

## **Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)**

### **Fifth Session**

**Geneva, May 29 to June 2, 2017**

#### **CREATION OF A TASK TO ESTABLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGN ELECTRONIC VISUAL REPRESENTATIONS**

*Document prepared by the Secretariat*

1. On February 15, 2017, IP Australia sent a letter to the Secretariat proposing the initiation by the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) of discussion on a standard for design electronic graphical views, in terms of file formats, resolutions, sizes and other applicable attributes, in order to guide industrial property (IP) offices and their customers to provide consistent, quality design images. The proposal by IP Australia is reproduced in the Annex to this document.
2. It is noted that due to the lack of a WIPO standard on electronic graphic views of designs, IP offices face difficulties in providing digital services and will implement different approach in receiving design graphical representations. Consequently, their customers have to deal with different requirements for design applications from different IP offices; there is also a possibility of incurring costs to customers having to convert the design graphical representation to different formats as required. IP offices might also face issues in inconsistent format and quality while exchanging data.
3. It should be recalled that the predecessor 'the Standards and Documentation Working Group' (SDWG) discussed several times the creation of a task to develop recommendations for images, photographs and drawings related to patent and industrial design documents. The SDWG agreed that the decision to create such task should be postponed until completion of the recommendations for figurative elements of trademarks. (See paragraphs 63 and 64 of document SCIT/SDWG/11/14; 63 to 65 of SCIT/SDWG/10/12; 73 of SCIT/SDWG/8/14; 38 of SCIT/SDWG/4/14.) WIPO Standard ST.67 (electronic management of the figurative elements of trademarks) was adopted in 2012 by the CWS.

4. In accordance with the proposal of IP Australia, and following the previous discussions and agreement by the SDWG and the CWS, the Secretariat proposes the following for consideration and approval by the CWS:

(a) the creation of a new Task whose description would read as follows:

“Collect information about the requirements from IP offices and customers; and prepare recommendations for electronic visual representations of designs”; and

(b) the establishment of a new Task Force, with its corresponding Task Force Leader, to handle the new task.

5. *The CWS is invited to:*

*(a) consider the proposal from the IP Australia, referred to in paragraph 1 and Annex to this document;*

*(b) consider and decide on the creation of the Task, referred to in paragraphs 4(a); and*

*(c) consider and decide on the establishment of the new Task Force and appoint Task Force Leader, referred to in paragraph 4(b).*

[Annex follows]



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ABN: 38 113 072 755

Discovery House, Phillip ACT 2606  
PO Box 200, Woden ACT 2606  
Australia

Phone: 1300 651 010  
International: +61 2 6283 2399  
[www.ipaustralia.gov.au](http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au)

15 February 2017

The Secretariat  
Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS)  
34, chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland  
WIPO (GB II 1.3)

Dear Sir/Madam

IP Australia would like to request that the Committee on WIPO Standards (CWS) consider and define a standard for design electronic graphical views, in terms of file formats, resolutions, sizes and other applicable attributes.

Currently, we do not have an agreed standard for design electronic graphical views, which can cause difficulties for IP offices in adopting digital services. Due to the lack of such standards, IP offices may implement different requirements in receiving design graphical representations. Consequently, customers could have to deal with different requirements for design applications for different IP offices; there is also a possibility of incurring costs to customers having to convert the design graphical representations to different formats as required. IP offices also face issues in inconsistent format and quality while exchanging data, or converting it to support internal processes.

The objective of the proposed task is to collect information about the requirements from customers and IP offices on the electronic graphical views of designs, and to develop a WIPO standard, defining a minimum agreed set of acceptable file formats and properties that would preserve the detail of the design. A direct benefit of the task and its resultant WIPO standard is to enable that a standard-conforming electronic graphical representation of design filed to one IP office can be re-used without conversion or reformatting in applications for other IP offices. This standard will hopefully minimise the handling cost and effort for customers and IP offices. It would also ensure the detail of designs are represented clearly, benefiting both the public and IP Offices in searching and viewing prior art.

A standard for design electronic graphical view should consider:

**Efficiency** – A design application requires a number of graphical views from different angles. On average, approximately 20 to 40 images are submitted for an application. The format of the image file and its attributes (including size and resolution) must ensure that they can be handled efficiently for transmitting and viewing.

**Clarity** - the format of the image file and its attributes must ensure all details of a design are clear and distinguishable.

**Technology aware** – current technology and emerging technology trends should be considered while working on this standard. Certain technologies such as 3D printing, or holographic images could be useful for design imaging.

IP Australia would greatly appreciate the CWS discuss this issue with a view to recommending a standard for design electronic graphical views, which will clearly guide IP offices and customers to provide consistent, quality design images.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sanjay Kalra'.

Sanjay Kalra  
Chief Information Officer

[End of Annex and of document]