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First fully electronic international registration of a mark by WIPO

The first international trademark registration resulting from purely electronic transmissions was inscribed in the International Register of Marks at WIPO in January.

The international application in electronic form was transmitted to WIPO by the Swiss Federal Institute of Intellectual Property (SFIIP). The establishment of electronic data exchange between WIPO and SFIIP was achieved after close technical cooperation between the two organizations. SFIIP and WIPO had been working together over a period of

six months to establish an effective electronic data exchange system. After agreement had been reached on the modalities, both WIPO and SFIIP initiated projects to develop the necessary software to support the various automated functions necessary to manage data exchange and SFIIP started formally transmitting electronic communications to WIPO in December 1998.

International Registration number 704605, which was published in the WIPO Gazette of International Marks volume 1999/01, has an international registration date of

November 18, 1998 and was based on a Swiss national registration bearing the date of November 11, 1998, illustrating the speed with which international protection can be obtained where electronic exchange mechanisms are employed.

The international registration was later notified to SFIIP (as Office of Origin) by electronic means, thus completing a full circuit of electronic communication between WIPO and SFIIP.