative indexes from camera-ready copy supplied.
 - Schedule D Production, and charging, prior to platemaking, by means of phototypesetting, of the front pages of pamphlets printed in English, French or German. Production of pamphlets printed in Japanese or Russian from camera-ready copy.
 - Schedule E Production, and charging, prior to platemaking, by means of phototypesetting, of all Sections of the Gazette, the tape produced for the front pages of some pamphlets being utilized for Sections I and III.

Production, and charging, prior to platemaking, by means of phototypesetting, of the cumulative indexes, the tape produced for the front pages of some pamphlets and Section III of the Gazette (weekly indexes) being utilized.
 - Schedule F Production, and charging, of the Gazette for a six-month period from camera-ready copy supplied.
 - Schedule G Provision, and charging, for world-wide direct distribution (all other schedules being based on delivery to Geneva).
- (iv) Annexes to the Schedules
- (v) Tender
- (vi) Annex to Tender

Call for tenders

10. In accordance with the suggestion of the Working Group referred to in paragraph 5(v) above, the International Bureau called for tenders by addressing the document entitled "Tender for Printing and Delivery" to the printers nominated by the seven countries listed in paragraph 7 above.

11. The International Bureau received tenders from 10 printers located as follows: three printers in France, one in Germany (Federal Republic of), two in Japan, one in the Netherlands, one in Switzerland and two in the United Kingdom. The said tenders are in the process of being evaluated by the International Bureau.

12. The Interim Committee is invited to note the contents of the present document.