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### Official Notice

## New Electronic Filing Service for International Patent Applications

IP Australia is introducing a new service for the online filing of Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) international applications in electronic form. The new PCT Online service will be available through IP Australia's online services portal from 15 December 2005.

In order to use the new PCT Online service, patent applicants and their representatives will need to obtain the latest version of WIPO's PCT-SAFE software and a digital certificate, which are available from the WIPO website at [www.wipo.int/pct-safe/en/](http://www.wipo.int/pct-safe/en/).

The official WIPO notification of IP Australia's readiness to accept online filing of international applications in its role as Receiving Office was published in WIPO's PCT Gazette dated 15 December 2005, and is available via the WIPO website.

International applications filed electronically through IP Australia's PCT Online service that conform to the requirements identified in the official WIPO notification will attract a discount of \$218 (for applications with non-XML specifications), or \$327 (for applications with XML specifications). This discount is deducted from the filing fees collected on behalf of the International Bureau.

Aside from the calculation of fees and the method of transmission to WIPO's International Bureau, PCT applications filed electronically through IP Australia will be treated the same as applications filed through other methods.

IP Australia will also continue to accept international applications prepared with PCT-SAFE using the PCT-EASY filing method. Where a PCT application exceeds 20MB, online filing is not supported and the application will need to be filed using the PCT-EASY filing method. Applicants should note that applications filed in this manner will only attract a discount of \$109 as per the current practice.

An updated fee schedule for international patent applications lodged through IP Australia is available on the IP Australia website at [www.ipaustralia.gov.au/patents/fees\\_index.shtml](http://www.ipaustralia.gov.au/patents/fees_index.shtml).

If you have any queries on this service or a particular patent or patent application, please contact IP Australia:

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