

# **AUTOMATION OF THE PCT SYSTEM**

## **AUTOMATION OF THE PCT SYSTEM – MANDATE**

**On 27 March 1998, the Assemblies of the Member States of WIPO approved the proposed project for the automation of the PCT system and authorized the financing of that project by the Special Reserve Fund for Additional Premises and Computerization. The project had been proposed:**

- to cope with the rapid growth in filings of international applications and demands for international preliminary examination,**
- to facilitate communications between PCT Offices, and**
- to permit a more effective form of information dissemination to PCT users, while at the same time minimizing the need for growth of staff, office and storage space requirements.**

## **The main features of the project are as follows**

- (1) automation of the PCT operations of the International Bureau with the introduction of an electronic document management system**
- (2) the further development of an electronic filing software (“PCT-EASY” (Electronic Application SYstem))**
- (3) the communication between the PCT Offices and the International Bureau of documents, notifications and information**

## **Beneficiaries of the automated PCT system (1)**

- (1) applicants—by permitting them to file international applications in electronic form, check data in their application for errors, and pay lower fees (PCT costs should be reduced since PCT operations will, as a result of the automation, be less labor-intensive, less office space will be needed, and publication costs, including paper, printing and mailing costs, will be reduced);**
- (2) receiving Offices—by permitting them to process incoming international applications electronically, including automatic formality checks, and to electronically transmit those applications, and other documents, to the International Bureau and to International Searching Authorities;**

## **Beneficiaries of the automated PCT system (2)**

- (3) the International Bureau—by permitting the electronic processing of international applications, including their publication, in an automated fashion, by receiving through electronic means international search and preliminary examination reports, and by allowing the automatic communication to designated and elected Offices of all information and documents needed for the national processing of an international application either in paper or electronic form**

## **Beneficiaries of the automated PCT system (3)**

- (4) all Offices of or acting for the PCT Contracting States—which will be in a position to better and more economically cope with their workload resulting from the increasing number of applications and to receive, for the national phase, only the information they need when it is needed; and finally,**
- (5) the general public—for whom access to PCT information in electronic form and in searchable form will be further enhanced.**

## **BACKGROUND**

**Terms of Reference of the PCT Evaluation Study  
carried out from July to December, 1997  
by Deloitte & Touche Consulting (Praxis)**

- **Analysis of current PCT processes and tools**
- **Analysis of future requirements**
- **Identification of opportunities for greater efficiency through document automation**
- **Functional and technical recommendations for future systems, including key products**
- **Recommendations for achieving smooth transition from old to new environments**
- **Recommended global implementation plan**

## **Approach and Methodology**

- **Balance human & technical viewpoints**
- **Use models that Users can relate to**
- **Integrate *Process, Data & Documents***
- **Start analysis without a solution in mind, but**
- **Provide route to realistic technical solutions**
- **Draw upon best experience available**
- **Recommend solutions based on COTS**

**(COTS = Commercial Off The Shelf)**



## **CONCLUSION**

- **PCT Automation should be viewed as an ongoing process, and not a single monolithic effort**
- **The essential core systems will have to be designed and implemented in a coherent, coordinated and timely manner requiring the availability of a critical mass of highly specialized expertise at the start**
- **The PCT Automation project will form an integral part of the WIPO IT strategy and will be consistent with the WIPO Global Information Network**