

News Release
14 November 2003

Click: Patenting goes on-line!!
EPO, *epoline*® Annual Conference

Munich/The Hague :

Around 400 patent professionals from all over Europe will be brought up-to-date on the latest developments in electronic patent procedures at the second *epoline*® Annual Conference in Barcelona, Spain, on 9-11 December, 2003.

The conference will demonstrate delegates how the *epoline*® on-line patent filing and management processes as well as the *esp@cenet* on-line patent information service are setting new technical standards worldwide in order to make the patent procedure more efficient, transparent, accessible and cost efficient.

More than 200 computers will be provided at the conference venue in an interactive infrastructure that will allow hands-on training during the conference, including the opportunity for participants to use *epoline*® and *esp@cenet* products and services in workshops. These facilities will be used to demonstrate how to file national, European and PCT patents in one simple 'draft once, file anywhere' format by preparing patent applications in XML (eXtensible Markup Language) using Microsoft Word.

The conference will also examine issues such as the legal framework for on-line filing, application tracking, fees and account management, systems security, and confirmation of communications and transactions. In preparation for the national launch of the national, European and international On-line Filing service in Spain, delegates will see a demonstration by the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (OEPM).

Aimed at the patent professional, the conference will not only offer in-depth insights into various aspects of the patenting process but also will update on a range of intellectual property issues pertinent to small inventors and big industry alike.

The event will be formally opened with a joint press conference by Mr. Manuel Lagares, Undersecretary of Science and Technology, Mr. José López Calvo, Director General of the OEPM, Mr. Ingo Kober, President of the European Patent Office (EPO), and Mr. John Bambridge, Director of *epoline*®, EPO.

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Invitation for journalists:

The *epoline*® **Press Conference** will be on Tuesday 9 December, 10.30 hrs at Room CIC 1, World Trade Center Barcelona.

Speakers are:

Mr. Manuel Lagare s, Undersecretary of Science and Technology

Mr. José López Calvo, Director General of the OEPM

Mr. Ingo Kober, President of the EPO

Mr. John Bambridge, Director of *epoline*®, EPO

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Information about how to register for the conference can be found at:

http://www.epoline.org/events/barcelona/en/registration_en.pdf

Information for the press about how to register for the Press Conference

can be found at: <http://www.isc-europe.com/epoline/register.html>

Editor's note

EPO: The European Patent Office grants European patents for the contracting states to the European Patent Convention (EPC), which was signed in Munich on 5 October 1973 and entered into force on 7 October 1977. It is the executive body of the European Patent Organisation, an intergovernmental body set up under the EPC, whose members are the EPC contracting states. The activities of the EPO are supervised by the Organisation's Administrative Council, composed of delegates from the contracting states. See <http://www.european-patent-office.org>.

EPO Member States: The following states are currently members of the European Patent Organisation: Austria; Hellenic Republic; Belgium; Ireland; Switzerland; Italy; Cyprus; Liechtenstein; Germany; Luxembourg; Denmark; Monaco; Spain; Netherlands; Finland; Portugal; France; Sweden; Turkey; United Kingdom; Republic of Bulgaria; Republic of Romania; Czech Republic; Slovenia; Republic of Estonia; Slovak Republic and Hungary.

OEPM: The OEPM is the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office, an independent body attached to the Spanish Ministry of Science and Technology that stimulates and enhances technological and economic development. The OEPM serves by granting patents and utility models, industrial model and designs, trademarks and company names and protection titles of topographies of semiconductor products. Likewise, the OEPM spreads information regarding the different forms of protecting industrial property rights. See <http://www.oepm.es>.

The OEPM will be launching its On-line Filing service in Spain in the coming months. The other national offices that have already launched the On-line Filing service are Finland, in May 2002, and France, in December 2002.

epoline[®]: ***epoline***[®] is the brand name given to the range of electronic products and services produced by the EPO for the intellectual property community. These products and services have been designed to provide a secure, integrated environment for electronic communication between the EPO, applicants, their representatives and the national patent offices of the contracting states to the EPC. Most significantly, it provides for on-line filing, fee payment and management of deposit accounts, file inspection, and Register enquiries. It offers major advantages over traditional ways of working by providing instant feedback in the form of status information and immediate confirmation of communications and transactions, while reducing clerical work and paper handling costs, as well as increasing public visibility of the patenting process and transparency of procedure. See <http://www.epoline.org>.

esp@cenet[®]: ***esp@cenet***[®] is the EPO's public worldwide patent information service on the Internet. It provides users with a readily accessible source of published patent information. It also aims to improve awareness at national and international level, in particular among small and medium-sized enterprises, of the kind of information that is accessible to the public. Moreover, as well as offering documents published by the EPO, this service provides access to patent documents published by patent offices around the world. Specifically, ***esp@cenet***[®] offers access to: all patent documentation available to EPO examiners, recent patent applications (at least two years) from the EPO member states, EPO patent applications and PCT pamphlets from the World Intellectual Property Organisation. See <http://www.european-patent-office.org/espacenet/info/index.htm>.