



- **ePCT – WIPO’s online service for filing and managing patent applications under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)**
<https://pct.wipo.int>

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What is ePCT? (1)

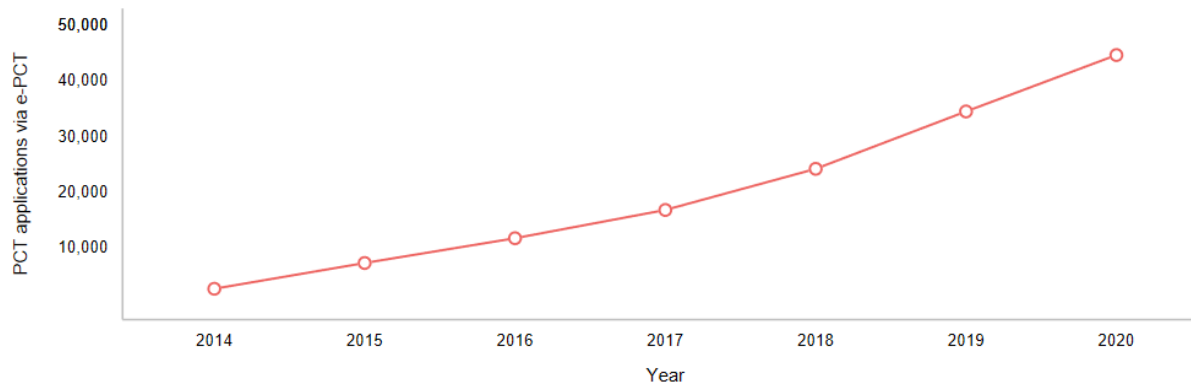
- Web system developed by WIPO that provides PCT online services for both applicants and IP Offices
<https://pct.wipo.int>
- User interface available in all PCT publication languages
- Provides secure and direct interaction with PCT applications maintained by the International Bureau
- ePCT-Filing at 70+ PCT receiving Offices
- ePCT allows applicants to conduct a number of electronic PCT transactions ('Actions') with the IB and other participating IP Offices

What is ePCT? (2)

- RO, ISA, IPEA + DO role-based access to PCT applications via secure ePCT Office accounts
- Increasing number of IP Offices now using ePCT for their regular PCT business using services hosted by WIPO
- [‘Office profile’](#) function allows you to look up if an Office is using ePCT and other useful reference data

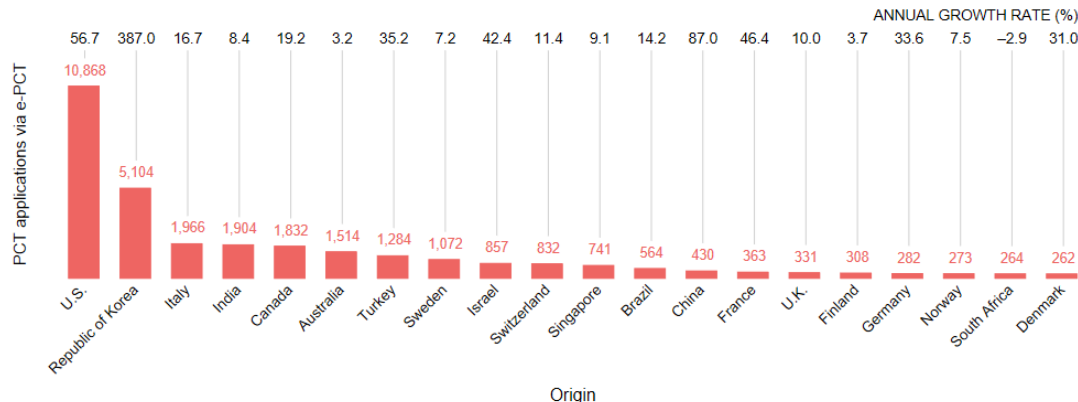
2020 ePCT Statistics

- Applicants filed about 44,500 PCT applications using ePCT in 2020, an increase of 29.4% compare on 2019.



■ PCT APPLICATIONS VIA E-PCT

- Top 5 origins of ePCT filings: US, KR, IT, IN, CA



% ePCT Filings (Jan - Nov 2021)

- RO/IB = 87%
- RO/US = 36%
- RO/AU = 97%
- RO/CA = 93%
- RO/KR = 52%
- RO/JO, KE, LV, NZ, OM, PH, PT, QA, SG, TN = 100 %

WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (1)

- IP Portal launched in September 2019
<https://ipportal.wipo.int/>
- Centralizes WIPO's online IP services with a single WIPO Account
- Access the online IP services from MENU in the navigation bar
- Notifications (bell icon in the navigation bar) include all your messages from WIPO, e.g., ePCT, Madrid, WIPO Current Account, etc.

WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (2)

■ WIPO IP Portal

The screenshot displays the WIPO IP Portal homepage. At the top, a dark navigation bar contains the text 'WIPO IP PORTAL', 'MENU', 'Covid-19 Update X', 'HELP', 'ENGLISH', 'LOGIN', and the 'WIPO' logo. The main content area has a light blue background with a network pattern. On the left, the heading 'WIPO IP Portal' is followed by 'Easy access to all online IP Services'. Below this, a sub-heading reads 'Find all services in the MENU and login with your WIPO Account for full access.' Two buttons are visible: 'Create WIPO Account' and 'Login', both highlighted with red boxes. On the right, two white boxes provide information: 'Discover the new version of the WIPO IP Portal' and 'Current Account at WIPO'. Below this, a section titled 'FILE YOUR INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS' includes a sub-heading 'We provide a fast, efficient and cost-effective route for obtaining IP protection in multiple countries.' Four service cards are shown: 'PATENTS' (The Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) System), 'TRADEMARKS' (The Madrid System), 'DESIGNS' (The Hague System), and 'GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS AND APPELLATIONS OF ORIGIN' (The Lisbon System). Each card has a 'Get started' button, with the 'PATENTS' button also highlighted by a red box.

WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (3)

■ Example of Dashboard - customizable by the user

The screenshot displays the 'MY DASHBOARD' interface of the WIPO IP Portal. The dashboard is organized into several widgets:

- WIDGETS**: A vertical sidebar on the left with a chevron icon.
- ePCT PENDING ITEMS**: A widget with a 'Strong Authentication' message and an 'Authenticate' button.
- PATENTSCOPE**: A search widget with a search bar and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar, it says 'Search in the front page of the patent documents.'
- KEY PCT TIME LIMITS**: A widget with a 'Strong Authentication' message and an 'Authenticate' button.
- WORLD CLOCK**: A widget showing the time '17:06' and the date 'THU Dec 02' in 'Switzerland'.
- MY FAVORITES**: A widget with links for 'ePCT', 'Digital Access Service (DAS) for Applicants', and 'PCT eServices Help'.
- PAYMENT DETAILS**: A widget showing four categories: 'Unpaid', 'Basket', 'Pending', and 'History', each with a '0' count. Below the counts, it says 'There are no Unpaid payments.'
- LATEST NEWS**: A widget displaying two news items from 'WIPO Wire' with dates and titles.
- WIPO PEARL TERM SEARCH**: A widget with a search bar and dropdown menus for 'Source language' and 'Target language'.
- PAYMENT SUMMARY**: A widget with four categories: 'Unpaid', 'Basket', 'Pending', and 'Payment History', each with a '0' count.
- NOTEPAD**: A widget with a text area containing 'PCT Seminar Demo 18.09.2019'.
- QUICK LINKS**: A widget with a link to 'Add a link or drag and drop a link.'

WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (4)

■ MENU - always available across the portal

The screenshot displays the WIPO IP Portal interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the WIPO IP PORTAL logo, a MENU button, a Covid-19 Update notification, and links for HELP, JIAO MO, and a shopping cart icon. Below the navigation bar is a search bar with the placeholder text "What are you looking for?" and a search icon, followed by a CLOSE button. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a vertical menu with the following items: MY FAVORITES, PATENTS, TRADEMARKS, DESIGNS, GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS, PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION (marked as New), DIGITAL EVIDENCE, ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION, DOMAIN NAME DISPUTE RESOLUTION, and PAYMENTS. The PATENTS item is highlighted in blue, and a red arrow points from it to the "File & Manage" sub-menu item. The "File & Manage" item is also highlighted in blue, and a red arrow points from it to the "ePCT" service card. The "ePCT" card is highlighted with a red border and contains the text: "ePCT", "File and manage your PCT applications online.", "ePCT Reference Data Look Up", "Consult reference data for PCT applications.", "PCT eServices Help", "Consult our FAQs or contact us by phone, e-mail or live chat.", "Digital Access Service [DAS] for Applicants", and "Register and manage priority documents for secure electronic exchange." The right column features a "WIPO Pay" banner, a "WIPO Lex" card, a "WIPO Academy" card, and a "WIPO GREEN" card.

WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (5)

■ New ePCT Homepage

WIPO IP PORTAL MENU ePCT [DEMO] HELP ENGLISH WIPO

HOME EPCT FOR APPLICANTS EPCT FOR IP OFFICES NEW USERS

WIPO'S GLOBAL PATENT GATEWAY FOR FILING AND MANAGING PCT APPLICATIONS

Login to ePCT

LATEST ePCT NEWS

Major updates to ePCT released on 01 Apr 2021

DID YOU KNOW?

Edit data in real time to request a change

WHAT IS ePCT?

ePCT is a secure browser-based system available in the 10 languages of publication offering a wide range of functions for applicants, IP Offices and third parties. Users with the relevant access rights can login to ePCT using their [WIPO Account](#) to access the latest bibliographic data and documents on record at the International Bureau (IB), including before publication. Login with strong authentication is required to access confidential information.

WHY USE ePCT?

Applicants can file new international applications to [participating PCT receiving Offices](#) and manage all subsequent processes using ePCT.

IP Offices can use the online functions hosted and maintained by WIPO to perform their functions as receiving Office (RO), International Searching Authority (ISA), International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) and/or designated Office (DO), potentially economizing both the effort and expense required to develop their own electronic systems.

BENEFITS OF ePCT

WORLDWIDE COVERAGE

Web-based system in 10 languages with no software to install or update.

[Learn More](#)

TRUSTED & SECURE

Secure access to live PCT data & documents on record at the IB.

[Learn More](#)

CONFIDENTIALITY

Access rights model for secure collaboration with trusted associates.

[Learn More](#)

WIPO IP Portal - ePCT Integration (6)

■ ePCT Workbench

User logged in with Strong Authentication

WIPO IP PORTAL MENU ePCT [DEMO] HELP JIAO MO WIPO

GENEVA DEC 2, 2021 4:42 PM CET

CREATE NEW IA FIND IA OUTSIDE OF MY WORKBENCH

WORKBENCH ▾

Current IAs Last Accessed Draft IAs Draft Actions Unpublished Published Archived Search

Advanced search | Download list | Columns | Show rows [ALL] | Default sort order [Last Accessed]

<input type="checkbox"/>	IA Number ◯	IA Status ◯	File Ref ◯	IFD ◯	Priority ◯	Portfolio ◯	Applicant Name ◯	My Rights ◯	Warning ◯
<input type="checkbox"/>	PCT/IB2021/040284	Not yet Published	D-Decl-2	23 Jun 2021	01 Jul 2020	EPCT ACTIONS	ABC COMPANY	eOwner	R92bis pending
<input type="checkbox"/>	PCT/IB2020/040393	Not yet Published	D-20200408-2	11 Dec 2020	08 Apr 2020	PCTSEMINARDEMO	ABC COMPANY	eOwner	Add
<input type="checkbox"/>	PCT/EP2020/090137	New IA - RO Phase	D-20200423-EP	23 Apr 2020	01 Apr 2020	2021 TRAINING	GEORGE, Smith	eOwner	Add
<input type="checkbox"/>	RO to assign	New IA - Downloaded	CA001		01 Apr 2019	ROCA	ABC COMPANY	eOwner	Add
<input type="checkbox"/>		New IA - Draft	D-AIPLA2020DEM02		01 Sep 2020	AIPLA	DREAM COMPANY	eOwner	Add

ePCT - with / without Strong Authentication

- **Single WIPO Account** (username and password) gives access to ePCT and WIPO's other online services
 - Create a WIPO Account
<https://www3.wipo.int/myaccount/en/>
- ePCT **without** strong authentication
 - Limited functionality, e.g. upload documents
 - Practical alternative to mail and fax (*only very limited fax transmissions with the IB available as of 01 January 2020*)
- ePCT **with** strong authentication
 - Additional identity verification allows access to all services and functions including the filing of PCT applications
 - Access to PCT applications filed as of 01 January 2009, including before publication

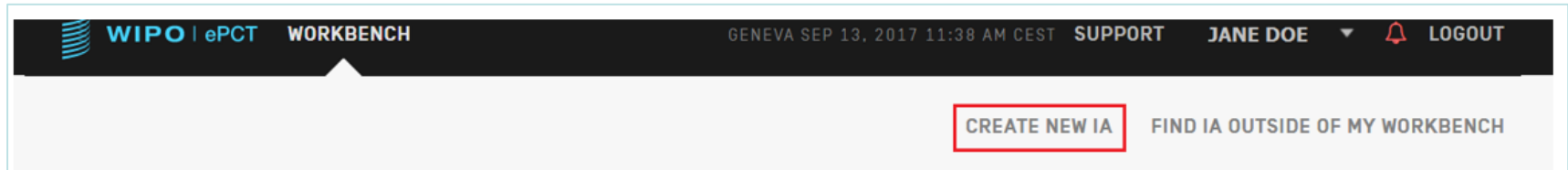
ePCT Strong Authentication

- Best practice - set up **at least 2 strong authentication methods**
 - ❑ Authenticator App with one-time password on a mobile device or equivalent app for computer, e.g. WinAuth
 - ❑ SMS with one-time password
 - ❑ A digital certificate from WIPO (EPO smart cards are also supported)
- Set-up instructions available on ePCT [HELP](#) page

Main Functionalities

- Create new international application
- eOwnership request
 - At the time of filing
 - After filing
- Establish e-Handshakes with other WIPO account holders
- Manage access rights
- Access to documents as held by the IB, but also other Authorities (RO, ISA, IPEA)
- Perform Actions on IAs, including upload documents

ePCT-Filing



- Web-based filing of PCT applications available to all PCT applicants
- Request form can be prepared in all PCT publication languages
- Real-time validation of data against the electronic processing system of the International Bureau
- Fill in the screens in the order in which they appear to benefit from re-use of certain data
- More detailed information in [ePCT-Filing](#) on the HELP page

File View

- Shortcut links for navigating to each section
- DATA: publication date and front page preview available

The screenshot displays the WIPO ePCT interface for the patent PCT/IB2017/080020. The top navigation bar includes the WIPO ePCT logo, the patent number, the location and date (GENEVA MAR 3, 2017 8:48 AM CET), and user information (SUPPORT, JANE DOE). A secondary navigation bar contains links for DATA, DOCUMENTS, ACTIONS, ACCESS RIGHTS, TIMELINE, and HISTORY, with 'DATA' highlighted. Below this, the patent number '1234567 PCT/IB2017/080020' is displayed with a dropdown arrow. A table of key information follows:

IA Status Not yet Published	Int. Filing Date 23 Jan 2017	ISA/EP Search copy not yet sent
Applicant[s] ABC COMPANY [+1] Inventor[s] SMITH, John		
Portfolio	Team at IB PCT RO/IB Team	Language of Filing EN

Below the table is a vertical list of navigation options: DATA, DOCUMENTS, ACTIONS, ACCESS RIGHTS, TIMELINE, and HISTORY, each with a right-pointing arrow.

IA Dropdown Menu

- Quick access to a number of useful ePCT functions

The screenshot displays the WIPO PCT interface for application **D-EXSIG PCT/IB2021/040222**. At the top, navigation tabs include DATA, DOCUMENTS, FEES, ACTIONS, ACCESS RIGHTS, TIMELINE, NATIONAL PHASE, and HISTORY. A 'SEND EPCT MESSAGE' button is located in the top right corner. The application title is prominently displayed with a dropdown arrow icon. A 'Close' button is positioned to the right of the title. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains application details: IA Status (Not yet Published), Priority Date (31 May 2020), Applicant(s) (ABC COMPANY), Inventor(s) (SMITH, John), Team at IB PCT (R0/IB Team), and Title (EN) (PCT TEST APPLICATION). The right column shows 'Search fee pending'. A red-bordered dropdown menu is open, listing the following actions: Archive, Add to Portfolio, Warning Message, My Comments, Clone IA, View draft IA as filed via ePCT, IA Status Report (PDF), IA Status Report (XML), History, and Add bookmark (with an external link icon).

eOwnership and Access Rights

- Access rights (eOwnership) allow you to manage a PCT application in ePCT
- eOwnership is automatic when using ePCT-Filing
- If ePCT-Filing is not used, additional steps are required to take eOwnership (e.g. PCT-SAFE, JPO-PAS, eOLF)
- eOwnership can be obtained for all PCT applications, paper-filed or electronically-filed
- Access rights can be assigned even to drafts prior to filing - practical for signing purposes for ePCT-Filing
- eOwner can share access with eHandshake contacts
- Other roles: eEditor and eViewer

Share Access Rights - eHandshake

- First step in sharing access rights to PCT applications
- Association and trusted recognition between different WIPO User Accounts with strong authentication before access rights can be shared
- eHandshakes do not directly result in shared access rights which have to be specifically assigned (default access rights options can be pre-defined)
- Best practice - always have **at least 2 eOwners** to facilitate access rights management

Upload Post-filing Documents

- ‘Upload documents’ (mostly PDF format) to the IB and also to participating Offices in capacity as RO, ISA, IPEA
 - Types of document selectable depend on recipient selected
 - A cover letter is automatically generated - user can type a message to be included in the cover letter
- Simple, secure alternative to sending documents by fax or mail
- Current date and time at the *recipient* Office is displayed in the interface and set as date of receipt
- After upload, documents are visible under Documents and the recipient Office is notified by the system

Access to Documents on Record

- Access to documents on Record as held by the IB, but also documents submitted to ePCT participating Offices in their capacity as RO, ISA, IPEA

▼ DOCUMENTS				
▼ RECORD AS HELD BY THE IB				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documents [Doc ID] ⇅	Source ⇅	Status ⇅	Date ▼
<input type="checkbox"/>	E filing Transmission Receipt [11] 1 page	ePCT	Processed	06 Mar 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	ePCT Message [91] 1 page	RO	Not yet processed	06 Mar 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Application Body as Filed [2] 4 pages	ePCT	Not yet processed	06 Mar 2017
▼ DOCUMENTS FOR ISA/EP				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documents [Doc ID] ⇅	Source ⇅	Status ⇅	Date ▼
<input type="checkbox"/>	ePCT Cover Letter [10] 1 page	ePCT	Copy as received	07 Mar 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request for Rectification [11] 1 page	ePCT	Copy as received	07 Mar 2017
▼ DOCUMENTS FOR IPEA/EP				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Documents [Doc ID] ⇅	Source ⇅	Status ⇅	Date ▼
<input type="checkbox"/>	Chapter II Demand for IPEA [13] 6 pages	ePCT	Copy as received	07 Mar 2017
<input type="checkbox"/>	ePCT Cover Letter [12] 1 page	ePCT	Copy as received	07 Mar 2017

ePCT Actions

- Full suite of Actions only available if signed in to ePCT with strong authentication and with eOwner or eEditor access rights to an application

▼ **ACTIONS**

Select Action

Action *

- Amendments Under Article 19 (text format only)
- Create Power of Attorney
- Declarations under Rule 4.17
- Licensing Availability Request
- Make international application available to DAS
- Observations on close prior art
- Obtain priority document from DAS
- Online Payment
- Prepare and submit indications relating to biological material (RO/134)
- Request for Early Publication
- Rule 92bis change request
- Submit Chapter II Demand
- Translation for international publication
- Upload Documents
- Withdraw Chapter II Demand
- Withdraw Designation(s)
- Withdraw Election(s)
- Withdraw International Application
- Withdraw Priority Claim(s)

Benefits of using ePCT Actions

- 'Actions' should be used instead of the equivalent document upload
- User benefits from pre-filled bibliographic data and automated validations to avoid errors; time limit checks
- Data and documents submitted through Actions are directly imported for processing with no need for retyping (reduces potential transcription errors)
- Secondary workflow benefits, e.g.,
 - Action to withdraw application automatically prevents publication if technical preparations not yet complete
 - Action to submit Chapter II Demand reroutes to IB if required for time limit (e.g., time limit just expired at IPEA/AU)

ePCT HELP (1)

- Use the 'HELP' link in the ePCT header
<https://www.wipo.int/pct/en/epct/support.html>
- FAQs and user documentation
 - ❑ Database of help info - use 'Search' feature to pinpoint a topic
 - ❑ Webinars on ePCT
 - ❑ Useful video tutorials
- [Contingency upload service](#) available via HELP page to submit PDF documents to the IB (to be used only if the ePCT system is not available)

ePCT HELP (2)

- Look up ePCT reference data held in IB data base - the basis for extensive validations in the system, including Office profiles, closed dates, fees, etc.

<https://pct.wipo.int/ePCTExternal/pages/home.xhtml>

- PCT eServices

- Tel: +41 22 338 9523

- E-mail: pct.eservices@wipo.int

- Monday to Friday, 9am-6pm Geneva time

- Chat feature available

Useful ePCT Articles

- [Getting started](#)
- [ePCT strong authentication methods](#)
- [eOwnership](#)
- [eHandshakes and Access Rights](#)
- [External signature](#)
- [Actions](#)
- [ePCT Filing](#)
 - [Filing at RO/IB \(as an example of ePCT-Filing\)](#)
 - [Filing at RO/US using ePCT in combination with EFS-Web](#)

Thank you!

