



Recent and Future Developments in the PCT System

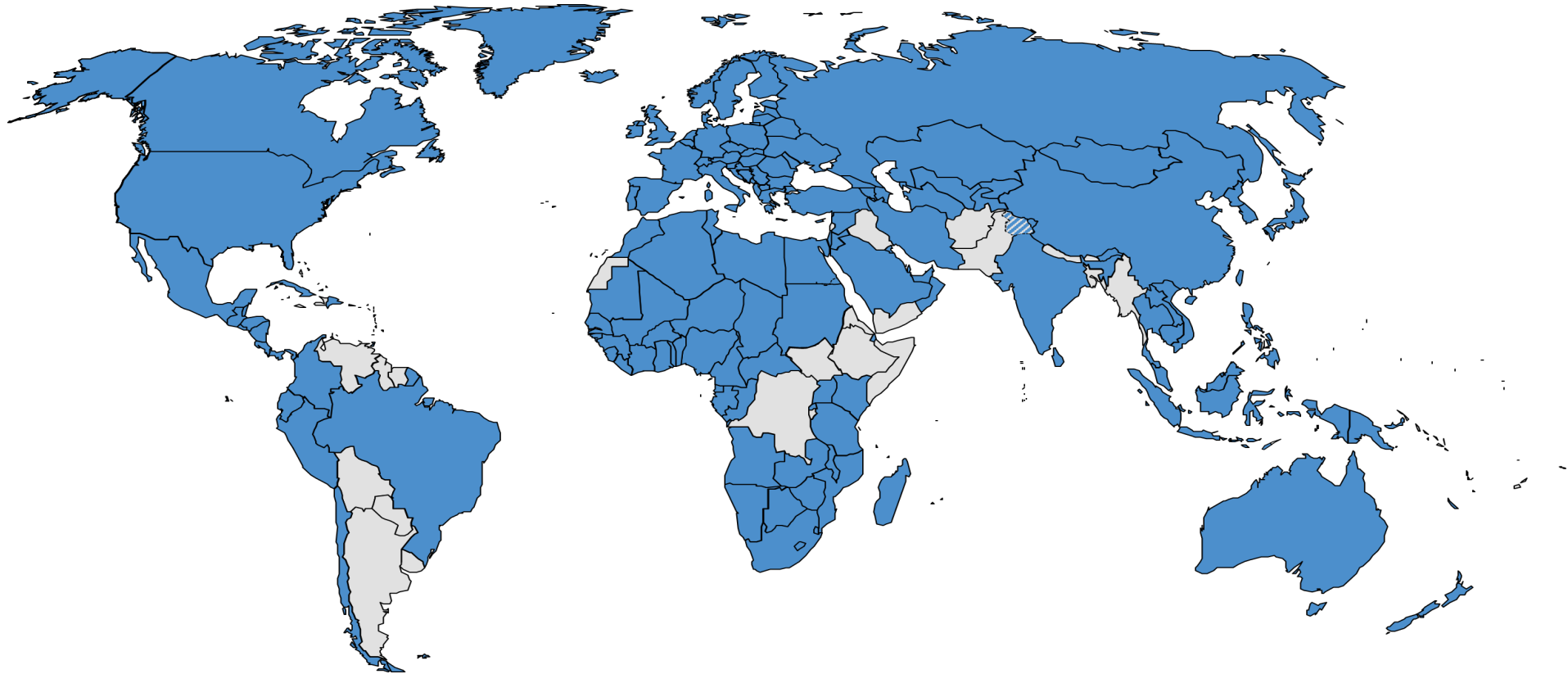
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PCT Coverage Today



PCT Contracting States (154)

States designated for regional protection and also, unless otherwise indicated, national protection

EA Eurasian Patent

AM Armenia
AZ Azerbaijan
BY Belarus
KG Kyrgyzstan
KZ Kazakhstan
RU Russian Federation
TJ Tajikistan
TM Turkmenistan

EP European Patent

AL Albania¹
AT Austria
* BE Belgium
BG Bulgaria
CH Switzerland
* CY Cyprus
CZ Czech Republic
DE Germany
DK Denmark
EE Estonia
ES Spain
FI Finland
* FR France
* GB United Kingdom
* GR Greece
HR Croatia¹
HU Hungary
* IE Ireland
IS Iceland

IT Italy²
LI Liechtenstein
* LT Lithuania
LU Luxembourg
* LV Latvia
* MC Monaco
MK North Macedonia¹
* MT Malta
* NL Netherlands
NO Norway
PL Poland
PT Portugal
RO Romania
RS Serbia¹
SE Sweden
* SI Slovenia
SK Slovakia
* SM San Marino
TR Turkey

* Regional patent only

1 Extension agreement continues to apply to applications filed before 1 January 2008 (for HR), 1 January 2009 (for MK), 1 May 2010 (for AL) or 1 October 2010 (for RS)

2 For international applications filed on or after 1 July 2020

PCT Contracting States (154) (continued)

States designated for regional protection and also, unless otherwise indicated, national protection

AP ARIPO Patent

BW	Botswana
GH	Ghana
GM	Gambia
KE	Kenya
LR	Liberia
LS	Lesotho
MW	Malawi
MZ	Mozambique
NA	Namibia
RW	Rwanda
SC	Seychelles (as of 01.01.2022)
SD	Sudan
SL	Sierra Leone
ST	Sao Tome and Principe
* SZ	Eswatini
TZ	United Republic of Tanzania
UG	Uganda
ZM	Zambia
ZW	Zimbabwe

OA OAPI Patent

* BF	Burkina Faso
* BJ	Benin
* CF	Central African Republic
* CG	Congo
* CI	Côte d'Ivoire
* CM	Cameroon
* GA	Gabon
* GN	Guinea
* GQ	Equatorial Guinea
* GW	Guinea-Bissau
* KM	Comoros
* ML	Mali
* MR	Mauritania
* NE	Niger
* SN	Senegal
* TD	Chad
* TG	Togo

* Regional patent only

PCT Contracting States (154) (continued)

States designated for national protection only except where otherwise indicated

AE	United Arab Emirates	ID	Indonesia	NI	Nicaragua
AG	Antigua and Barbuda	IL	Israel	NZ	New Zealand
AO	Angola	IN	India	OM	Oman
AU	Australia	IR	Islamic Republic of Iran	PA	Panama
* BA	Bosnia and Herzegovina	JM	Jamaica (as of 10.02.2022)	PE	Peru
BB	Barbados	JO	Jordan	PG	Papua New Guinea
BH	Bahrain	JP	Japan	PH	Philippines
BN	Brunei Darussalam	** KH	Cambodia	QA	Qatar
BR	Brazil	KM	Union of the Comoros	SA	Saudi Arabia
BZ	Belize	KN	Saint Kitts and Nevis	SC	Seychelles
CA	Canada	KP	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	SG	Singapore
CL	Chile	KR	Republic of Korea	ST	Sao Tome and Principe
CN	China	KW	Kuwait	SV	El Salvador
CO	Colombia	LA	Lao People's Democratic Republic	SY	Syrian Arab Republic
CR	Costa Rica	LC	Saint Lucia	TH	Thailand
CU	Cuba	LK	Sri Lanka	** TN	Tunisia
DJ	Djibouti	LY	Libya	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
DM	Dominica	** MA	Morocco	UA	Ukraine
DO	Dominican Republic	** MD	Republic of Moldova	US	United States of America
DZ	Algeria	* ME	Montenegro	UZ	Uzbekistan
EC	Ecuador	MG	Madagascar	VC	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
EG	Egypt	MN	Mongolia	VN	Viet Nam
GD	Grenada	MX	Mexico	WS	Samoa
GE	Georgia	MY	Malaysia	ZA	South Africa
GT	Guatemala	NG	Nigeria		
HN	Honduras				

* Extension of European patent possible

** Validation of European patent possible

Countries not yet PCT Contracting States (39)

Afghanistan

Andorra

Argentina

Bahamas

Bangladesh

Bhutan

Bolivia

Burundi

Cabo Verde

Democratic Republic of Congo

Eritrea

Ethiopia

Fiji

Guyana

Haiti

Iraq

Kiribati

Lebanon

Maldives

Marshall Islands

Mauritius

Micronesia

Myanmar

Nauru

Nepal

Pakistan

Palau

Paraguay

Solomon Islands

Somalia

South Sudan

Suriname

Timor-Leste

Tonga

Tuvalu

Uruguay

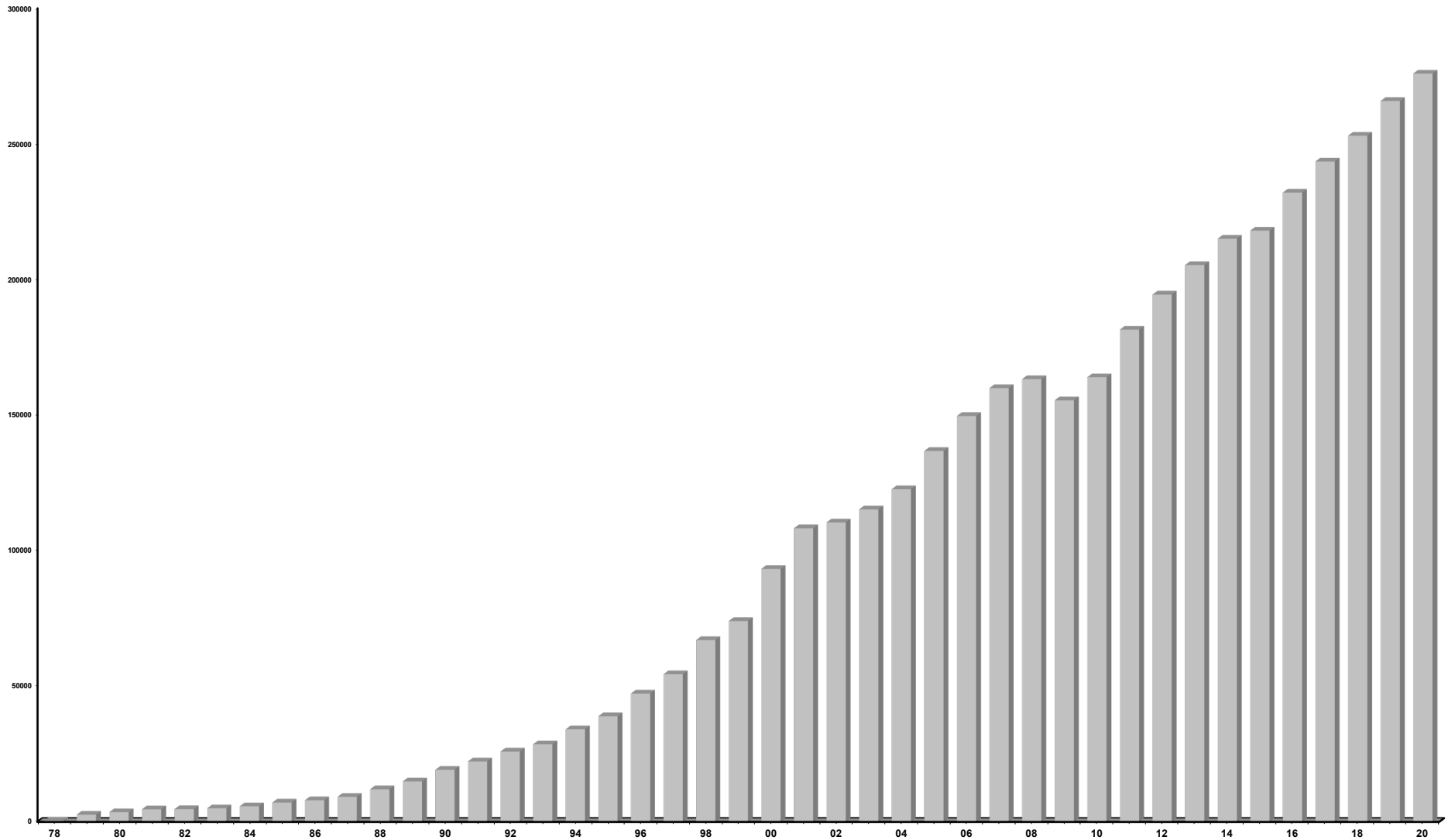
Vanuatu

Venezuela

Yemen

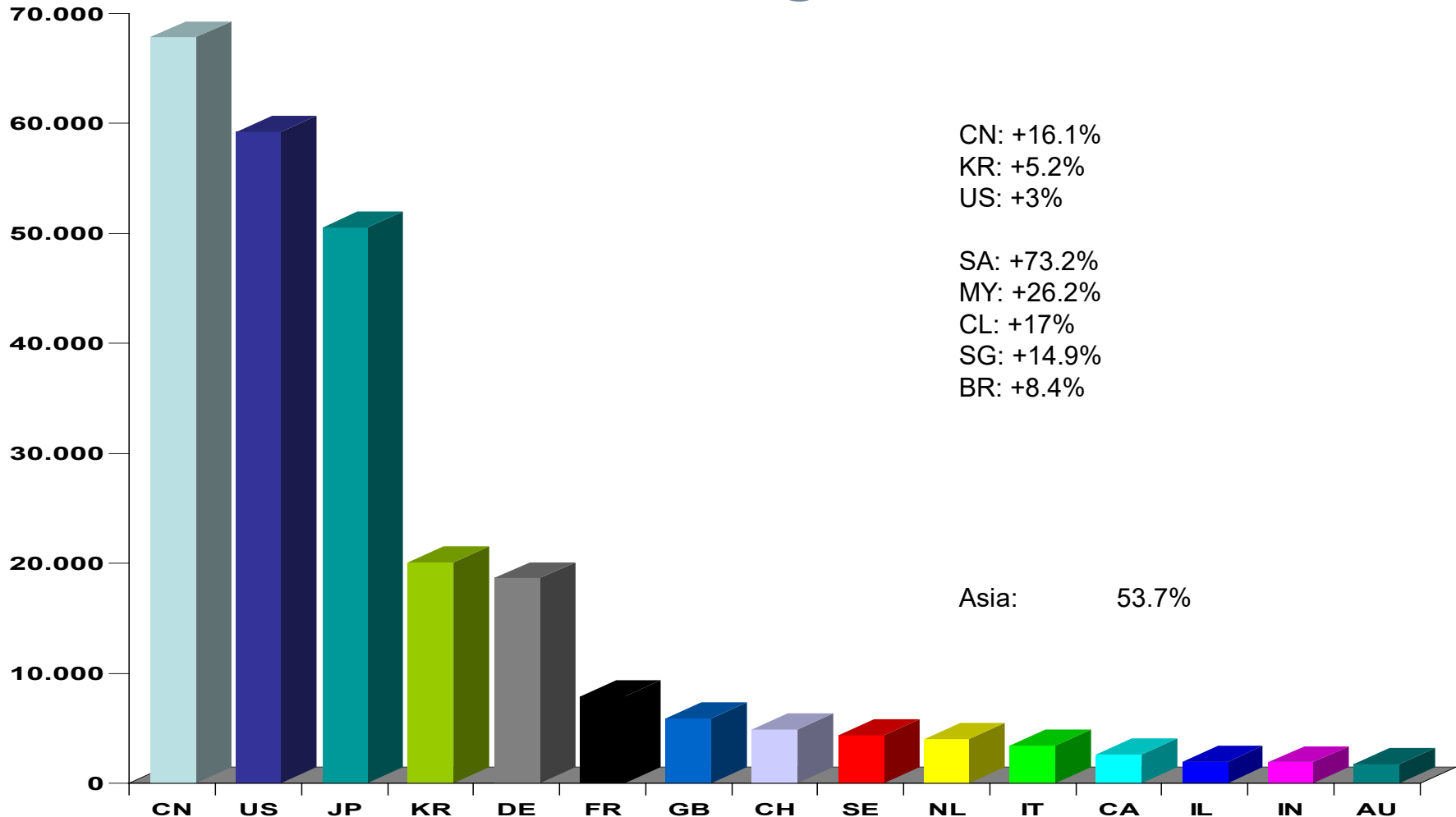


Growth in PCT application filings



2020: 275,900 filed (+4%)

International applications in 2020 by country of origin



- 25% originating in China, 21% in US, 18% in Japan
- 64% from the top 3 countries, 79% from top 5 countries, 93% of filings from top 15 countries



Top PCT applicants in 2020

1. Huawei Technologies—CN (5,464) () of published
PCT applications
2. Samsung—KR (3,093)
3. Mitsubishi Electric—JP (2,810)
4. LG Electronics—KR (2,759) (+67.6%)
5. Qualcomm—US (2,173)
6. Ericsson—SE (1,989)
7. BOE Technology Group—CN (1,892)
8. Guang Dong Oppo Mobile Telecom—CN (1,801)
9. Sony—JP (1,793)
10. Panasonic—JP (1,611)
11. Hewlett-Packard—US (1,595)
12. Microsoft—US (1,529)
13. Bosch—DE (1,375)
14. LG Chem, Ltd.—KR (1,374)
15. Nippon Telegraph & Telephone—JP (1,372)

Rule changes adopted by the PCT Assembly in October 2021 (1)

- Amendment of PCT Rules 5, 12, 13^{ter}, 19.4 and 49
 - ST.26 will replace ST.25 as the standard on sequence listings
 - Complete revision of Annex C and further changes to the Administrative Instructions to be implemented
- WIPO desktop tools:
 - *WIPO Sequence* software tool (for applicants) (<https://www.wipo.int/standards/en/sequence/index.html>) to help author standard-compliant SLs, and
 - *WIPO Sequence Validator* tool (for offices) to verify compliance
- ST. 26 Webinars: Introduction and Advanced
 - (https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=62848)
 - (https://www.wipo.int/meetings/en/details.jsp?meeting_id=62851)
- Planned entry into force: July 1, 2022

Rule changes adopted by the PCT Assembly in October 2021 (2)

- Amendment of PCT Rule 82*quater*
 - “Epidemic” added as one of the emergencies listed
 - Express authorization for Offices to waive the requirement to provide evidence
 - Authorization for Offices and Authorities to extend time limits covered by Rule 82*quater*, in addition to excusing delays in meeting such time limits
- Planned entry into force: July 1, 2022

Electronic communications

- New versions (as of 1 January 2022) of the Request/Demand/SIS Form sets sending of notifications by email as the default, if Office provides this service

* E-mail authorization: Indicating an e-mail address above authorizes the receiving Office, the International Searching Authority and the International Bureau, if they provide such a service, to send notifications exclusively by e-mail to that address, unless the following box is marked:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	notifications are requested to be sent exclusively by postal mail.
State (that is, country) of nationality:	State (that is, country) of residence:

- Section 102(h) Administrative Instructions: flexibility for Offices to design online filing interfaces: e.g., optional online retrieval of documents instead of sending of notifications; ePCT is being developed to provide for this option

- Section 705ter Administrative Instructions: legal basis for permitting international applications to be converted from one electronic format (e.g., PDF) to another electronic format (XML) for further processing

PATENTSCOPE/IP Portal/Office Profiles

■ PATENTSCOPE

- 73 national and regional patent collections; 100 million documents in total
- National phase entry information for 84 Offices
- Chemical compound search extended and Markush claims search
- Patent families and search of non-patent literature included

■ IP Portal

- WIPO Pay extended to PCT payments:
<https://www3.wipo.int/epayweb/public/index.xhtml>

■ Office Profiles in ePCT external

- Advanced information on processing settings of Offices (beyond Offices offering ePCT filing):
<https://pct.wipo.int/ePCTExternal/pages/OfficeProfile.xhtml>

Other developments

- Collaborative international search and examination pilot update
- Decommissioning of the PCT-SAFE software by July 2022: users are encouraged to switch to ePCT – RO/IB, RO/CA stopped accepting applications filed using PCT-SAFE
- IB would like to move to all electronic communications with applicants
- Webpage for notification under PCT Rule 82 *quater.2*
- PCT User Survey 2021

PCT training options

- Exploring the PCT Webinar Series (new in 2021)
(www.wipo.int/pct/en/seminar/webinars/index.html)
 - Free webinars on PCT topics for companies/law firms are also available on request
- “Learn the PCT” Video Series
(www.wipo.int/pct/en/training/index.html)
 - A series of 29 short videos designed to provide a basic introduction to important aspects and issues in the PCT system (in English, with several episodes also with Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Russian subtitles)
- PCT Distance Learning Course available in the 10 publication languages
(www.wipo.int/pct/en/distance_learning/index.html)
- More information on the PCT resources website:
www.wipo.int/pct

PCT Resources/Information

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Questions?

