

# 2025 PCT Training Seminar

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E-filing of the PCT application

1

## One of my favorite things about ePCT

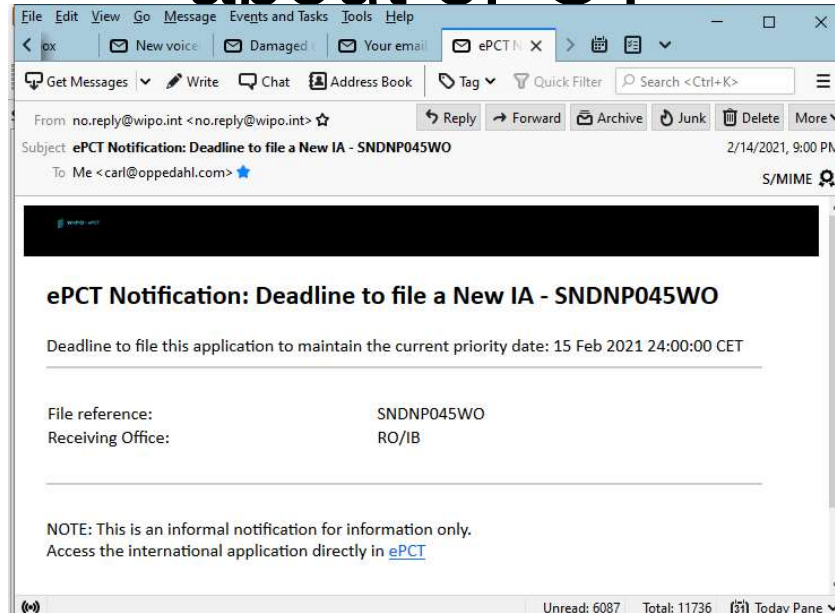
You start preparing a PCT Request and you enter a  
priority claim for an application that was filed 364  
days ago

In other words, the one-year period runs out one day  
from now

Wouldn't it be nice if some system somewhere would  
remind you that you have only one day left to get the  
PCT application filed?

2

# One of my favorite things about ePCT



3

## The e-filing process

- In the old days we would prepare a paper Express Mail package and we would take it to the Post Office
- Two people licked their fingers and flipped through the pages one at a time
- Every page got looked at
- Mistakes got caught

4

# The e-filing process

- These days the e-filing might be carried out by one person, clicking away in isolation
- One hour before midnight in Geneva
- Or one hour before midnight in Alexandria, Virginia
- The last of the client instructions came in only earlier the same day
- Extreme time pressure
- Maybe there is a second pair of eyes, maybe not

5

## How I do it

- If I am filing the PCT application in Patentcenter, I ***do not pay the fees!***
- I wait until I have had an opportunity to look closely to see if I screwed up and uploaded the wrong version of the application from yesterday, or the wrong drawings from another case
- Then if I see that I did not screw it up, I actually pay the fees

6

## Same-day corrections

- If you file in RO/IB using ePCT, there is a “same-day corrections” countdown timer that lets you know how much time is left before midnight in Geneva

7

## Drawings

- Do not file informal drawings
- Do not use color
- Do not use gray scale

8

# Color drawings

- Some practitioners think they are smarter than everybody else, and they have figured out how to use color drawings in PCT applications
- They are not smarter than everybody else
- There are over a hundred patent offices where you can enter the national or regional phase from a PCT
  - Over 90 of them simply refuse to honor color drawings
- You need to have the self-control to avoid trying to file color drawings in PCT applications
- Yes of course it is very hard work to do it, but you must find ways to communicate what you want using pure black and white
  - Clearly you need to do this hard work many months before PCT filing day. Do not postpone this hard work until just a few days before PCT filing day
  - Probably you need to address this at the time of filing the priority application
- Maybe use words in addition to the pure black and white drawings
- Maybe use completely different ways to portray what you want to portray
- Maybe use stippling (which means each pixel is either pure black or pure white)
- Do not try to rely upon color drawings in your PCT applications
- All of the above comments apply equally to the use of gray scale

9

# Previewing in ePCT

- If you are e-filing in RO/IB using ePCT, it will detect color or gray scale and it will let you preview to see how the color or gray scale will get converted
- This is a very nice feature
- Patentcenter fails to offer such a feature

10

## If you are filing in RO/US

- A reminder that you need to be uploading a ZIP file Request
- Not a PDF Request
- It is malpractice not to upload a ZIP file

11

## If you are filing in RO/US

- A reminder that your ZIP file needs to come from ePCT
- Not from PCT-SAFE
- It is malpractice not to use ePCT to generate your ZIP file

12

## If you are filing in an RO that is not RO/IB

- A reminder that when you indicate how your priority documents should get from the RO to the IB, do not pick “RO to transmit to IB”
- Pick “IB to retrieve from DAS”
- Only if you make this selection will ePCT cross-check your priority claims with DAS

13

## Systems that run in parallel

We will talk about a system that can generate warnings of upcoming due dates that can run in parallel with your own warnings from your own docket system

14

# ePCT

ePCT has a function that is somewhat like Patent Center and the old Private PAIR

It lets you see the content and status of your pending PCT applications, just as Patent Center lets you see the content and status of your pending US applications

But does Patent Center send you warnings of upcoming due dates? No!

ePCT sends you warnings of upcoming due dates!

Does Patent Center maintain a time line for each application, listing upcoming due dates? No!

ePCT maintains a time line for each application, listing upcoming due dates.

It would be daft not to make full use of the automatic warnings that ePCT sends you for your upcoming due dates on your PCT applications.

Right?

15

# ePCT

Clearly you are going to want to make sure that all of your pending PCT applications are visible to you in ePCT, just as all of your pending US applications are visible to you in Patent Center

It would be daft not to make it so. Right?

16



# ePCT

This means that you need to do what it takes to make it so that each new PCT application that you file automatically gets loaded into the part of ePCT that is like the old Private PAIR

This means that you need to do what it takes to get all of your old pending PCT applications loaded into the part of ePCT that is like the old Private PAIR

17

## Communicating with the client about the filed PCT application

- Client must be clearly told about the “30-month date”
- Client should also be told that the PCT application will be published at P+18
- 10% of the reason for doing this is so that the client will hear these things
- 90% of the reason for doing this is to protect your situation

18

## Communicating with the client about the filed PCT application

- When the PCT application becomes visible to you in ePCT ...
- You may wish to download the publication preview page and send it to the client for review
- This gives the client a chance to let you know if there has been any mistake or misunderstanding about inventors, priority, applicant name etc.

19

## Communicating with the client about the filed PCT application

- You may want to tell the client once about the “two-country” docket
- For TZ and LU if you want to postpone a direct national phase filing until 30 months, you will have to file a Demand by P+19
- Even if you do not file a Demand by P+19, you can still reach either of these countries by means of a regional-phase entry

20

What about your cases  
that you filed a year ago?  
Cases that you filed a year ago that  
are not yet in ePCT?  
You need to get them loaded into  
ePCT

21

## ePCT

Did I mention that it is good to be  
using ePCT?

22

# Possible live demo

23

# Upcoming webinars

- 8 - Friday, December 12, 2025  
What to do when the International Search Report and Written Opinion arrive, do you file a Demand?
- 9 - Monday, December 15, 2025  
Using ePCT for “actions” such as 92*bis* requests, communicating with ISAs
- 10 - Tuesday, December 16, 2025  
Mechanics of filing a Demand, steps before and after filing the Demand
- 11 - Wednesday, December 17, 2025  
Understanding and using the five kinds of PCT declarations

24

# Upcoming webinars

- 12 - Thursday, December 18, 2025  
National-phase entry generally – tips for some Offices
- 13 - Friday, December 19, 2025  
Choosing between US national-phase entry and bypass continuation
- 14 - Monday, December 22, 2025  
Best practices and procedure for US national-phase entry
- 15 - Tuesday, December 23, 2025  
Making use of PCT-PPH, and comparison with Track I

25

## Thank you!

26