

Specification Authoring Template and ePAVE. This includes 10.75 hours to gather the information, read the instructions and user guides, and prepare the specification document using the EFS Specification Authoring Template, and 2.5 hours for tagging the elements and submitting the application electronically.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 397,500 hours per year.

Estimated Total Annual Cost Burden: The PTO provides the EFS specification authoring template and ePAVE software to the customer. However, some participants have voluntarily purchased a word processing license or upgrade to their word processing package to take full advantage of the authoring template. In light of this, the PTO estimates a possible capital start-up cost ranging from \$100 to \$200. The PTO has

determined from the pilot that a mix of attorneys and paraprofessional clerical personnel have been creating and submitting the new utility patent applications using EFS. Using the average of the professional hourly rate for associate attorneys in private firms (\$175) and paraprofessional/clerical (\$30), the PTO estimates \$40,942,500 for salary costs associated with respondents.

| Format/data entry screens | PTO form number | Estimated time for response | Estimated annual burden hours | Estimated annual responses |
|--|---------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| EFS Pilot Specification Authoring Template | No Forms Associated | 10.75 | 397,500 | 30,000 |
| ePAVE | | 2.5 | | |
| Totals | | | 397,500 | 30,000 |

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they will also become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 14, 2000.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-6764 Filed 3&-17&-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Patent Cooperation Treaty

ACTION: Proposed collection; comment request.

SUMMARY: The Department of Commerce (DOC), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to comment on the continuing and proposed information collection, as required by

the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

DATES: Written comments must be submitted on or before May 19, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Direct all written comments to Linda Engelmeier, Departmental Forms Clearance Officer, Department of Commerce, Room 5027, 14th and Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20230 or via the Internet (*LEngelme@doc.gov*).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Rafael Bacares by telephone at (703) 308-6312, by facsimile transmission at (703) 308-6459, or by e-mail at *rbacares@uspto.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Abstract

This collection of information is required by the provisions of the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), a United Nations Treaty that was signed on June 19, 1970 by the 20 member states of the Paris Union for the Protection of Industrial Property (of which the United States is a member). The general purpose of the PCT is to simplify the filing of patent applications for the same invention in different countries. This treaty standardizes the filing procedures and the format of the application, and enables an applicant to file one international application in one location, in one language and pay one initial set of fees. The international application receives an international filing date (priority date) that is considered to be the actual filing date in the various designated countries. The PCT has streamlined the filing process and made it more efficient. The PCT became operational in June of 1978, and

is administered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva, Switzerland.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) acts in the capacity of the United States Receiving Office (RO/US) for international applications filed by residents and nationals of the United States. While applicants send most of their correspondence directly to the PTO, they also can file certain documents directly with the International Bureau (IB). The PTO also serves in the capacity of an International Searching Authority (ISA) and an International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA).

The PCT allows for the introduction of electronic filing of the international application, as long as the confidentiality requirements are met. The PTO currently has various electronic filing efforts underway. One of these, the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Operations Workflow and Electronic Review (POWER), will allow for the electronic filing of international applications. POWER is being implemented in two phases. Phase I, which the PTO released in October 1999, allows the PTO to electronically process international applications. The second phase of POWER, currently in development, will allow applicants to file their international applications electronically. The PTO estimates that Phase II will be released in late FY 2000.

II. Method of Collection

The current method of collection of the PCT application by the PTO is either by mail or hand delivery. Follow-up communications (e.g. amendments, petitions, etc.), except for drawings, may, in addition to the above methods, be transmitted to the PTO by facsimile.

III. Data

OMB Number: 0651-0021.

Form Numbers: Form PCT/RO/101, Form PCT/RO/101 (Annex), PTO/1382, Form PCT/Model of power of attorney, Form PCT/Model of general power of attorney, Form PCT/RO/134, Form PCT/RO/144, Form PCT/IPEA/401, Form PCT/IPEA/401 (Annex), and Form PCT/IB/328. Not all of the information required by this collection is collected from the public by using forms. It is not mandatory that an applicant use these forms to provide the PTO with the necessary information. However, the PTO advises applicants to use these forms to ensure that all of the necessary information is provided and to assist the PTO in processing the international applications quickly and efficiently.

Type of Review: Renewal with change.

Affected Public: Individuals or households, business or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions, farms, Federal Government, and state, local, or tribal government.

Estimated Number of Respondents: 467,103 responses per year. Of this total, 48,149 responses are due to additional requirements overlooked in previous submissions. The PTO estimates that 29,367 requests to the IB to transmit copies of an international application; 3,305 withdrawals of internal applications, designations of the state, demands, election, and priority claims; 522 requests/authorizations to access international applications; and 14,955 translations will be submitted per year.

Estimated Time Per Response: The PTO estimates that it will take the public from 15 minutes to 4 hours to gather the information required by this information collection. In addition, the

PTO estimates that it will take the public from 15 minutes to 2 hours to provide the information for the information requirements overlooked in the previous submissions. The time estimates for the forms include the amount of time that the PTO estimates that it will take an applicant to read and understand the instructions, gather the necessary information, complete the forms, prepare the necessary attachments, and submit the forms to the PTO.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 467,103 hours per year.

Estimated Total Annual Cost Burden: \$0 (no capital start-up or maintenance expenditures are required). Using the professional hourly rate of \$175.00 for associate attorneys in private firms, the PTO estimates \$81,743,025 for salary costs associated with respondents.

| Item | PTO form number | Estimated time for response (hours) | Estimated annual burden hours | Estimated annual responses |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Request and Fee Calculation | PCT/RO/101 | 1 | 30,305 | 30,305 |
| Description/claims/drawings/ abstracts | Not Applicable | 3 | 91,000 | 273,000 |
| Transmittal letter to the RO/US | PTO/1382 | 0.25 | 21,214 | 5,304 |
| PCT/Model of Power of Attorney | Same as Title | 0.25 | 20,000 | 5,000 |
| PCT/Model of General Power of Attorney | Same as Title | 0.25 | 2,729 | 682 |
| Extensions of time | Not Applicable | 0.25 | 24,244 | 6,061 |
| Priority documents | Not Applicable | 0.25 | 45,000 | 11,250 |
| Indications/deposited microorganisms | PCT/RO/134 | 0.25 | 303 | 76 |
| Response to invitation to correct defects | Not Applicable | 2 | 91,000 | 182,000 |
| Request for rectification of obvious errors | Not Applicable | 0.5 | 2,174 | 1,087 |
| Notice/confirmation/precautionary designations | PCT/RO/144 | 0.25 | 3,305 | 826 |
| Demand (Annex and Notes) | PCT/IPEA/40/1 | 1 | 14,151 | 14,151 |
| Amendments | Not Applicable | 1 | 12,028 | 12,028 |
| Notice Effecting Later Elections | PCT/IB/328 | 0.25 | 47,621 | 11,905 |
| Fee Authorization | Not Applicable | 0.25 | 12,122 | 3,031 |
| Petitions | Not Applicable | 4 | 1,758 | 7,032 |
| Requests to transmit copies of international application | Not Applicable | 0.25 | 29,367 | 7,342 |
| Withdrawal of international application/designations of the state/ demands/elections/priority claims. | Not Applicable | 0.25 | 3,305 | 826 |
| Request/authorization to access international application | Not Applicable | 0.25 | 522 | 131 |
| Translations | Not Applicable | 2 | 14,955 | 29,910 |
| TOTALS | | | 467,103 | 601,947 |

IV. Request for Comments

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record.

Dated: March 14, 2000.

Madeleine Clayton,

Management Analyst, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 00-6765 Filed 3-17-00; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[OMB Control No. 9000-0149]

Proposed Collection; Comment Request Entitled Subcontract Consent

AGENCIES: Department of Defense (DOD), General Services Administration (GSA), and National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).