

raster images include JPEG, TIFF, PNG and BMP

STL – Standard Tessellation Language - a file format native to the stereolithography CAD software created by 3D Systems

STEP – Standard for the Exchange of Product model data –an open ISO Standard which can represent 3D objects in Computer-aided design (CAD) and related information

Vector graphics – An image file that is composed of shapes formed of mathematical formulas and coordinates on a 2D plane. As opposed to raster images, vector graphics have the property of scaling infinitely without any degradation of quality

X3D – Successor of VRML, an Open ISO Standard XML format

Part 1. IP objects and stages of their lifecycle

2. 1.1. Does your office currently use 3D models or 3D images for IP objects within the office? If so, for which IP objects

Patents in chemistry as a field of technology (e.g. chemical structures, biological structures)

Patents in other fields of technology (e.g. Electrical engineering, Mechanical engineering, etc.)

3. 1.2. Does your office consider using 3D models or 3D images for IP objects in the future? If so, for which IP objects

4. 1.3. On which stages of IP objects' lifecycle does your office currently accept/implement 3D models?

	Filing of the application	Examination	Storage	Search	Publication	Data exchange	Other (please specify in comments)
Trademarks							
Industrial designs							
Patents in chemistry as a field of technology (e.g. chemical structures, biological structures)							X
Patents (e.g. inventions and/or utility models) in other fields of technology except chemistry							X
Integrated circuit topology							

Comments: The only thing we accept in this regard are images for patents which are drawn in perspective, i.e. which indicate length, depth and height in the drawing

5. 1.4. Does your Office carry out any image transformations? If so, for which objects and on which stages?

	Filing of the application	Examination	Storage	Search	Publication	Data exchange	Other (please specify in comments)
Trademarks							
Industrial designs							
Patents in chemistry as a field of technology (e.g. chemical structures, biological structures)	X	X	X		X	X	
Patents (e.g. inventions and/or utility models) in other fields of technology except chemistry	X	X	X		X	X	
Integrated circuit topology							

Comments: The transformations concern scanning applications that were filed on paper, reducing the size of files or cropping images

6. 1.5. On which stages of IP objects' lifecycle does your office consider accepting/implementing 3D models in the future?

	Filing of the application	Examination	Storage	Search	Publication	Data exchange	Not sure	Other (please specify in comments)
Trademarks							X	
Industrial designs							X	
Patents in chemistry as a field of technology (e.g. chemical structures, biological structures)							X	
Patents (e.g. inventions and/or utility models) in other fields of technology except chemistry							X	
Integrated circuit topology							X	
Other (please specify)							X	

Comments: We are currently not considering this

Part 2. Existing practices and future plans

7. 2.1. Please describe existing practices/future plans for using 3D models and 3D images within your office

As indicated previously, in this regard we only accept images for patents which are drawn in perspective, i.e. which indicate length, depth and height in the drawing.

Part 3. Regulations

8. 3.1. What laws and regulations concerning 3D models and 3D images are implemented within your jurisdiction?

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Part 4. Formats and technical tools

9. 4.1. Which formats of 3D models or 3D images does your office use at the moment? Does your office use the same or different formats for different stages of lifecycle: filling, examination, publication etc.?

PDF and JPEG

10. 4.2. Which formats of 3D models or 3D images does your office consider using in the future? Does your office consider using the same or different formats for different stages of lifecycle: filling, examination, publication etc.?

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11. 4.3. Please provide us with your suggestions and proposals on formats and reasons why you suppose them to be important (a list of formats to consider) except mentioned in items 6.1, 6.2

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12. 4.4. Which technical tools does your office currently use to work with 3D models (i.e. viewers, converters, etc.)? Are these standard tools commercially available, or do you consider using any special tool developed for your Office or by your Office?

Adobe reader

13. 4.5. Which technical tools does your office consider using in future work with 3D models (i.e. viewers, converters, etc.)? Are these standard tools commercially available, or do you consider using any special tool developed for your Office or by your Office?

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14. 4.6. Please provide us with your suggestions and proposals on tools and reasons why do you suppose them to be important (a list of tools to consider)

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Part 5. Specific requirements and limitations

15. 5.1. Please provide us with preferable specific file requirements? Should they be the same or different for different objects and stages (i.e. limitations and restrictions for 3D files, size (Mb) and format of 3D model for storing, processing, and sharing, etc.)

We have a 5 Mb limit for PDF and JPEG files.

16. 5.2. In your opinion, what would be the main requirements when choosing 3D file formats (open source, wide spread adoption, etc.)

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17. 5.3. In your opinion, what would be the main requirements when choosing tools for working with 3D files?

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Part 6. Expectations concerning the use of 3D

18. 6.1. Which specific advantages and/or drawbacks do you expect from 3D models and 3D images regarding search, for instance prior art search?

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19. 6.2. Do you expect that applicants will comply to provide 3D models which fulfill the defined standards?

Part 7. Other

20. 7.1. Do you have any other comments?

As for trademarks and designs, the Benelux Office for Intellectual Property would be open to, for example, European initiatives which explore the possibilities of using 3D images or models.

3. Review Page

You have reached the end of the survey questions. Your answers have been saved.

If you or your colleagues wish to revise your answers later, you can use the link emailed to you with the **Save and Continue** option in the top right of this page. The **Review** or **Back** button below will return you to your answers.

When you are ready to submit your final answers, click the **Submit** button below. You will no longer be able to edit your responses after clicking **Submit**.

You may download a copy of your answers:

4. Thank You!

Thank you for taking our survey. Your response is very important to us.
