

## FICPI WEBINAR SERIES

# Connect, Share & Grow

2020



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"FICPI is a global community, built on trusted relationships, which strengthens the practice of the independent IP attorney"

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## **FICPI WEBINAR SERIES**

# Best Practices when Automating Workflows

12 November 2020



## **Moderator**



## **Chris Bird**

Member of FICPI's Professional Excellence Committee // Principal of FPA Patent Attorneys in Australia

STRENGTHENING THE PRACTICE OF THE INDEPENDENT IP ATTORNEY



# Speakers



Teemu Lang
Chief Digital Officer and Partner at
Papula-Nevinpat in Finland



Arild Tofting

Member of FICPI's Professional

Excellence Committee and CET 4;

Head of Patent Department and

Partner at Protector IP AS in Norway



Elin Kalstad

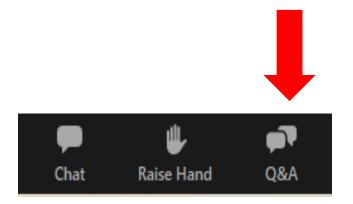
Head of Administration at Protector

IP AS in Norway



# **Questions?**

# Ask using the 'Q&A' function at the bottom of your screen







# **FICPI Connect & Grow Series**

**AUTOMATION IN IP MANAGEMENT** 

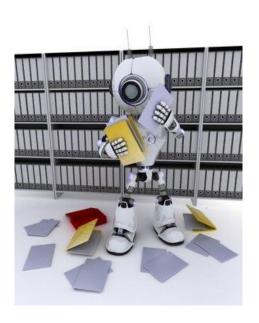
# **Automation in IP management**

- Introduction and background
- Survey questionnaire of August/September 2020
- What does 'automation' mean for a professional service firm
- WHAT? WHY? HOW?
- Survey results
- Guest speakers



### **AUTOMATION IN IP – IN CONTEXT**

- Introduction and background
- What does 'automation' mean for a professional service firm?



# AUTOMATION IN IP THE DECISION AND THE PROCESS

- WHAT? Types of tasks suitable for automation
- WHY? The decision process considerations to take into account
- HOW? The implementation process, iterations and optimisations

# AUTOMATION IN IP – REALITY AND EXPERIENCE

- Results of survey questionnaire, Aug/Sep 2020
- Guest speakers
  - Teemu Lang, Papula-Nevinpat, Finland
  - Arild Tofting, Elin Kalstad, Protector IP, Norway





# PAPULA NEVINPAT





# Automation in IP Management at Papula-Nevinpat

Dr. Teemu Lang – 12 November 2020



# Our Need for IP Application Process Development

- Main office and firm founded in 1975 in Helsinki, Finland - branch office in Saint Petersburg, Russia, founded in 1990
- Main business is IP application prosecution; 70% patents, 30% trademarks.
- All communications and clients are managed in the main office in Helsinki while the technical work for RU/EA applications is done in SPB => need to develop efficient workflows between Helsinki and Saint Petersburg since 1990.



# Our History and Plans in IP Application Process Development

### Timeline of internal process development:

#### 1990

Ramping up the volume in postal and facsimile communications between HKI-SPB

#### 2000

E-mails becoming the standard in HKI-SPB communications.

Intra-office processes on paper/folders.

File storage in network drives and paper archive

#### 2008

Commercial IPMS into use

Manual docketing Manual workflows

Intra-office processes also on paper/folders

File storage into IPMS and paper archive

#### 2012

Elimination of paper processes begins

Scanning of paper archives

Printing reduces by 93%

Manual Docketing

Intra-office processes and file storage in the digital domain only

Own sw-development to make internal workflows more efficient

#### 2016

AI-based process automation system for IP Applications

Original idea and POC already in 2013

Public R&D funding secured =>

development begins with own sw-team

#### 2021

AI-based process automation system for IP applications

Launch!

Automatic docketing
Automatic workflows
Automatic process management
Automatic process monitoring
Automatic alerts
Automatic reminders
Automatic message content
Automatic data validation

.



# Our Experiences in IP Application Process Automation

- Automation in IP management for us is mostly internal process automation (+ automated 3rd party search and landscaping tools)
- Speed/Responsiveness vs. 1/Cost vs. Reliability they go hand in hand
- Automated processes may make some work a bit boring, but sense of control and reliability of the systems are more important for the paralegals (and the business)
- Clear and efficient processes have significantly facilitated remote working
- While docketing can be outsourced and/or automated relatively easily the entire process cannot => more efficient processes means own process development => internal SW development



# Thank you!

PAPULA NEVINPAT

# Protector IP's experience as a pilot site for AI system in IPR

Arild Tofting
Partner and Head of Patent Department

Elin Kalstad Head of Administration







#### **About Protector IP**

- Protector is a small firm with ~20 persons. Administration of 7.
- Started in 1998. Was the first external customer of docketing system Patricia
- Has taken new technology early in use.
  - Among first to use PCT EASY and SAFE
  - Went to paperless files many years ago
  - Pilot on online filing at NIPO
  - Early adaptor of EOLF
  - Early to receive electronic office actions from NIPO
- Al could save time and not at least increase certainty and remove potential errors, i.e. fulfill the requirement for double check





## Starting with Al

- Two key persons of Protector met with the Canadian firm PCK at a Patricia User Group meeting
- PCK used and still use the system extensively.
  - Good integration with Patricia
  - Wanted to commercialize
- Protector started testing OttoDocket in 2018.
  - First and so far only outside PCK
  - Trained OttoDocket to docket OAs, search reports and trademark renewal notices from NIPO



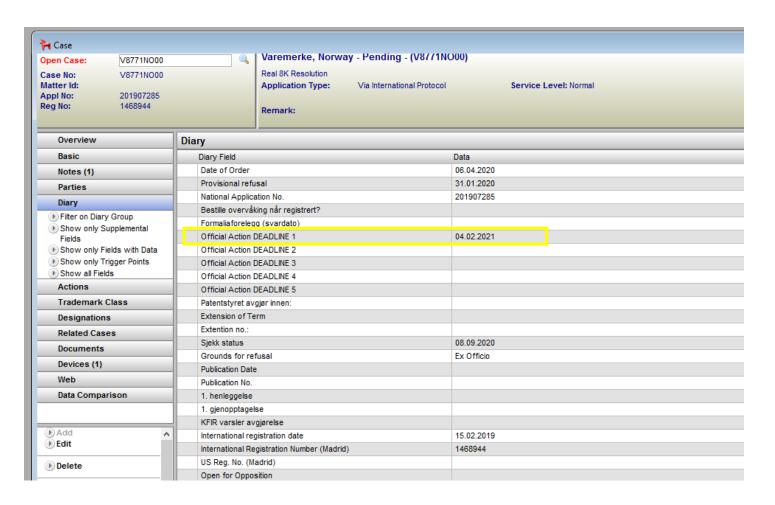


#### **Basic functionalities of OttoDocket**

- Online portal
- Drag-and-drop documents, or browse through PDF files to upload
- OttoDocket compares the document with your database (document type, case ref., application/ registration number, deadline)
- When the document has been processed the findings are shown together with the actual document
- Possible to correct errors and resubmit document for verification if needed
- When the user has confirmed that the information is correct, OttoDocket will send the document to the correct case in Patricia
- OttoDocket populates Patricia with information regarding deadline and document type, and triggers the correct terms











Case Open Case:	V8771NO00		•	Varemerke, Norway - P	ending - (V8//1N	1000)								
Case No: V8771NO00 Matter Id: Appl No: 201907285 Reg No: 1468944				Real 8K Resolution Application Type: Via Remark:	International Protocol		Service Le	vel:	Normal					
Overview		^ Actio	ons											
Basic		- A	Actions:											
Notes (1)		Term	Person	Status / Action text	External	Date	Recorded By	#	Days	Hours				
Parties														
Diary		13703	3 APL	FORELEGG MOTTATT er forelegget rapportert?		26.11.2020	отто	0						
Actions		13710	CV	FORELEGG MOTTATT rapporter forelegg		07.11.2020	отто	0						
Workflow     Next Term     Regenerate Te	erm	13700	CV	FORELEGG forelegg besvart?	<b>V</b>	04.02.2021	ОТТО	0						











#### Where are we now?

- The plan was to expand the number of documents we could run through OttoDocket and include EPO communications
- BUT:
- The key persons on our side left in 2019/20
  - Created a vacuum in further training of OttoDocket
- Then came Covid 19, which led to other priorities.
- Due to these circumstances we have recently decided to suspend further use of OttoDocket





## What have we learned? (1)

- Al in IPR is still at toddler stage.
- Training of the system is continuous and time consuming
  - Demanding for a small firm
- Need for close cooperation with developer
- General IT service companies cannot contribute much
- Need for dedicated persons who commit to implement and run the system, also on the customer side.
- The project needs to be deeply rooted throughout the organization, from partners to staff.





## What have we learned? (2)

- The system needs to be trained for many different types of letters and documents to become efficient.
  - It is possible to run historical documents through the system for this purpose
- Difficult to estimate potential time and cost savings
- Maybe certainty and reduction of errors will be the main benefits
- Circumstances were against us this time





#### The future

- We will certainly look into Al again in the future
  - OttoDocket is still relevant to us
- We will listen to the experience of others
- We will also investigate other systems
- All in due time

 PCK tells us that they are looking for "development partners who would be willing to invest and do tests at their site"



## Thank you!





# **Future Webinars**

- 25 November // Partial designs
- 9 December // Standardisation of digital communication between users of IP



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# LinkedIn Members' Group www.linkedin.com/groups/2214472/





## **FICPI Webinar Series**

# Thank you for attending

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