"DEPATISnet"
One of the Internet Services of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office (GPTO)

May I present our new Internet service called "DEPATISnet". These days where acronyms are everywhere, the GPTO has created another one. What does "DEPATISnet" stand for?

DEPATIS is the acronym of "Deutsches Patentinformationssystem", that is "German patent information system". This system was set up in the past years and has been available for the examiners of the GPTO and for the public for more than two years at the locations of Munich and Berlin.

With this system, the vast knowledge stored up to now in the paper archives of the German Patent and Trade Mark Office has been captured and edited for electronic access. Thus, the enormous **_data volume of more than 20 m illion_** patent documents published worldwide and about 5 million JP abstracts, **_including all German patent documents since 1877_**, are available at the touch of a button. The integrated search and archive system, combined with a high-performance display component, allows to access this vast store of knowledge by means of sophisticated **_search options_**. Searches are carried out on the basis of bibliographic data and the 1 million full texts of German documents. The **_search results_** can then be viewed directly at the screen where the original layout of patent specifications is displayed.

To give you an impression on the amount of information contained in 25 million patent documents in the **_archive system_**, let me cite some figures. The former paper collection occupied 3300 steel cupboards and 7 kilometres of shelves, corresponding to a total storage surface of more than 5000 square metres, whereas the space required for the present central server components amounts to just about 250 square metres. The current storage capacity of the archive system is 15 terabyte, with approximately 720 magnetic disks.

We have witnessed an enormous increase in the **_use of DEPATIS_** in the public search rooms in Munich and at the Technical Information Centre in Berlin. To cope with this rising demand, we have added more workstations over the past years.

Based on the experience made with the DEPATIS workstations in the public search rooms in Munich and Berlin, the GPTO has realised a new service in cooperation with Compaq and the Federal printing office, _Bundesdruckerei,_ i.e. making DEPATIS available on the Internet. This service is called DEPATISnet.

For avoiding possible difficulties, such as net problems, I have decided to present this service now in a Powerpoint presentation rather than online.

You will find our service on the Internet at ***www.depatisnet.de***. The start page and the following pages contain various ***links***, e.g. to a short introduction or ONLINE help. My presentation will be limited to the search and display features.

Having clicked the ***"Recherche"*** search link, users have a choice of several search modes. Depending on their previous experience, they can choose the beginner, expert, IKOFAX or family modes. Anybody not obtaining a result in any mode may request assistance from a patent information centre of their choice. This is the purpose of the so-called assisted mode. In this mode, you can submit your questions in colloquial language. Your query will be transmitted to a patent information centre by e-mail, where you will get the required support.

For most users, the easiest and most comfortable search mode will be the ***beginner's mode.*** In this mode, the most important search fields are designed as entry fields. The fields are linked by AND. As a search example, I have selected an invention - a process for guiding partially sighted persons, filed by *Deutsche Telekom* - presented at this year's annual press conference of the GPTO. Anybody interested in the contents of this application can rapidly find this document by means of a simple search. The publication number is not required. In the "applicant" field, we enter "Deutsche Telekom" and in the full text the term "Sehbehinderung" (partially sighted). Since this term may have several variations, the end is truncated. Upon starting the search, we will obtain a ***hit list***. This hit list displays a ***publication number*** and title relating to every hit. As you can see, the publication numbers are underlined. By clicking one of these numbers, you can view the bibliographic data relating to the respective ***document***, such as title, applicant, inventor, etc. You can print out these data, where required. At this point, you can return to the hit list any time.

In the ***hit list***, you will find a further button labelled "PDF". By clicking this button, the document is displayed in its ***original layout***. You can flip through the document ***page by page*** or jump directly to a certain ***part of document*** - the so-called subdocuments. Selecting for example the subdocument "drawing" will take you directly to the ***first page*** of the drawings. Of course, you can also print out individual pages.

In conclusion, let me ***summarise*** the main facts.

With its new ***DEPATISnet*** Internet service, the GPTO provides general access to more than 25 million patent documents in total. The documents are indexed by different comfortable ***search features***. You can search ***bibliographic*** data of patent documents and the German full texts since 1987. Moreover, you can display and even print out both the ***bibliographic data*** and the original document layout of the respective hits. It is a ***free service*** for everybody.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am quite sure that some questions have been left open. I will be pleased to answer your questions after the presentation.

Thank you for your attention.