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## OUR MISSION

As an organisation specialised in industrial property rights and business and corporation activities, the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland (NBPR) advances enterprise, innovativeness, and corporate activities both in Finland and internationally.

The NBPR fosters human capital and furthers technological and economic development by ensuring that

- companies, associations, and foundations are able to operate legally in Finland
- inventors, researchers, product developers, manufacturers, and marketers are able to obtain patents, trademarks, design rights, or other forms of industrial property rights
- the interests of Finns are internationally protected.

Our information and consultation services are reliable and quickly accessible.

## OUR VISION 2007

Creativity, know-how, enterprise, and collaboration are key factors for the success of our clients, as well as the basis for technological, economic and intellectual development and well-being in Finland.

Our clients rely on our legal validity, impartiality, and internationally competitive quality, and through the NBPR are also able to fully operate in international business and the multinational innovation system.

Our service is fast, flexible, and easily accessible at our Helsinki main office (Innohouse), regional service points, and electronic information networks.

Our staff is the friendliest and most competent in Finland. We respect our fellow workers, we are open, and we constantly strive to improve our performance.



## THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The productivity of work in the National Board of Patents and Registration grew by 3.1 per cent, which clearly exceeded the targets set. The highlight of our busy operating year was the appointment of the National Board of Patents and Registration as a PCT Authority. Finland was the 11<sup>th</sup> country to obtain these rights. The body granting them is a specialised agency of the United Nations, the World Intellectual Property WIPO, its PCT Union to be precise. A description of the PCT system is given elsewhere in this Report. We are especially satisfied with the significant fact-based support which WIPO's Director General Kamil Idris and Secretariat gave Finland in this matter.

Our Office has continued making progress in international co-operation. We have received numerous delegations from a variety of countries who have wanted to acquaint themselves with our systems, especially our well-functioning electronic filing system. We have also concluded new co-operation agreements with various countries and are negotiating the conclusion of further agreements or the revision of existing ones. It is our aim to continue developing our co-operation with WIPO, EU, EPO, OHIM as well as other international organisations and authorities in this field.

Regionalisation policy has recently been brought to the fore in Finland. It is quite obvious that we are the most networked Office in our field in Europe. So at least in this respect the regionalisation policy has been excellently implemented in Finland. All the Employment and Economic Development Centres (TE Centres) provide our services under the principle of one-stop service. The Local Register Offices act as our regional authorities in matters concerning enterprises and corporations. Matters regarding the approximately 50,000 housing

corporations have been transferred for processing by the Local Register Offices. We have a co-operation agreement with the Chambers of Commerce in accordance to which they provide consultancy in our field in all the regions where they operate. A similar agreement has been concluded with the Enterprise Agencies throughout the country. Through the Business Information System we have set up together with the National Board of Taxes, clients can also take care of several NBPR-related matters in Tax Offices. Every month over 600,000 businesses or private persons use the services of this system. As a result of our co-operation with the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Foundation for Finnish Inventions there are now innovation agents in the universities and the TE Centres throughout the country. In addition, our web site serves our clients with the greatest of efficiency, regardless of their location.

The INNOFINLAND Prizes granted by the President of the Republic were awarded out at our Office for the tenth time. Year after year, this broad-based project has enjoyed an especially good reception in all corners of Finland. There were 329 contestants this year. The related INNOSCHOOL Innovation Event arranged in co-operation with the National Board of Education and the INNOINT Invention Contest (realised jointly with the Defence Forces) have also won wide attention.

I wish to extend my thanks to the staff for a job well done, and likewise to all our domestic and foreign partners for their valuable collaboration. Our special thanks also go to the Ministry of Trade and Industry for its co-operation in developing both domestic and international services.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martti Erttjärvi". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.





NBPR's Board of Directors in 2003: Eija Peltonen

Risto Paaermaa, vice-chairman

Paavo Uronen, chairman

Tytti Peltonen

Martti Enäjärvi

Antti Maijala

Eva Grew (not pictured)



## NATIONAL BOARD OF PATENTS AND REGISTRATION

The National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland (NBPR) in its present form was established in 1942. Previously its matters were dealt with by The Finance Department of the Finnish Senate, The Manufacture Board, The Industrial Board, and most recently by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, under the administrative sector of which it now comes. The National Board of Patents and Registration operates according to the principles of results management and results-oriented budgeting. The National Board of Patents and Registration covers its operating costs by levying service fees.

### Board of Directors in 2003

The members of the Board of Directors appointed by the Council of State for the period 17 September 2001 – 16 September 2004 are:

- Professor **Paavo Uronen**, chairman
- Deputy Director General **Risto Paaermaa**, Ministry of Trade and Industry, vice-chairman
- President **Martti Enäjärvi**, NBPR
- Head of Legal Department **Antti Maijala**, The Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers
- Legal Counsel **Tytti Peltonen**, Federation of Finnish Enterprises
- Patent Agent **Eva Grew**, Association of Finnish Patent Attorneys
- Cashier **Eija Peltonen**, NBPR (representing the staff)

### Management Group in 2003

The Director General assisted by a management group answers for the performance of the National Board of Patents and Registration.

- President **Martti Enäjärvi**, chairman
- Senior Vice President **Olli Koikkalainen**
- Vice President **Sirkka-Liisa Lahtinen**
- Vice President **Pekka Launis**
- Director of the Register of Associations **Kalevi Sadeluoto**
- Director of Communications **Leo Lehdistö**
- Director of Planning **Kari Summanen**, who also form a working committee in the management group, and
- Director of Finance **Raija Järviö**
- Director of International and Legal Affairs **Eija Nuorlahti-Solarmo**
- Deputy Director **Christer Brännkärr**
- Head of Marketing **Mika Waris**
- Head of Personnel **Esko Inkinen**
- Lawyer **Timo Immonen** (representing the staff)

### The Co-operation Committee of the National Board of Patents and Registration in 2003

The employer was represented by:

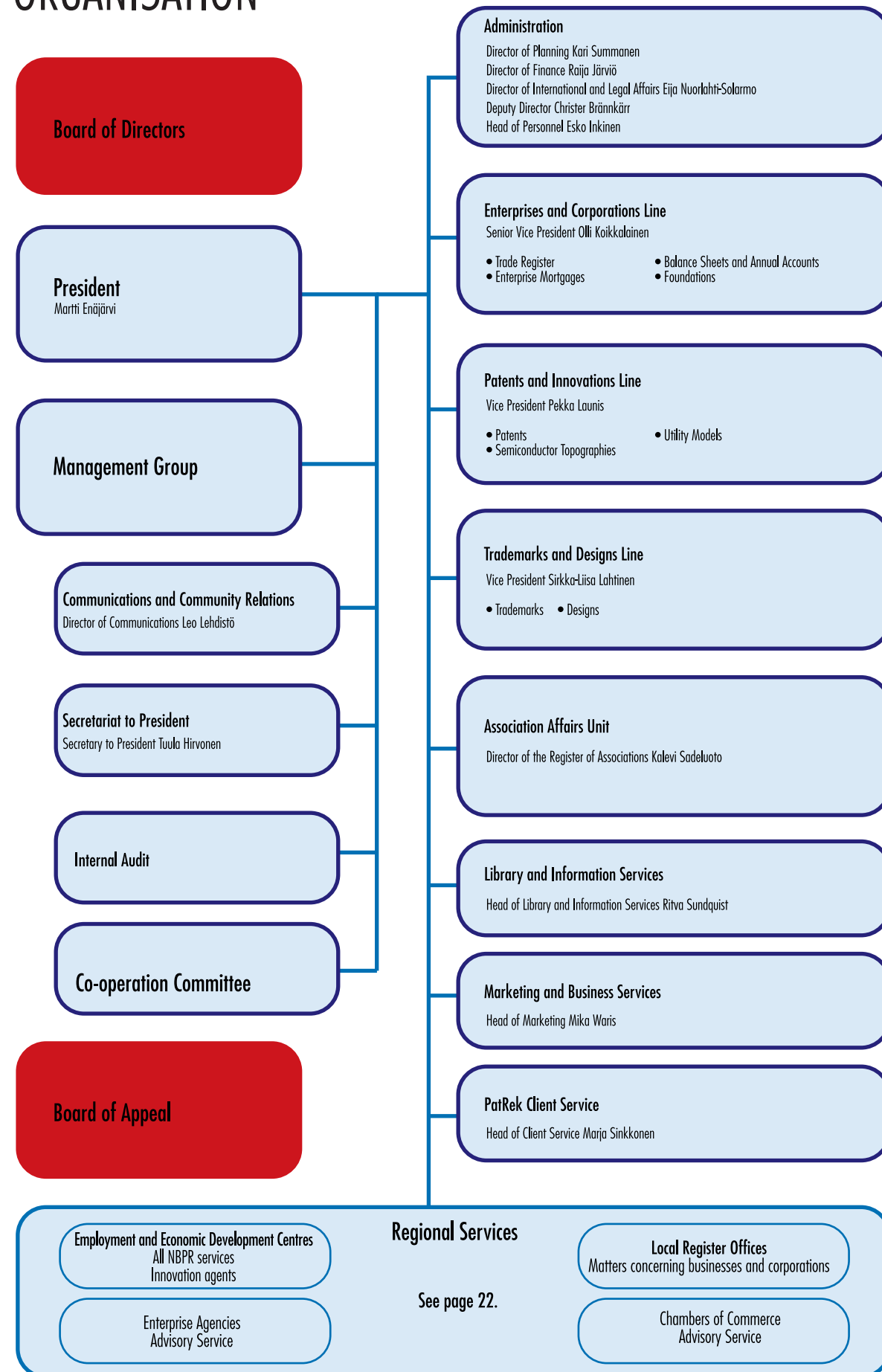
- President **Martti Enäjärvi**, chairman
- Senior Vice President **Olli Koikkalainen**, vice-chairman
- Vice President **Pekka Launis**
- Vice President **Sirkka-Liisa Lahtinen**
- Head of Personnel **Esko Inkinen**, secretary

### The personnel was represented by:

- Lawyer **Timo Immonen**, Akava-JS
- Senior Examiner **Matti Santero**, Graduate Engineers of Patent Administration / Confederation of Salaried Employees Pardia
- Assistant Inspector **Sari Laajaranta**, The Employees' Association of NBPR / Confederation of Salaried Employees Pardia
- Assistant Inspector **Marjut Helminen**, The Finnish National Union of State Employees and Special Services VAL (local trade union of the Ministry of Trade and Industry)



# ORGANISATION



# PERSONNEL

The National Board of Patents and Registration employed a staff of 474 at the end of 2003, which means a drop of 3.3% from the previous year. A good two thirds of the staff were women, and men correspondingly accounted for slightly less than a third. The average age was 45.7 years, showing an increase of 1.0 years over the previous year. The number of temporary staff without a former permanent post fell to about 10 % of the total staff (14.6% in 2002). Some of the key indicators relating to the staff are presented in the adjoining diagrams.

In the year under review, the NBPR continued the work done in developing the personnel policy and the management of human resources. Discussions with the staff on the values of the Office restarted. Special focus was given to issues relating to education and development; the wellbeing of the working community; creating a positive image of the organisation as an employer; and the work for revising the pay system. Through their regular meetings, the NBPR's Co-operation Committee and Management Group have supported the management and development of human resources affairs and thereby served as direct links between the management and the staff.

The Office utilised the human resources accounts extensively last year, especially when examining, in accordance with the Quality Award model, such fields of assessment as the staff and its results in the EFQM self-assessment and excellence project. By comparing the statistics of the

human resources accounts to both those of previous years at our Office and to those of other government agencies we receive analysed basic information on what has already been achieved and what, in turn, needs to be developed.

The NBPR has sought to improve the staff's wellbeing at work in various ways. During 2003, lectures were given on the following themes: The Importance of Sleep, Occupational Ergonomics and Social Relations and Interaction at the Workplace.

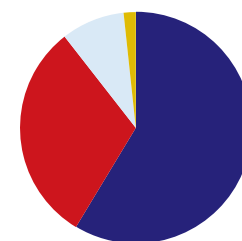
Regular opportunities for physical exercise were offered to the staff through arranged group activities such as Rehabilitating exercise for men, Physiobic – active physiotherapy for women, Physiolatino, Oriental dancing, Yoga and aqua-aerobics. Courses were organised in deep-stretching and on the instruction of break time exercise. The Fitness at Work (TYKY) Day was spent at the Rastila recreational centre on 11 September 2003.

The work for developing the pay system of the NBPR was continued according to plan. Comments received from the representatives of the employee organisations served as the basis for completing the manuals on job requirements rating and individual performance rating. Forms were drawn up in support of staff performance appraisals and rating of individual performance. The process of job requirements rating was continued over the whole operating year. Most jobs were rated by the end of the year.

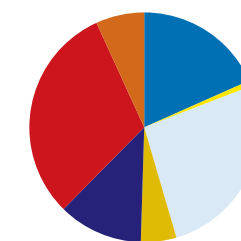
The Pake working group organised training for staff in how to draw up a job description and how to rate individual performance. Superiors practised the new manual's rating of individual performance with some of their subordinates. An event was organised to discuss the experience gained and the feedback received together with the management of the Office and the shop stewards. Some members of the working group participated in the training organised by the Finnish Institute of Public Management Ltd. and the State Employer's Office.

*People count!*  
**FROM FITNESS TO WELLBEING AT WORK**

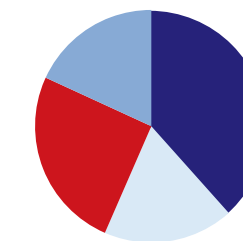
Full-Time and Part-Time Employees by Gender 31 Dec 2003



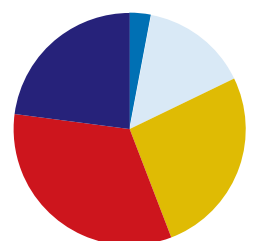
Number of Personnel in Person-Years 2003



Personnel by Educational Attainment



Personnel by Age Group 31 Dec 2003



## PATREK CLIENT SERVICE



PatRek Client Service:  
patrek@prh.fi

E-mail:  
registry@prh.fi  
www.prh.fi

Innohouse (Helsinki main office),  
Arkadiankatu 6A, Helsinki

The PatRek Client Service provides basic services to our clients. It also receives applications, notifications, documents and fees to be processed by the Office, and runs the Office's Registry. PatRek also offers advice and information services to visiting clients. The electronic Internet databases, registers and public documents provided by the National Board of Patents and Registration (NBPR) are available for public inspection at our self-service point.

There is still a great interest in public documents. Researchers, authorities, businesses and private citizens regularly request a large number of documents.

PatRek served more than 70,000 clients in 2003. We supplied a total of 40,620 register extracts, certificates and copies of documents subject to a charge.

PatRek also took part in fairs in co-operation with other NBPR units and presented its services and databases to several groups visiting the Office.

In 2003, we launched a project, based on the one-stop service principle, to improve our client service. The aim of the project was to describe PatRek's service process and its interfaces and determine what areas should be improved. The skill requirements for our Client Service staff were also standardised.

## LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The Library and Information Services Unit of the National Board of Patents and Registration (NBPR) is a comprehensive library specialising in industrial property rights and technology. It maintains a collection, unique in Finland, of domestic and foreign patent publications and a research library. The library serves the Office and its clients by obtaining and providing information and literature relating to industrial property and company law. The library's collections and databases form an important source of information for industry, product development, research and other sectors of business life.

At the end of 2003, the library had a printed collection of over 30 million patent publications from more than 40 countries and 45 million patent publications in electronic networks. During the year under review, the collection has further increased by over 1.1 million patent publications mainly in digital form on CD- and DVD-ROMs. At the end of the year, the library had over 12,700 discs. The search system of the GID (Global Patent Index) patent publication database was improved during 2003, and at the end of the year, the database contained more than 11 million publications. For the time being, GID can only be used by the Office staff and

clients visiting the library's Reading Room.

The orders for information services subject to a charge consisted mainly of monitoring and following domestic and international patenting, and of exacting analyses and statistics. The majority of copies of patent publications ordered from the library were transmitted in electronic form. In 2003, more than 44,000 visits were made to the library's web pages. Our new web pages increased the number of visitors to the library, and researchers in particular, borrowed more books from us than in previous years.

### A 'Reading Room' Maintained on the Internet by Patent Libraries

For years, Patent Offices have converted their patent publications to electronic format. When the Internet became an important means to disseminate information, we made publications available to our clients through various patent databases on the Internet, such as esp@cenet which can be used free of charge. While the number of patent applications and patent publications has dramatically increased during the past few years, it is obvious that it is not possible or appropriate to maintain a collection of printed publications in the

future. Therefore, NBPR has scanned the Finnish patent publications from number 1 and the year 1842 onwards during 2003, and at the beginning of 2004 they will be entered into esp@cenet.

The patent databases on the Internet are very popular and, in most cases, greatly appreciated by our clients. We continue to upgrade the databases to improve response times and search features and to increase the content. In 2003, we began to discuss the improvement of the PatInfo Register Database by transferring it to the same technical platform to which the European Patent Office will move its register database. In this project, we will also take the users' opinions into account.

Special Library:  
library@prh.fi

Copies of patent publications:  
copyserv.patent@prh.fi

Information service orders:  
infoserv.patent@prh.fi



27.-28.1.



Vice-President of the EPO  
Manuel Desantes visits NBPR

10



PATENDIAMET

30.1.

NBPR, MTI and heads of TE Centres  
attend MTI's seminar in Estonia

5-8.2.



Social Event at the  
Kamppi building site

11.2.



A visit by a delegation from China



# ENTERPRISES AND CORPORATIONS LINE

The Enterprises and Corporations Line maintains the Trade, Foundation and Enterprise Mortgage Registers and makes annual accounts available to the public. Our main duty is to process and register notifications and applications and to offer information services based on details entered into the Registers, various rules adopted by corporate bodies, and other documents. Additionally, we supervise the administration of foundations and keep the Registers up-to-date, for example by demanding annual accounts from businesses and by removing businesses from the Trade Register. Through the information service, registration and supervision, our aim is to increase legal validity in business life and foundation matters.

The Trade Register contains 499,773 businesses. The Foundation Register contains 2,678 foundations and the Enterprise Mortgage Register 106,211 valid enterprise mortgages.

## Registration

In 2003, the Trade Register processed 22,247 start-up notifications submitted by new businesses, 63,725 amendment notifications, and 9,532 other amendments, mostly changes of postal address. In accordance with Section 24 of the Trade Register Act, we removed 18,866 inactive businesses from the Trade Register. We registered the annual accounts of 76,113 businesses and demanded 7,545 businesses to submit their annual accounts. We also processed a total of 6,227 applications for enterprise mortgages. The Foundation Register registered 48 permissions to establish a foundation, amendment notifications totalled 849 and yearly accounts 2,469.

## Staff

The Line has a staff of 137, of whom 29% are lawyers.

Seven teams process notifications submitted to the Trade Register. The teams comprise 19 lawyers and 42 office employees trained for their duty. Their task is to accept decisions concerning establishing of businesses and amendments to register entries, and to process applications for registration of company names. In the Annual Accounts Unit, one lawyer and 11 office employees receive and register annual accounts submitted by businesses.

Three groups consisting of four lawyers and 15 office employees are responsible for the advisory service, information service and archiving of documents.

Three lawyers and three office employees maintain the Register of Enterprise Mortgages. Two lawyers and one office employee keep the Foundation Register.

A team of 13 employees who maintain and improve the data systems played a key role in implementing the Business ID system.

## Improvement of Processes

The Line is preparing to change its organisation into a process-based organisation, which simplifies the distribution of work and responsibility, and strengthens teamwork. We intend to implement this new process-based organisation during 2004.

The Data System Maintenance Unit and the Trade Register Unit are already working in teams. The reform aims at improving and speeding up the working methods in a client-oriented way, and at making it possible for the staff to contribute to the improvement of their responsibilities. Teamwork will also be introduced to other units in the future.

During 2003, we completed the application architecture of our information system and the reports on how to improve the applications. The main principles were: we have to be able to quickly and flexibly change our information systems (the Trade Register application, Foundation Register application, enterprise mortgage application and the application for archiving annual accounts) to meet the needs of our clients and to improve our performance. The information systems have to be economical, simple, and easy to maintain and use.

## Co-operation Projects

The Tax Administration and the National Board of Patents and Registration (NBPR) introduced a new Business Information System (BIS) in the spring of 2001. In 2003, a total of 19,700,000 inquiries were made about company details and 2,100,000 visits were registered on the BIS web site. The BIS, where a business is identified by a single code, is still unique in the EU area.

The Enterprises and Corporations Line and NBPR have been working in co-operation with the Employment and Economic Development Centres (TE Centres). We aim to offer a flexible client service: the basic services of the NBPR are provided in TE Centres to entrepreneurs and organisations according to the one-stop service principle. In 2003, Local Register Offices and TE Centres became BIS registrars and their work has been highly satisfactory.

## Information Service

During the year under review, the number of users of the online KATKA information service continued to rise and amounted to

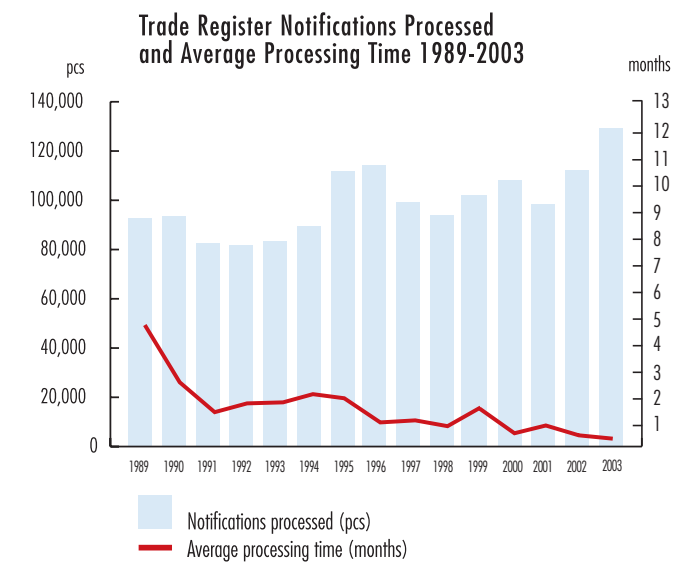
more than 9,700 at the end of the year. A total of 243 CD-KATKA discs were sold. Over 1,110,000 inquiries were made about the details contained in the Trade Register, of which 680,000 inquiries were made through KATKA. Inquiries made through our Internet services increased to over 430,000.

The Internet service offered by the Annual Accounts Unit boosted their information service: approximately 20,000 pictures of annual accounts were sold through various channels.

A total of 3,100 inquiries were made to the Finnish Trade Register and Finnish clients made 1,100 inquiries to other European Trade Registers through the European Business Register (EBR), which is a common information service maintained by business registers in European countries.

In 2003, the members of the Advisory Committee for Enterprise Issues were:

- Mr Martti Enäjärvi, President of the NBPR
- Mr Olli Koikkalainen, Senior Vice President of the NBPR
- Ms Sirkka-Liisa Lahtinen, Vice President of the NBPR
- Ms Ulla-Maija Sarkkinen, Deputy Director
- Mr Sakari Kauppinen, Deputy Director
- Mr Leo Lehdistö, Director of Communications
- Mr Markus Aaltonen, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Enterprise Agency of South Ostrobothnia
- Mr Stig Henriksson, Deputy Managing Director, Federation of Finnish Commerce and Trade
- Mr Erkki Kontkanen, Deputy Managing Director, The Finnish Bankers' Association
- Mr Olavi Leppänen, LL.M. with court training, Finn Co-op Pellervo
- Ms Leena Linnainmaa, Deputy Director, the Central Chamber of Commerce of Finland
- Mr Antti Maijala, Head of Legal Department, The Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers
- Ms Ulla Partanen, Managing Director, Operaria Ulla Oy
- Ms Ursula Ranin, Vice-President, General Counsel, Nokia Corporation
- Mr Pekka Sirviö, Attorney-at-Law, Finnish Bar Association
- Mr Rauno Vanhanen, Director, Federation of Finnish Enterprises
- Mr Juhana Vartiainen, Doctor of Political Science, Labour Institute for Economic Research



Check out!  
**YTJ.FI!**  
BE ONE OF OVER 0.5M VISITORS,  
MAKE ONE OF NEARLY  
7M SEARCHES PER MONTH

12.13.2

NBPR at the 'Design World 2003' fair



26.2

Seminar on Innofinland 2003: 'Sustainable Development Through Innovations'



5.3

Meeting of the Innofinland juries



12.3

'Oma yritys 2003' fair for entrepreneurs: President of the NBPR Martti Enäjärvi introduces Innofinland 2003



## Patent Applications

	2002	2003
Patent applications	2,369	2,187
• domestic	2,162	1,990
• foreign	207	197
Patents granted	2,056	2,402
European patents validated in Finland	4,259	6,266
Patents in force at the end of the year granted by NBPR	19,110	18,601
granted by European Patent Office	13,362	

## Utility Model Applications

	2002	2003
Utility model applications	512	496
• domestic	496	480
• foreign	16	16
Registered utility models	474	426
Number of utility models in the register	3,152	3,091

## Domestic Companies with the Highest Numbers of Applications Filed in Finland in 2003

Nokia Corporation	177
Metso Corporation	172
VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland	54
Outokumpu Oyj	52
Kone Corporation	49
ABB Oy	33
Kemira Group	23
Sandvik Tamrock	21
Sonera Oyj and TeliaSonera Finland Oyj	20
Filtronic LK Oy	17
Wärtsilä Finland Oy	17
Perlos Oyj	15
Stora Enso Oyj	12
Radiolinja Origo Oy	11

# PATENTS AND INNOVATIONS LINE

The main function of the Patents and Innovations Line is to examine the novelty and patentability of inventions described in patent applications, and to register utility models and semiconductor topographies. As a receiving authority, the National Board of Patents and Registration checks that international patent applications filed meet the prescribed formal requirements. In addition, applications for a European patent can be filed with our Office. The Line is also in charge of the registration and publication of European patents that are validated in Finland.

By the end of 2003, a total of 112,126 patents had been granted in Finland. The number of utility models registered was 6,096.

A patent can be granted if, after examination, the invention is found to be industrially applicable, novel and innovative. The examination begins with a worldwide search to determine the current state of the art in the field the invention relates to. This is followed by an assessment of whether the invention is novel compared with, and essentially differs from, the concepts found in the present art. If the assessment is positive, a patent may be granted.

In our Office we have over 80 examiners processing patent applications. Applicants who have first filed their application in Finland obtain the results of the search within six to eight months from the filing date. The result makes it easier for the applicant to decide whether to pursue the application abroad during the priority year.

Utility model applications are examined only to see if they meet the formal requirements. Responsibility for examining the novelty or the inventiveness does not rest with the National Board of Patents and Registration.

## Fall in the Number of Applications Levels Out

The number of domestic patent applications in 2003 had again dropped from the previous year. However, in the last third of the year the number of filings was greater than in 2002, which should be a sign of the decline beginning to level off. The amount of applications decreased in all other areas, but increased in chemistry and physics. The continuing downward trend in the total number of applications is most likely owing to the economic recession, but also due to the fact that Finnish businesses are becoming more global. R&D in globalised businesses are located not only in Finland, but also in other countries. The patenting process therefore often gets started in those countries, leaving the applications in question out of the Finnish statistics.

The number of utility model applications was nearly the same as in 2002. Most often a utility model application concerns an invention relating to furniture, different household utensils, domestic animals, gardening, forestry etc. The utility model is therefore mainly used both in Finland and elsewhere for protecting one's products in the home market.

## Our Office now an International PCT Authority

During the year under review, the National Board of Patents and Registration was authorised to act as an International Searching and Examining Authority. The authorisation was given by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) which is a UN special agency that administers the PCT system. As soon as the operation starts in the latter half of 2004, Finnish applicants can choose whether their applications are examined by the



Finnish Patent Office or the European Patent Office. Cooperation with the Swedish Patent Office will probably also continue.

Finnish patent applicants have eagerly used the international patenting system (the PCT system). The majority of the Finnish applicants, after having filed a domestic application, continue the patenting process via the PCT route, or alternatively, directly file a PCT application. The NBPR has been a Receiving Office ever since it became party to the PCT system. In the year under review, there were 997 applications filed via the NBPR.

Preparations for becoming a searching PCT Authority have included discussions with our clients concerning their hopes and expectations. The message was as expected: First and foremost, the clients wish to obtain a high-quality examination report on time and at an affordable price.

The new situation has been taken into account when preparing and realizing a competence programme for our examiners. Although, in practice, the examination of international applications does not differ very much from the examination of domestic applications, the role of a PCT Authority still involves many formalities and strict time limits that must be obeyed.

## Patent Law and International Treaties under Revision

During the year under review, the revision of legislation was intensive. Already in 2000, a treaty on the harmonization of

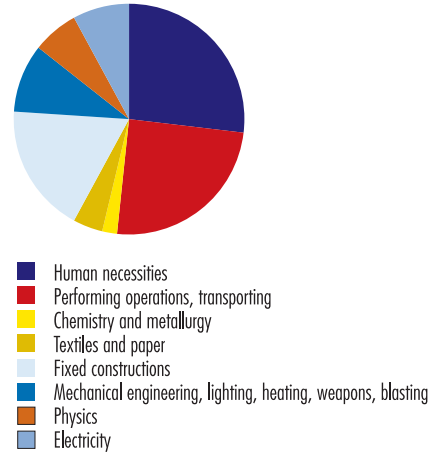
patent legislation, the Patent Law Treaty, was concluded. In the same year, the European Patent Convention was revised, and a central amendment was made to the PCT in 2001. Before Finland can accede to these new treaties or begin to implement the PCT amendment, the national law must be amended. This work started in the year under review. The Nordic Working Group for Patent Legislation aimed at the harmonization of the Nordic Patent Laws in as much detail as possible.

## Breakthrough in Electronic Filing

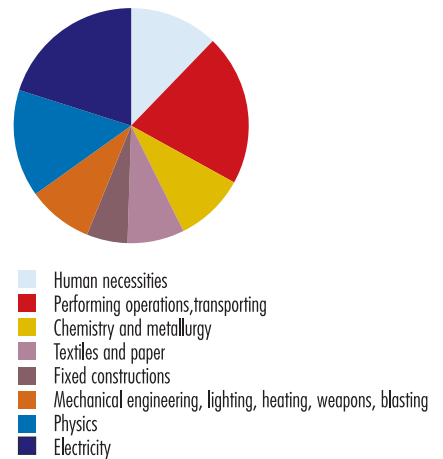
The electronic patent application systems are being completed piece by piece and their utilization keeps growing as new elements are taken into use. In 2003, already some 12 per cent of domestic patent applications were filed electronically and a big part of translations of European patents to be validated in Finland were also delivered electronically. Moreover, from the beginning of 2004, international patent applications and European patent applications can be filed in electronic form; later on this will be possible also for utility model applications. It seems that the ensuing year will bring about a breakthrough in the use of electronic systems, especially as our biggest clients seem to have a favourable attitude towards them.

## Applications by Finnish Applicants in 2003 by Technical Field

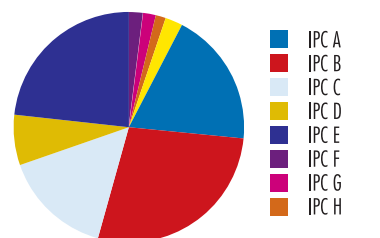
### Distribution of Utility Model Applications in 2003



### Distribution of Patent Applications 2003



## Applications by IPC class in 2003



24-26.3.

NBPR at the BioTech Helsinki 03 Exhibition



3.4.

14



Director of Kyrgyzpatent O. Omorov visits NBPR

23.4-23.5.



Song of Jewels Exhibition at Innogallery

24.-25.4.



NBPR at the 'Yritys2003' fair for business services

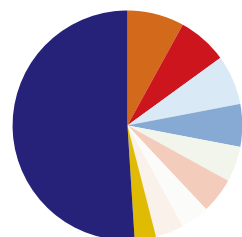




Pendant (reg. no. 23122), owner Jyrki Ihatsu.

## TRADEMARKS AND DESIGNS LINE

National Trademark Applications 2003 by Class



- 41 Education; sporting and cultural activities
- 42 Scientific, technological and legal services
- 35 Advertising; business management and administration
- 9 Scientific and electric apparatus; computer software
- 16 Paper goods, printed matter, office requisites
- 38 Telecommunications
- 5 Pharmaceutical preparations
- 30 Foodstuffs of plant origin
- 25 Clothing, footwear, headgear
- Other classes

### Trademarks

The Trademarks Unit processes domestic applications for trademark registration, registers trademarks and decides whether international registrations under the 1996 Madrid Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Marks are valid in Finland. In addition, the Unit conducts searches on the confusability of Community Trademarks applications in its own Register. The Unit also processes renewals of validity of trademark registrations, as well as other matters concerning the Trademark Register, and gives information on register entries and provides consultancy services.

The national Trademark Register contains 173,953 trademarks, of which 83,818 are currently in force. Registration must be renewed after a term of ten years. The protection time, however, is unlimited.

It is possible to have a trademark registered as valid in Finland in three ways:

1. A national application for registration is filed with the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland (NBPR), which is responsible for keeping the Register.
2. An international application based on the Madrid Agreement is filed with the authorities of the country in which the applicant has his or her domicile, and is then referred to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in Geneva. From there a registration concerning Finland is sent to the NBPR for processing.
3. A trademark can be registered as a

Community Trademark with the EU Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) in Alicante, Spain.

### Number of Trademark Applications Decreased

The number of trademark applications declined in 2001 and has continued to drop since then. The number of international registrations fell: we conducted 4,875 international registrations, which is 5.4% less than in 2002 (5,152). The number of national applications decreased by 15.6%: a total of 3,186 national applications were filed in 2003 (3,777 in 2002).

The number of Community Trademark applications, on the other hand, increased at the end of 2003. The growth did not yet affect the number of search requests in 2003, but will, however, increase their number at the beginning of 2004. We transmitted 41,458 search results (42,979 in 2002). The number of applications for renewal of trademark registrations totalled 4,898 (5,555 in 2002), which was 11.8% less than in 2002. The Unit was still able to considerably reduce processing times by efficient processing. Also the decrease in the number of applications cut processing times. At the end of the year, the processing time of national applications was only 9 months (20 months in 2002) and that of international applications 7.2 months (10.5 months in 2002). The processing time of renewals was reduced to approximately 4 months.

### Information Services

Our Trademark Database on the Internet

has been very popular and functional in the year under review. The number of inquiries made in the database increased substantially compared to the previous year.

### Design Rights

At the end of 2003, the Designs Register contained 23,528 registrations, of which 5,735 were in force.

At the beginning of 2003, it became possible to file applications for Community Designs with the EU Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market (OHIM) (Trademarks and Designs) though OHIM did not begin to register Community Designs until April 1<sup>st</sup> 2003. Due to the Community Design, the number of national applications for design right immediately decreased sharply: only 287 national applications were filed in 2003 (736 in 2002). As expected, the percentage of domestic applications increased and accounted for 71% of new applications for design registration. The number of designs included in applications, however, did not fall as much as the number of applications:

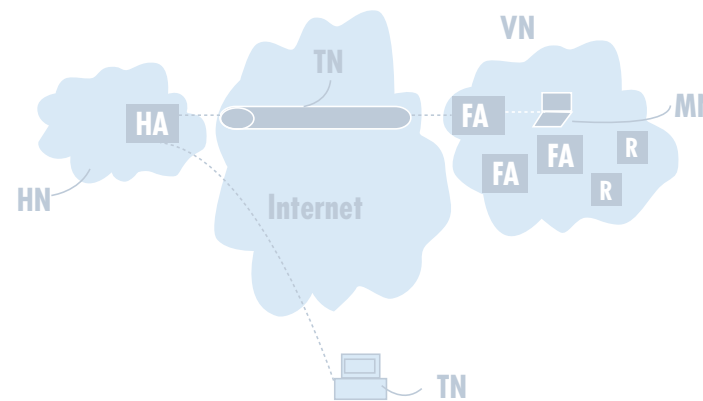
in 2003, a total of 721 designs were included in applications, while in 2002, they totalled 973.

The number of renewal applications rose significantly from 541 in 2002 to 631 in 2003. A factor contributing to this growth was the new option of renewing design registrations for up to 25 years.

The processing time of applications for design registration increased to 10 months, since one single application may now include many more designs than before. Therefore the formal processing of the application is more complicated and takes more time.

### DesignsNet and Web Site in Frequent Use

Our network service, DesignsNet, has been available to our clients for over a year and it was in frequent use in 2003. The service has quite a wide range of search features providing basic information on registered, pending and processed designs. Our improved web pages provide a great deal of information on design protection in three languages. Tens of thousands of visits were made to our web pages and electronic services in 2003.



### National Trademarks

	2002	2003
Trademark applications	3,777	3,186
domestic	2,833	2,456
foreign	944	730
Processed applications	4,384	4,198
Applications pending at the end of the year	4,430	3,565
Preliminary examinations	301	235
Processing time (months)	10	9

### Trademark Applications for Finland by Countries in 2003 (top twenty)

	National	Intl	EU	Total
United States	239	12	11,083	11,324
Germany	30	1,489	9,370	10,889
Great Britain	32	106	6,301	6,439
Spain	1	89	5,690	5,780
Italy	6	347	4,855	5,208
France	28	568	4,122	4,718
Finland	2,456	1	424	2,881
Netherlands	40	312	2,191	2,543
Switzerland	33	562	1,505	2,100
Japan	36	94	1,530	1,660
Sweden	121	152	1,056	1,329
Belgium	3	96	956	1,055
Denmark	23	74	896	993
Austria	0	119	787	906
Canada	8	0	563	571
Portugal	1	10	516	527
Taiwan	5	0	495	500
Ireland	2	3	448	453
Australia	3	39	395	437
Hongkong	2	3	322	327

26.4.

World Intellectual Property Day



16

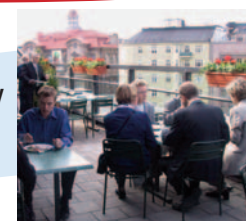


14.5.

Innofinland 2003 is launched in Lappeenranta

15.5.

NBPR's Anniversary



17

22.5.

Network meeting on document administration in the MTI's administrative domain



## ASSOCIATION AFFAIRS UNIT

By the end of 2003 a total of 121,098 associations had been entered into the Register of Associations. The Register received a total of 19,178 notices concerning establishment, amendments to rules, changes in the right to sign for an association, and dissolution. Applications for preliminary examination received amounted to 157.

A total of 17,986 decisions were made and 2,371 new associations were registered. The average processing time for establishment notices was two months, and for other notices 4.5 months. Notices relating to changes in the right to sign for an association were processed almost in realtime.

We are continuing to improve the contents of the Register of Associations by expanding the classification of associations and by adding the dates of establishment to the data entered in the Register.

### New Duties for the Register of Associations:

#### The Central Chamber of Commerce and Chambers of Commerce

The new Act on Chambers of Commerce, which came into force on 1 January 2003, brought new duties to the National Board of Patents and Registration, as matters concerning registration of the Central Chamber of Commerce and the chambers of commerce will now be dealt with in the Register of Associations.

There are 21 chambers of commerce operating in Finland. The Central Chamber of Commerce acts as their common organ. Together they form the organisation of Chambers of Commerce, which has a membership of nearly 17,000 enterprises and corporations.

#### Religious Communities

The new Freedom of Religion Act came into force on 1 August 2003. The Act

made it easier for religious communities to get official recognition. Under the new law the National Board of Patents and Registration decides on the eligibility of religious communities for registration and keeps a register of them. Previously the matters were dealt with in the Ministry of Education and the register was maintained by the Population Register Centre.

When a new religious community is being established, it shall acquire a statement regarding the purpose and lawfulness of its operation from an expert board appointed by the Ministry of Education.

Today there are 50 religious communities in Finland, among them the Catholic Church in Finland, Jehovah's Witnesses, the Jewish Congregation in Helsinki, the Finnish Islamic Congregation (Tatar community), and the Free Church in Finland.

#### Matters concerning exemptions transferred to the Register of Associations

Formerly granted by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, exemptions to provisions regarding the place of residence of the Chairperson of the Executive Committee are now handled by the Register of Associations of the NBPR.

#### Electronic Services

The electronic services provided by the Register of Associations include KATKA-YREKA, CD-YREKA, AssociationNet, NettiYREKA, WAP-YREKA and the AssociationAddresses service.

We have further enhanced the searching qualities of the AssociationNET and the NettiYREKA.

We provide the same information services regarding the organisation of Chambers of Commerce and religious communities as in the case of associations.

## New Freedom of Religion Act: RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES JOIN THE REGISTER OF ASSOCIATIONS

### AssociationNet Continues to Grow in Popularity

AssociationNet grew in popularity from the 247,000 searches in 2002 to 315,482 searches. The AssociationNet is a very practical tool for finding information on associations both for their own members and collective bargaining partners, and for unions and central organisations.

### The Advisory Committee for Associations

As a link between the Association Affairs Unit and other parties concerned serves the Advisory Committee for Associations in Finland. It meets regularly to debate and handle topical legislative and other issues of importance to organisations. This Committee has representatives from the six biggest political parties, from all central labour market organisations and from organisations in the fields of commerce, agriculture and sport.

### In 2003, the Members of the Committee were:

- Ms **Kerstin Ekman**, Director, Finnish Sports Federation
- Mr **Esko Grekelä**, Secretary for Trade Union Affairs, Left Wing Alliance
- Mr **Pertti T. Hyvönen**, Deputy Manager, Central Organization of Finnish Trade Unions
- Mr **Matti Kankare**, Head of the Organizational Department, The National Coalition Party
- Mr **Eero Lankia**, Party Secretary, Finnish Centre Party

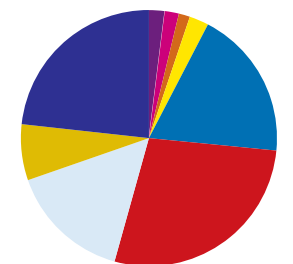
- Mr **Rauno Lindabl**, Head of Negotiations, Employers' Confederation of Service Industries
- Mr **Vesa Mauriala**, Head of Political Department, Finnish Social Democratic Party
- Mr **Mikko Mäenpää**, Chairman, Finnish Confederation of Salaried Employees STTK. Deputy: Mr **Matti Hynynen**, Director
- Mr **Risto Piekkari**, Chairman, Confederation of Unions for Academic Professionals in Finland. Deputy: Mr **Jarmo Nurmio**, Head of Organization Unit
- Ms **Katariina Poskiparta**, The Green League of Finland
- Mr **Hannu Rautiainen**, LL.M., Confederation of Finnish Industry and Employers
- Mr **Berth Sundström**, Party Secretary, Swedish People's Party
- Mr **Jyrki Wallin**, Head of Section, Central Union of Agricultural Producers and Forest Owners
- Mr **Rauno Vanhanen**, Director, Federation of Finnish Enterprises
- Mr **Guy Wires**, Managing Director, Federation of Finnish Commerce and Trade

The Chairman of the Committee is President **Martti Enäjärvi**, the Vice-Chairman Director of the Register of Associations **Kalevi Sadeluoto**, and the secretary Deputy Director **Kari-Pekka Helminen**. Other members are Senior Vice President **Olli Koikkalainen** and Director of Communications **Leo Lehdistö**.

### Committee Meetings in 2003:

- 28 February 2003, Director of Legislation **Matti Niemivuo**: "Administrative Procedure according to the new Administrative Procedure Act"
- 15 May 2003, Secretary-General of the Parliament **Seppo Tiitinen**: "Government and Civic Activity"
- 1 September 2003, Chancellor of Justice **Paavo Nikula**: "Association Activity and Civic Activity"
- 9 December 2003, Director **Seppo Riski** and Head of Administration **Markku Järvenpää**: "Mergering Large Federations"

### Associations



- Party-political associations
- Associations related to professions or trades
- Associations in the social field
- Associations in the cultural field
- Associations in fields of sport, youth and leisure activities
- Religious and other associations related to outlook on life
- Associations related to national defence and work for peace
- International organisations and friendship associations
- Other associations

9-10.6.

NBPR's EFQM Self Assessment Seminar



10.6-31.10.  
ZONE Exhibition at Innogallery



16-17.6.

Visitors from Hungary at our Helsinki main office



23.6.



Traditional golfing event



## MARKETING AND BUSINESS SERVICES UNIT

The main task of the Marketing and Business Services Unit is to market and develop the commercially based business services of the National Board of Patents and Registration (NBPR). The services are developed in close co-operation with the Office's client service, advisory service and Line units.

The Marketing and Business Services Unit focuses on offering clients and interest groups information about companies and organisations as well as industrial property rights. This information is maintained and administered by the NBPR and disseminated through various channels for utilisation in research, product development and decision-making.

The NBPR's main responsibility is to use industrial property information as efficiently as possible, and to make it available for the benefit of clients and interest groups in order to sustain and improve national competitiveness in constantly changing circumstances.

### Examination and Information Services

In 2003, a client survey was carried out of the usability and service level of our examination and information services. The results confirmed that 96% of those who had used our services classed the patent information as a useful or a very useful source of information for R & D. The answers also gave us valuable information about how to improve the usability of our services.

In order to pinpoint the areas in which our trademark services need further improvement, our trademark clients were also asked to participate in a survey on our services.

In the year under review, the NBPR launched the nationwide R & D service, "TuoteStart", which has been produced in co-operation with Employment and Economic Development Centres (TE Centres) and private consultants, and is intended for both private persons and enterprises to help them in the commercialisation of product and service ideas. Now our clients all over Finland have access to this service which includes, among other things, technical evaluation of a project, novelty estimation of an invention, and guidance in industrial rights protection issues. "TuoteStart" is available at the TE Centres, where the service is organised by innovation agents, and provided by authorised consultants specialised in product development. There are twenty-five authorised consultants to date and more than 100 TuoteStart consultations were started in 2003.

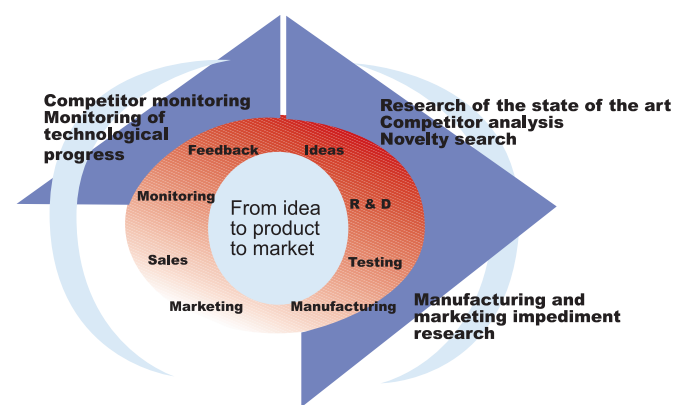
### Training

The Basic Courses on Company Law and Industrial Property Law that the Marketing and Business Services Unit has organ-

ised for the public continue to be popular. In 2003, two new courses were launched, i.e. "Introduction to Industrial Property Rights" and "International Patenting", the latter of which was arranged in co-operation with patent agents. Furthermore, a special course for professionals on the processing of PCT applications, and a course on international registration of trademarks were organised together with WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization) and a special course on registration of the Community Trademark was given in co-operation with OHIM (the EU Office for Harmonization in the Internal market).

### Events

During the year under review, the National Board of Patents and Registration took part in eight fairs, where products of the Marketing and Business Services Unit were promoted. In late 2003, we took part in the Business Intelligence Forum Finland, which is one of the most important meeting places for producers and users of business information.



## BOARD OF APPEAL

The Board of Appeal is an independent body which applies administrative legislation in connection with the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland (NBPR). By virtue of the Act on the Hearing of Appeals before the National Board of Patents and Registration, it decides on appeals against decisions taken by the NBPR concerning the granting of patents, the registration of designs, semiconductor topographies, utility models, and trademarks and it also decides on other final decisions concerning these.

Furthermore, the Board decides on appeals against the NBPR's decisions concerning refusals to register notices to the Trade Register or the Register of Associations.

As from the beginning of 2003, the Board of Appeal also deals with the NBPR's decisions to refuse an applicant

permission to establish a foundation, ratification of a foundation's by-laws, or registration of a notice to the Foundation Register.

The decisions of the Board of Appeal may in turn be further appealed to the Supreme Administrative Court.

The Board of Appeal consists of a Chairman and two other members, whom the Chairman summons to each session depending on the nature of the appeal case. Thus, the composition of the Board varies in order to ensure its familiarity with and its expert knowledge about the case under hearing. By reason of the internationalisation of the regulations on the protection of industrial property rights, the importance of knowledge about industrial property rights and their progress is emphasised when deciding on appeals.

The appeal cases dealt with in the sessions are prepared by two Senior Engineers, who are members of the permanent staff, the Head of the Division and a presenting official. They are assisted by the Departmental Secretary, who carries out the practical tasks of the Board.

Take note!  
**PRH.FI**  
NUMBER OF VISITORS  
DOUBLED IN 2003

### Board of Appeal Statistics in 2002 and 2003 (2002 in brackets)

	Patents	Trade-marks	Designs	Trade Register	Utility Models	Association Register	Foundation	Total
Cases lodged with the Board	37 (39)	172 (110)	5 (2)	2 (2)	4 (4)	1 (-)	1	22(157)
Cases decided by the Board	38 (37)	144 (132)	5(34)	2 (2)	4 (8)	- (2)	-	193 (215)
Amendments to decisions taken by the NBPR	12 (15)	34 (49)	- (2)	- (1)	2 (5)	- (-)	-	48 (72)
Opinions given to the Supreme Administrative Court	21 (19)	21 (16)	1(7)	1(-)	1 (7)	- (2)	-	45 (51)
Interim decisions	- (-)	2 (-)	- (-)	- (-)	- (1)	- (-)	-	1(1)
Cases undecided at the end of the year	29 (30)	273(245)	8 (8)	2 (2)	3 (3)	1 (-)	1	317 (288)

17.-20.9.



Social Event at the Kamppi building site

20

17.-19.9.



NBPR at the Subcontracting 2003 Fair

24.9.



WIPO appoints Finland as an international PCT Authority in Geneva

30.9.-2.10.



NBPR at the HiTec 2003 Fair

15.10.



Minister of Trade and Industry Mauri Pekkarinen visited NBPR

Photo: Aki Panola

# NBPR FOR THE WHOLE OF FINLAND

According to Section 2 of the Act on the National Board of Patents and Registration, the mission of the NBPR is to further technological and economic progress. In this mission, we have emphasised the furthering of a balanced regional structure and vitality of our entire country. The fast, flexible and easily accessible service at our Helsinki main office, in our regional service points and electronic information networks form the basis for our client-oriented activities. These are the reasons why NBPR has strongly regionalised its services during the past 15 years.

TE Centres, Local Register Offices, Chambers of Commerce, Enterprise Agencies and Tax Offices (through the Business Information System) constitute NBPR's regional units at present. In addition, NBPR has concluded a co-operation agreement with innovation agents in each TE Centre and with 12 innovation agents at universities and institutions of higher education.

Even though the majority of our clients operate in the Helsinki Metropolitan Area, our main purpose now is to improve and diversify our client service by extending our services to other Finnish regions.

## TE Centres

The co-operation with TE Centres has improved every year and has been an important extension to NBPR's services to the whole of Finland: all NBPR's services are now available to citizens, entrepreneurs, businesses and organisations from TE Centres as a one-stop service closer to their place of residence or business. They do not need to travel all the way to the NBPR main office in Helsinki.

In 2003, we piloted a new service by organising an NBPR information event for clients operating in the region of one TE Centre. The event took place in Jyväskylä and was organised together with the TE Centre of Central Finland. We found the

event very useful and will continue with it in 2004 and the near future.

## Innovation Agents in TE Centres

In accordance with a co-operation agreement between the NBPR and the Foundation for Finnish Inventions, innovation agents were installed in the TE Centres in 2000. At present, there are 15 innovation agents, meaning that each TE Centre has one agent. The innovation agents play a major role in disseminating patent information and regionally bringing the still almost unknown patent information system to public attention. Their activities have constantly progressed: the TuoteStart service to support product development and the commercial viability of innovations was recently included as a new feature in their services.

## Innovation Agents at Universities and Other Institutions of Higher Education

NBPR has concluded an agreement that 12 innovation agents shall act as innovation experts for NBPR, the Foundation for Finnish Inventions and the university in question.

## Local Register Offices

During the 1990's, the processing of notifications submitted to the Trade Register by housing companies was transferred in two stages from the Trade Register to the Local Register Offices, which act as local authorities. **In 2003, Local Register Offices processed 18,120 notifications.** There are 35 Local Register Offices in different parts of Finland and they also give advice on matters which the NBPR's Enterprises and Corporations Line deal with.

See map!  
**NBPR  
REGIONALISED  
THROUGHOUT  
FINLAND**

## Enterprise Agencies

NBPR has entered into a co-operation agreement with every Enterprise Agency in Finland (32 agencies) to regionally improve the client and information service. This agreement supports the establishment of new businesses and strengthens their economic development.

## Regional Chambers of Commerce

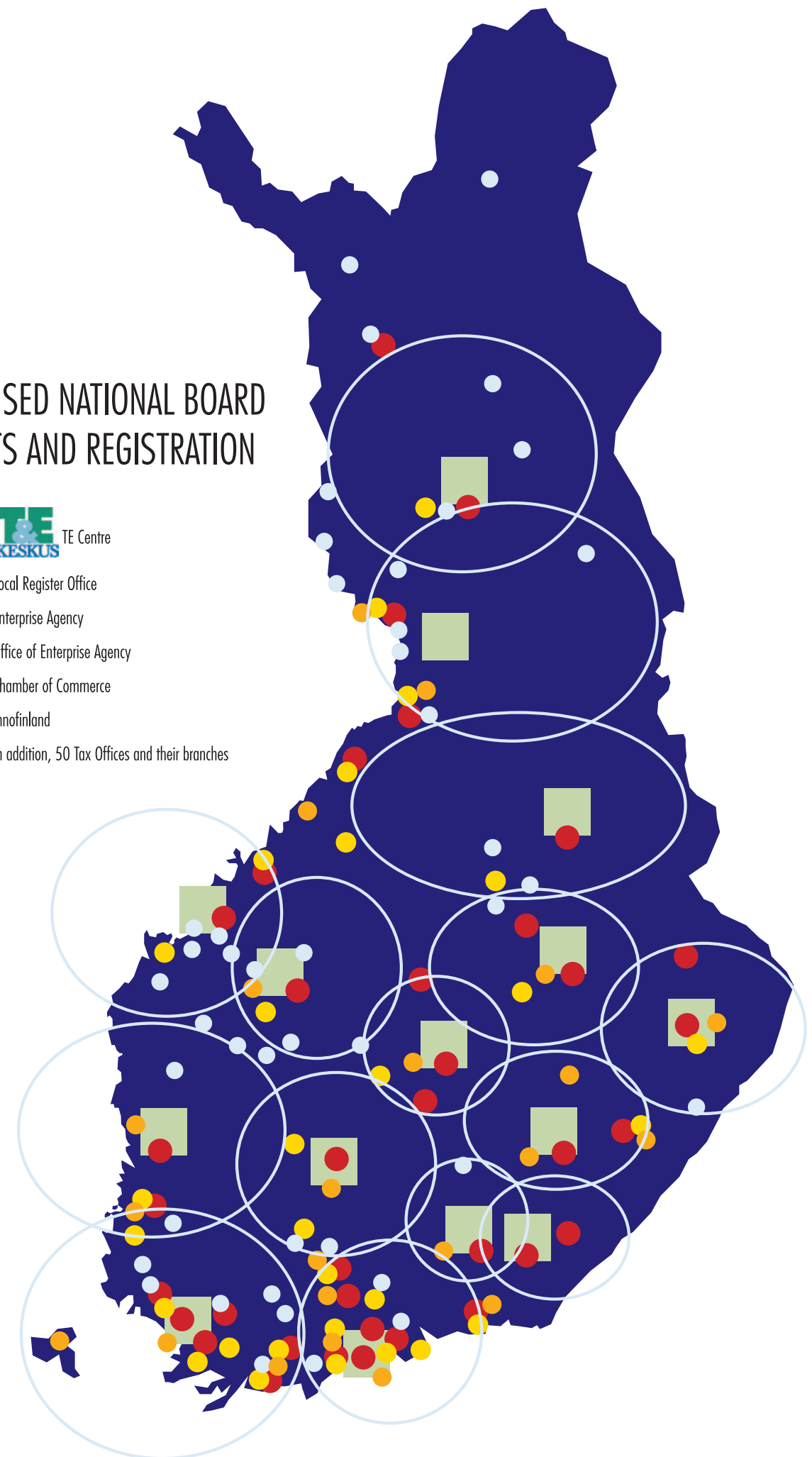
In 1992, NBPR and the Central Chamber of Commerce agreed to co-operate in matters concerning the supply of Trade Register services. The purpose was to make the services more available in Finnish regions and to further and deepen collaboration in other matters.

## Innofinland

Innofinland has established itself as the innovation prize presented each year by the President of the Republic and as a project which looks for innovations in the Finnish regions and emphasises the importance of creativity and skills. From 2001, TE Centres have been in charge of Innofinland's regional juries. At the moment, we are planning how to further develop the regional role of TE Centres in the Innofinland Project.

**The Business Information System (BIS)**, jointly maintained by NBPR and the Tax Authorities, has also made Tax Offices NBPR's regional service points. At the end of 2003, there were 124 Tax Offices in Finland.

# REGIONALISED NATIONAL BOARD OF PATENTS AND REGISTRATION



29.10.

NBPR's activities are presented at the TE Centre in Central Finland







## COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

A reader survey was carried out on the staff magazine **Ikiliikkuja** to find out readers' opinions of its contents and layout. With the help of the results of the survey we also looked for ideas to develop the magazine.

Respondents gave the magazine the overall ranking of "good". On a scale of 1 to 6, the total average was 3.9, i.e. good. The average for the contents amounted to 4.0 and that for the layout to 4.2.

Nine readers out of ten read **Ikiliikkuja** at the workplace, surprisingly few on the way to or from work or at home. The most popular elements of the contents appeared to be current events, news relating to the staff, and employee introductions. Nearly all respondents wished that the publication of **Ikiliikkuja** be continued, because it was seen as the most importance channel for in-house communication. The readers did not support the idea of transferring the printed version to the electronic network. The present frequency of publication, fortnightly, was generally considered suitable. **Ikiliikkuja** published 20 issues in 2002.

The clients' magazine **PRHtieto** enjoyed its fifth year of publication. The magazine was given a new, modernised layout and graphic image through co-operation with Edita-Prima. Professor **Tapani Aartomaa** was the expert in charge of the work. Judging by the feedback from its readers the magazine has proved both use-

ful and popular. **PRHtieto** was written entirely by the staff, thereby ensuring articles of the appropriate relevance and expertise. However, writing in addition to one's regular job is highly demanding on resources, and this is one of the reasons why **PRHtieto** continued to be published only twice a year. Among the articles published in **PRHtieto** during 2003 were the following:

- A Trademark is more than a word or a logo
- At a lookout spot in WIPO in Geneva
- A Political agreement on the Community Patent
- Innovations and sustainable development
- NBPR to become an international PCT authority
- Patent application process to go electronic
- Foundations support activities in the Finnish society
- At a lookout spot at OHIM in Alicante
- The wide variety of prize-winners in the INNOFINLAND 2003 Contest

INNOGALLERY Prepared Three Successful Exhibitions in 2003:

- **The Song of Jewels, Kärt Summatavet**  
This exhibition which served as the art production element required for a doctoral thesis at the University of Arts and Design in Helsinki presented the artistic jewellery created by docent Kärt Summatavet from the Estonian Academy of Arts. She will be



the first Estonian to obtain the degree of Doctor of Arts. In her jewellery Summatavet examines popular tradition among Estonian women. The material of the jewellery is usually silver, but the most important element is enamelling, and Summatavet is the number one master of this skill in her time. The artist is in the process of protecting her enamelling system, which enables the drawing of accurate strokes in the surface of the metal and enamelling on both sides of the jewel.

### • Zone – New Perspectives on Intellectual Property

This exhibition, which was open over the summer and autumn, was based on the study project ZONE jointly organised by the NBPR and the University of Art and Design Helsinki. It introduced students of applied arts to the protection of intellectual property. International students chose as their objects well-known Finnish products which they modified further, with the idea of studying how far you can take "copying" without infringing the original product. The ZONE exhibition was compiled from the material thus created. It attracted great attention in Finland, even to the extent that the idea of ZONE is now predicted to become an international concept.

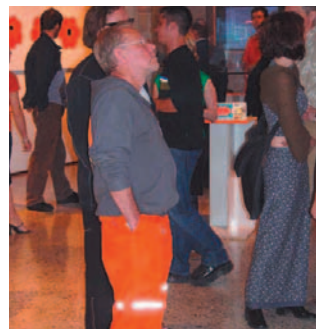
### • Savonius Catches the Wind – A View to Creative Finland

The exhibition presents one of the most famous Finnish inventors, Sigurd Savonius (1884-1931), together with a few contemporary innovators—the INNOFINLAND 2003 prize-winners. Among the awarded

innovations the wool finishing method developed by Melocoton Oy, which removes the earlier problems of shrinking and matting, and the fog screen developed by FogScreen Oy raised the greatest interest. The fog screen based on water-shower stopped for a short visit to INNOGALLERY on its way from Germany to Lille, France. This international element is well in line with the theme of the exhibition, because the most famous application of Savonius' invention, the rotor fan in which the Savonius rotor rotates the ventilating wings, can be seen on roofs in all corners of the world.

### • Fairs

In 2003 the NBPR attended six national fairs: Suunnittelun maailma (Special Event on Technical Design and Product Development), Oma Yritys (An Enterprise of One's Own), Bio Tech, Yritys (Enterprise) 2003, Alihankinta (Subcontracting) 2003, and HiTec 2003. Our new fair stand, which was born as a result of competitive bidding and was designed by Studio Ripatti, attracted plenty of attention thanks to its exceptional design and strong visual expression. Visitors have always praised our expert representatives at fairs for their knowledge and professional skills. Last year they were all also given training in presentation skills. Visitors have given positive feedback to us on participating in fairs. Our staff who have worked at fairs have considered the participation justified and seen that the fairs provide an excellent opportunity to disseminate important information on what our Office does.



18.11.

Innovation Day: President of the Republic Tarja Halonen presents the Innofinland Prizes



24

18.11.

Dr Hans Blix gives a speech at the main Innofinland awards ceremony



18.11.

Savonius Catches The Wind Exhibition and INNOFINLAND 2003 Prizewinners at Innogallery



25-26.11.

Innovation Agents Event at the NBPR

T&E Työvoima- ja elinkeinokeskus Arbetskrafts- och näringscentralen





## INNOFINLAND 2003

The INNOFINLAND Contest attracted a record number of 329 entries from 19 Finnish regions in 2003.

The purpose of the INNOFINLAND Project is to promote creativity, skill, entrepreneurial spirit and co-operation in Finland in a practical and creative way in order to improve opportunities to increase well-being nationally.

This is also the intention of the awarding of both the annual INNOFINLAND Prizes of the President of the Republic, and the Regional INNOFINLAND Prizes, as well as the celebration of National Innovation Day and regional events.

It was the fifth time that the Invention Contest for Conscripts, INNOINT, was part of the Project. The INNO-SCHOOL Innovation Event for schoolchildren was arranged for the third time in co-operation with the National Board of Education.

The theme for the INNOFINLAND Contest 2003 was 'Sustainable Development Through Innovations'. President Tarja Halonen handed out the INNOFINLAND Prizes of the President of the Republic for the fourth time, and also awarded five equal INNOFINLAND

Prizes and two Honourable Mentions on the basis of nominations by the jury:

- **FogScreen Inc.**, Seinäjoki, Walk-thru wall
- **Green Rock Oy**, Ii, Natural small-sized treatment plant for domestic sewage
- **Melocoton Oy**, Mikkeli, Biotechnological finishing process of wool textiles
- **POM Technology Oy Ab**, Helsinki, Compact wet end system for paper machines
- **Wetend Technologies Ltd**, Savonlinna, Mixing of chemicals into paper pulp by using the TrumpJet™ technology

### Honourable Mentions:

- **Wood Technology Centre Puugia**, Joensuu, Continuation development of a thermoplastic composite of natural fibres, development of products and connected networking
- **Tervatulli Oy**, Oulu, The Tervatulli concept, promotion of sustainable development, social entrepreneurship

In the INNOINT Invention Contest for Conscripts 2003, we decided to present four equal prizes, not arranged in any order of quality. The Chief of the Defence Forces, Admiral Juhani Kaskeala and President of the NBPR Martti Enäjärvi handed out the INNOINT Prizes to the following:

- Signalman in Reserve **Jukka Dahlbom**, Automated air surveillance report
- Lance Corporal in Reserve **Artturi Salmela**, Application for managing the results of a simulated combat
- Officer Student **Petri Valkama**, Changing of the perforation in a gas cylinder of a 7.62 RK 62 assault rifle
- Sergeant in Reserve **Jaakko Välikylä**, Internet-based system for leave application

First and second grades in comprehensive schools and vocational school students in the Oulu region took part in the INNO-SCHOOL Innovation Event for school-

children. The vocational schools participated for the first time. The INNO-SCHOOL theme was 'Sustainable Development and How to Ensure a Better Quality of Life'.

Director General at the National Board of Education, **Kirsi Lindroos** and the husband of the President **Dr Pentti Arajärvi** presented five equal prizes to the following:

### Primary Schools (7 to 9-year-olds)

**Aino Erkinaro**, Oulunsuu School, Y-shaped toothbrush that brushes both sides of the teeth at the same time  
**Oskari Ervasti** and **Antti Räsänen**, Rajakylä School, Bottle filling machine for 0.5 and 1.5 litre soft drink bottles

### Vocational Schools (15 to 17-year-olds)

**Jussi Honkanen**, Oulu College of Culture and Technology, Solar-powered car ventilator where solar panels on the roof of the

car supply power to the ventilators in a parked car  
**Juha Nyman**, Oulu College of Culture and Technology, Mobile phone charger which uses wind power  
**Jari Ryönänkoski**, Oulu College of Culture and Technology, Anti-theft alarm where an alarm device, for example in a hand bag, is activated by using a remote control

Oulu College of Culture and Technology received an Honourable Mention for active participation in Innoschool 2003.

Regional juries set up by the TE Centres presented 39 Regional INNOFINLAND Prizes and 24 Honourable Mentions.

A total of 31 regional events were organised in 2003. Further details on Regional and other INNOFINLAND Prizewinners are available at [www.innosuomi.fi](http://www.innosuomi.fi).



The InnoFinland Prizes of the President of the Republic were presented on Innovation Day on 18 November 2003.

## INNOFINLAND PRIZEWINNERS 2003



Wetend Technologies Ltd



FogScreen Inc.



POM Technology Oy Ab



Green Rock Oy



Melocoton Oy



Joensuu Science Park



Tervatulli Oy



## INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

As globalisation advances, our contacts across borders are continuing to increase in number and intensity. Our main partners in the international field are the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the European Patent Organisation (EPO) and the EU Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market, Trademarks and Designs (OHIM). Co-operation with the Nordic and Estonian Industrial Property Offices has been as intensive as before. In recent years we have also continued building closer relations with the other Baltic countries.

### WIPO

WIPO, or the World Intellectual Property Organization, was established to promote the protection of intellectual property worldwide. It is one of the sixteen specialised agencies of the United Nations, and the administration of multinational treaties on different elements of intellectual property is also among its functions. WIPO has 179 member states. Delegates from the National Board of Patents and Registration attended several expert meetings organised by WIPO on various sectors of industrial property.

The Extraordinary General Assembly organised in May 2003 unanimously elected Director General Kamil Idris to lead WIPO for another six-year term. At this same Assembly he presented his new fundamental vision for the following years. During the past year Director General Idris has also significantly furthered good

relations between Finland and WIPO.

The General Assemblies of different Unions of WIPO were held in Geneva in September. Mr Martti Enäjärvi, President of the National Board of Patents and Registration, headed the Finnish delegation.

The General Assembly of the PCT Union appointed the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland as an ISA and an IPEA, that is: a PCT Authority. This decision meant the rise of the NBPR to the position of an international player alongside ten other national Patent Offices of the same status. The fundamental idea of the PCT system lies in the fact that it makes it possible to simultaneously seek protection for an invention in all the 120 countries that have joined the treaty through the filing of one single application. The right to examine and conduct searches on applications has been restricted to the above-mentioned Offices. The decision is of great significance to Finnish export industry and other business communities and it will make an essential part of our innovation system. At the same time the decision presents a formidable but positive challenge to the NBPR. It provides the opportunity to give better service to Finnish applicants. It is of great advantage, especially to SME sector applicants, to deal with an office where they are now also able to use their mother tongue at the international stage of processing the application.

Mr Enäjärvi was re-elected as President of the Budapest Union administering the Treaty on the International Recognition

of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure.

Representatives from the NBPR have also been active in giving lectures at seminars and training events organised by WIPO, such as "WIPO Forum on Intellectual Property and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises for OECD Countries", which was organised in Geneva in May 2003. A regional training seminar aimed at English-speaking African countries was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 12 to 14 November 2003. This Subregional Workshop on Strategy for Acquisition, Effective Management and Dissemination of Intellectual Property Information was jointly organised by WIPO and the Ethiopian Government. A total of 34 active experts and university information officers working with intellectual property information from various African countries participated, learning about the basics of IP information, patent information in particular, and its administration, acquisition and dissemination.

### EPO

During the past few years, the European Patent Organisation has undergone a drastic expansion. The number of its member states is now 27, the latest newcomers being Hungary and Rumania. Poland will also enter in the first half of 2004. Finland has been a member of EPO since 1996. The duty of the European Patent Office is to grant European patents in a centralised way. After it has been granted, the

European patent must also be validated in those EPC members states which the applicant opts for. Finland has actively participated in the operations of the European Patent Office: the meetings of the Administrative Council, for example, which is in charge of the operations of the Office, were attended by President Martti Enäjärvi and Vice President Pekka Launis. Experts from our Office have also participated in various working groups appointed by the Administrative Council.

During the year under review the Working Party on Litigation has carried out the mandate received at the intergovernmental conferences in Paris (1999) and London (2000). The Working Group has drafted a proposal for a court system relating to European patents which would consist of a decentralised Court of First Instance and a centralised Court of Appeal. The proposal also contains provisions on a Facultative Advisory Council. Although the proposal already provides a basis for organising an intergovernmental conference for the establishment of a judiciary system for EPO, the Working Group, however, decided to take a one-year break, as the EU is concurrently preparing a separate Court of Law system relating to the Community Patent.

### EU Community Patent

During 2003, the Community Patent system gained new momentum, when in March the EU Competitiveness Council

**THE WORLD  
OF PCT  
- AND OF FINLAND!**



OHIM, Alicante



EPO, Munich



WIPO, Geneva



succeeded in finding a solution to many significant causes of disagreement. The Council came very close to a final solution but a few issues remained unsolved in the last metres. One of these is the time limit by which the claims of a Community Patent have to be translated into all Community languages. Another unsettled issue is that of the final form of the Court of Law system. The debate will be continued this spring under Ireland's leadership, but it is not yet sure whether the decision will be taken during the term of the present Parliament. Finland announced at the session of the intergovernmental conference in December that it is in favour of a rapid decision on Community Patent.

In contrast, another EU proposal, the European Union Draft Directive on the Patentability of Computer-Implemented Inventions, was not approved. The EU Parliament proposed a substantial number of amendments to it, which significantly deviated from the common approach of the Council. The Draft Directive made in 2002 did not propose granting patents to computer programs as such, it rather aimed at harmonising the varying practices in different EU countries in interpreting patent laws whenever the implementation of the invention involves a computer program. Opinions on the proposal were deeply divided, and the Finnish export industry for example has voiced its concerns about the form the Directive was given in Parliament. Owing to the wide variation in views and the complexity of the issue, the handling of the Draft Directive is likely to be continued during the new EU Parliament.

### Community Trademark

The EU Office for Harmonization in the Internal Market, Trademarks and Designs (OHIM), located in Alicante, Spain, has registered Community trademarks since 1996. The National Board of Patents and Registration also actively took part in the operations of the OHIM in the year under review. President Martti Enäjärvi and Vice President Sirkka-Liisa Lahtinen contributed to the work of the Administrative Council and of the Budget Committee. In addition, representatives of our Office attended the meetings between the experts from OHIM and national Offices.

### Registration of Community Designs Started

The OHIM's field of activity expanded when it began registering Community Designs on 1 April 2003. However, the receipt of applications for registration of Community Designs had actually begun on 1 January 2003.

The Community Design Regulation offers design protection in the entire EU area through the filing of one single application. The Community Design is of a non-divisional character, which means that the protection is both born, and will, in time, cease simultaneously in the whole Community area. As regards the essential concepts and provisions, such as the term of and conditions for protection, the Community Design Regulation is in line with our national Design Right legislation.

In its first year of operation with Community Designs, OHIM received a total of 10 691 Community Design applications

covering a total of 37 084 designs. Of these applications, 101 were from Finland, covering 257 designs in all. A total of 59 Community Design applications were transmitted to OHIM through the National Board of Patents and Registration in 2003.

### CO-OPERATION AMONG THE NORDIC AND BALTIC COUNTRIES

The heads of the Nordic Patent Offices convened twice in the year under review. The permanent Nordic Working Groups on Patents, Trademarks and Designs likewise had two meetings last year.

This was the fourth time that the heads of the Nordic and Baltic countries met, the idea for which was originally based on Finland's initiative. This time it was hosted by Latvia. These joint meetings have been seen as important forums for debate in the expanding European patent co-operation. Estonia has already become party to the European Patent Convention and Latvia and Lithuania are expected to join soon. Iceland and Norway are also planning to seek membership.

The heads of Trade Registers from Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland held their annual meeting in Copenhagen in 2003. Central topics were data systems and system updates, and current legislative reforms.

### FOREIGN VISITORS TO THE OFFICE IN 2003

Several international delegations visited the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland in 2003 to learn about the way we operate. Among the



Dr Kamil Idris, Director General of WIPO, and Mr Martti Enäjärvi, President of NBPR, signed Finland's PCT Authority Agreement in Geneva on 30 September 2003.

visitors was for example Dr Miklós Bendzel, the President of the Hungarian Patent Office. The long-term co-operation agreement between the Offices was renewed during his visit. During the President of Kyrgyzstan's state visit to Finland, the President of the Kyrgyzstani-an Patent Office, Mr Roman O. Omorov, who accompanied him, visited the National Board of Patents and Registration. As a result of his visit the Offices decided to conclude a co-operation agreement in the field of industrial property.



## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE SHEET

(€'000)

	1 Jan 2003 - 31 Dec 2003		1 Jan 2002 - 31 Dec 2002	
<b>INCOME FROM OPERATIONS</b>				
Income from fee-charging operations	32 346.7		31 950.2	
Rents and compensations	13.4		21.1	
Other income from operations	414.2	32 774.3	349.6	32 320.9
<b>EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>				
Raw materials and consumables				
Purchases during the accounting period	635.2		675.3	
Staff expenses	18 617.4		18 361.2	
Rents	3 932.4		3 840.4	
Services purchased	7 725.3		6 927.0	
Other expenses	480.0		492.1	
Production for own use (-)	-59.0		-79.5	
Depreciations	3 356.3		3 389.0	
Internal expenses	0.0	34 678.7	1.8	33 607.3
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT I</b>		<b>-1 913.4</b>		<b>-1 286.4</b>
<b>FINANCIAL INCOME AND EXPENSES</b>				
Financial income	0.1		0.1	
Financial expenses	-0.2	-0.1	0.1	0.0
<b>EXTRAORDINARY INCOME AND CHARGES</b>				
Extraordinary charges	-7.8	-7.8	-19.1	-19.1
<b>SURPLUS/DEFICIT II</b>		<b>-1 921.3</b>		<b>-1.305.5</b>
<b>INCOME AND EXPENSES FROM TAXES AND OBLIGATORY FEES</b>				
Value added taxes levied	311.2		266.0	
Value added taxes paid	-2 285.0	-1 973.8	-2 420.0	-2 154.0
<b>DEFICIT FROM THE ACCOUNTING PERIOD</b>		<b>-3 895.1</b>		<b>-3 459.5</b>

## BALANCE SHEET

(€'000)

	31 Dec 2003	31 Dec 2002
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>FIXED ASSETS AND OTHER LONG-TERM INVESTMENTS</b>		
• Intangible assets		
Research and development expenses	4 059.7	5 155.6
Intangible rights	334.0	406.0
Other capitalised long-term expenses	140.5	331.0
Advance payments and acquisitions in progress	353.6	1 110.3
• Tangible assets		
Machinery and equipment	1 529.4	1 637.3
Furniture and fixtures	361.1	470.4
Other tangible assets	137.5	137.4
• Securities included in fixed assets and other long-term investments		
Securities included in fixed assets	0.1	0.1
<b>STOCKS AND FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>		
• Debtors: current		
Trade debtors	545.5	349.9
Prepaid expenses and accrued income	320.8	107.2
Other current debtors	276.9	132.0
Advance payments	0.0	1.1
• Cash in hand and at banks and other liquid assets		
Cash accounts	4.9	4.0
<b>ASSETS, TOTAL</b>	<b>8 064.0</b>	<b>9 842.3</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>		
• State capital		
State capital on 1 January 1998	3 376.2	3 376.2
Change in capital from previous accounting period	258.8	2 450.5
Transfers of capital	1 920.3	1 267.8
Deficit of the accounting period	-3 895.1	-3 459.5
<b>CREDITORS</b>		
• Current		
Advances received	267.4	102.6
Trade creditors	1 611.3	1 582.1
Payments to accounts between accounting offices	398.4	473.8
Items to be accounted for and forwarded	1 363.3	1 418.0
Accruals and deferred income	2 761.4	2 630.2
Other current creditors	1.9	0.6
<b>LIABILITIES, TOTAL</b>	<b>8 064.0</b>	<b>9 842.3</b>

# ANNUAL ACCOUNTS NOTES

## Income and Expenditure Sheet 1 January to 31 December 2003

The income in the income and expenditure sheet totalled €32.8m. It consisted of €32.3m revenue from ordinary activities, and €0.4m from minor rents and compensations and other income from operations. The income rose by €0.5m, i.e. by 1.4%, from the previous year.

The total operating expenditure rose by 3% and amounted to €34.7m during the operating year. Staff expenses of €18.6m were the biggest single expenditure item: they made up 53.6% of the total expenditure. In IT development projects for the office's own use, an item amounting to €0.1m of staff expenses was capitalised. It is shown as a separate item in the income and expenditure sheet. External services were bought for €7.7m and rents paid for amounted to €3.9m.

Capitalised investments in fixed assets were depreciated by €3.4m.

The total expenditure grew by €1.1m from the previous year. The biggest growth was in external services at €0.8m and in staff expenses at €0.3m. Rents paid for rose by €0.1m compared with 2002. Depreciations, other expenses as well as raw material and consumable expenses decreased somewhat from the previous year. Surplus/Deficit I was negative, at -€1.9m.

Income and expenses from taxes and obligatory fees comprised Value Added Tax levied and paid. It totalled -€2.0m net.

The deficit for the financial year was €3.9m.

## Balance Sheet at 31 December 2003

The balance sheet total was €8.1m on 31 December 2003.

The balance sheet mainly consists of capitalised development items for the Office's registers and for IT equipment related to those registers.

On the assets side of the balance sheet, the residual value of the fixed assets and other long-term investments in the Annual Accounts totalled €6.9m. The main part of the fixed assets consisted of intangible assets of €4.9m, in which both external specialist services used for upgrading the Office's IT systems and its own staff's contribution to this work was capitalised, jointly amounting to €4.1m. Other intangible fixed assets included unfinished development projects, totalling €0.4m, €0.1m of other expenses with long-term effects (repairs etc.), and €0.3m of intangible rights (IT programs).

Tangible assets comprised €1.5m in machinery and equipment, €0.4m in furniture and fixtures, and €0.1m in other tangible assets.

Investments made in fixed assets last year amounted to €1.0m.

Stocks and financial assets include current debtors and cash in hand and funds at banks, totalling €1.1m.

The liabilities side of the balance sheet includes the State's capital in the National Board of Patents and Registration, amounting to €1.7m, and current creditors, a total of €6.4m. The National Board of Patents and Registration is one of the few government authorities that have a positive equity in the balance sheet.



# PERFORMANCE REPORT 2003

In 2003, the total number of various applications and notifications filed rose by 5.7% to 307,846.

## Productivity

In 2003, the productivity of work in the units increased by 3.1%, well in excess of the target of 1.5% set in the state budget. The trend for productivity in the long term is clearly above target. Since 1988, the Office's productivity has risen by 93%. Results management, performance measurement, improvement of processes, continuous development of IT systems, as well as staff development have been the main reasons for this excellent increase.

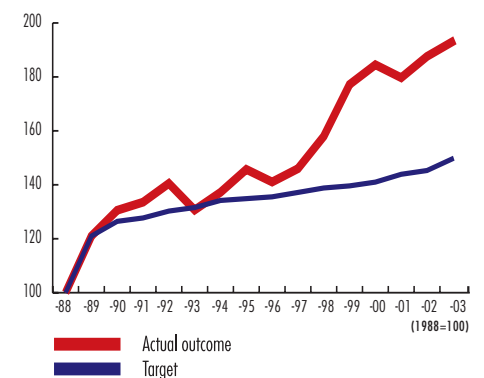
## Processing Times

In the Trade Register, the average processing time of notifications has decreased to less than two weeks. In the Trademarks Unit, processing times of both national and international applications concerning Finland continued to decrease in 2003. In other units the processing times remained more or less unchanged.

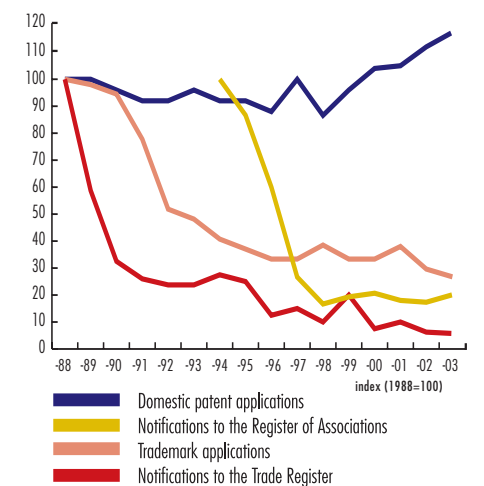
## Economy

Cost per unit rose by 0.48%. The economy target for 2003 was achieved as the limit for the cost per unit was set at an increase of not more than 0.5% in the budget. In fact the real cost per unit decreased by 3.8%.

Development of Productivity and Targets Set



Development of processing times from 1988





# NATIONAL BOARD OF PATENTS AND REGISTRATION OF FINLAND

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