



OHIM

**THE TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS REGISTRATION
OFFICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**



DID YOU KNOW ...?

... COMMUNITY TRADE MARKS AND
DESIGNS ARE THE GATEWAY TO THE
SINGLE MARKET ...

OHIM is a one-stop-shop for registering trade marks or designs that are valid throughout the expanded European Union of 27 countries, and almost 500m people.



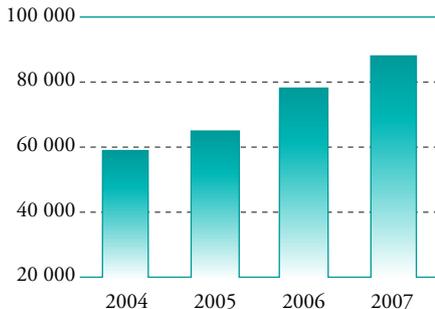
As business becomes increasingly global, the ability to protect Intellectual Property Rights effectively, efficiently, and cheaply over a wide geographical area becomes ever more important.

With the joining of Bulgaria and Romania at the beginning of 2007, the EU family now includes 27 countries and almost 500m people. The protection offered by Community trade marks and designs automatically expands to take in new member states, giving Community-wide IP protection an important role as one of the “lubricants” of the single market.

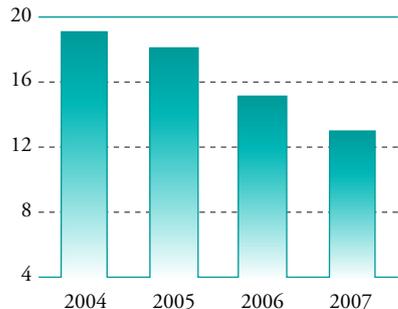
DID YOU KNOW ...?

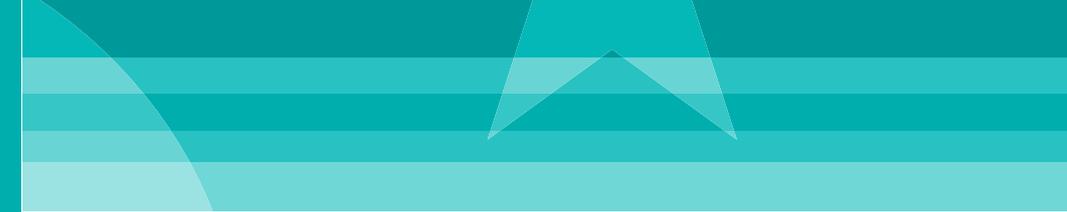
... DEMAND FOR COMMUNITY TRADE MARKS
HAS INCREASED BY 50% SINCE 2004 ...

**CTM: APPLICATIONS
RECEIVED**



**CTM: AVERAGE TIME
TO REGISTRATION (MONTHS)**





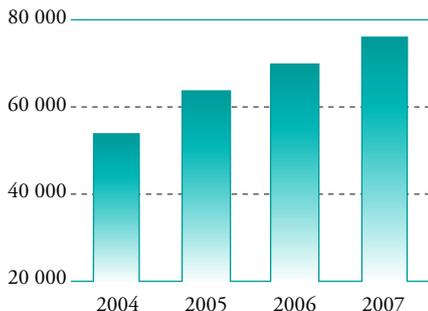
Since the introduction of the Community Trade Mark (CTM) in 1994, more than 420 000 trade marks have been registered on behalf of hundreds of thousands of companies worldwide. Demand is continuing to grow year on year. In 2007 OHIM received more than 87 500 CTM applications, which is almost 13% more than in 2006. Around 14% of CTM applications came via the World Intellectual Property Organization (under the Madrid Protocol).

In spite of the increased number of applications, processing times are continuing to fall. Compared with 2004, we are dealing with 50% more trade mark applications and the average time to registration has fallen by almost one-third.

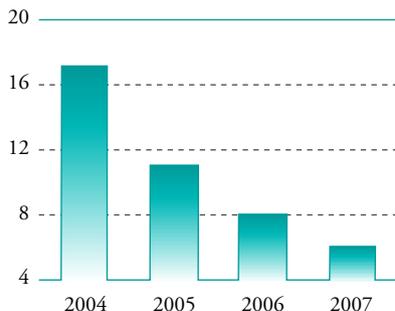
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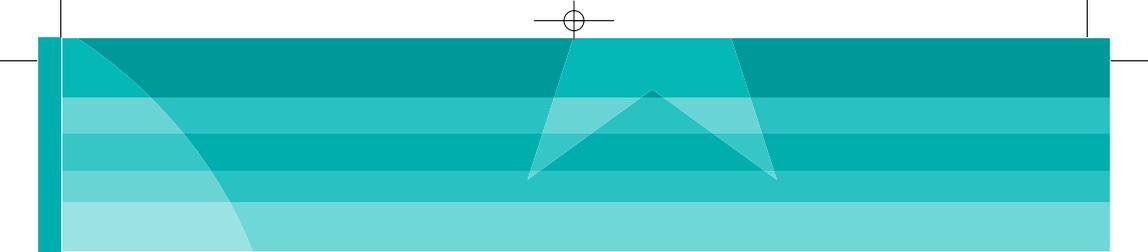
... COMMUNITY DESIGNS CAN BE REGISTERED QUICKLY, EASILY AND INEXPENSIVELY ...

RCD: DESIGNS RECEIVED



RCD: AVERAGE TIME TO REGISTRATION (WEEKS)





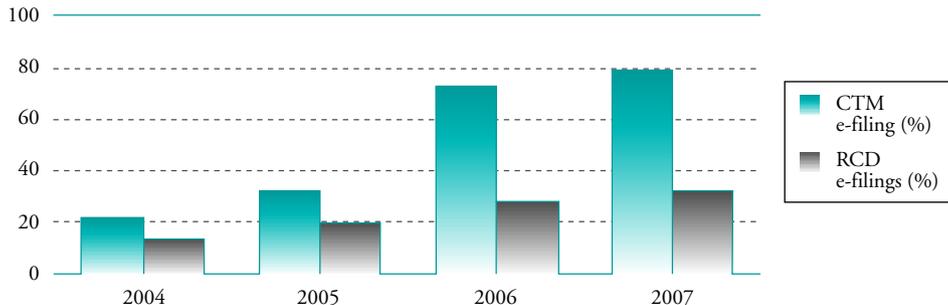
Since the introduction of the Registered Community Design (RCD) in 2003, OHIM has received and registered more than 300 000 designs. In 2007, around 76 000 designs were received, which was about 10% more than the previous year.

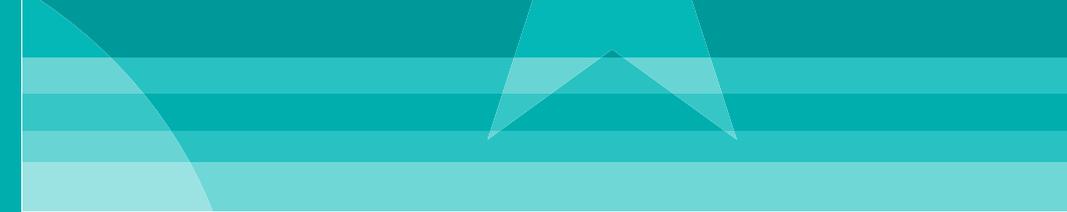
Currently, around 80% of RCDs are being published within eight weeks. In practice, for around half of RCD filings we have been managing to publish within three weeks, and following the move from weekly to daily publication of the Community Designs Bulletin in September 2007, this is expected to drop to a matter of days in some cases. The average time to registration is now six weeks.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

... WE'RE BASED IN ALICANTE IN SPAIN,
BUT OUR SERVICES ARE AVAILABLE
EVERYWHERE...

E-FILING: CTMS AND RCDS FILED ELECTRONICALLY (%)





The popularity of e-filing is growing steadily and this is now the preferred route for many users. At present the use of the CTM e-filing web form is steady at around 78% of filings or about 59 000, excluding filings which come via the World Intellectual Property Organization. For RCDs, e-filing is around 32% of the total; and 13% of oppositions against CTM applications are received electronically. The take-up of electronic services continues to vary from country to country, with Belgium and Spain the most active e-filers.

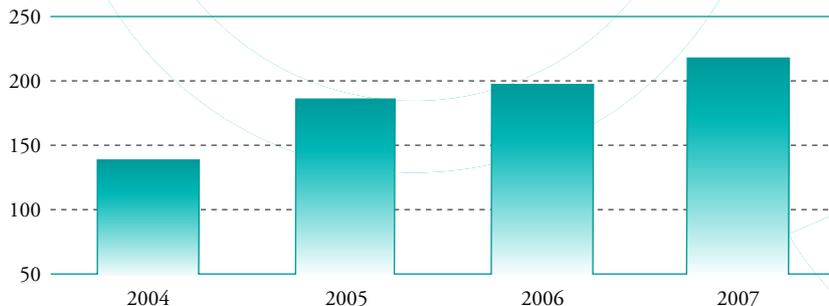
All the OHIM databases, such as CTM Online, RCD Online, and Online Access to CTM Files, are accessible via the Internet, and users are increasingly turning to these services. Other electronic services are becoming progressively available online as the Office works to meet its users' needs at the same time as it pursues a policy of becoming paperless. Our goal is to make the process less bureaucratic, transparent and more predictable for customers.

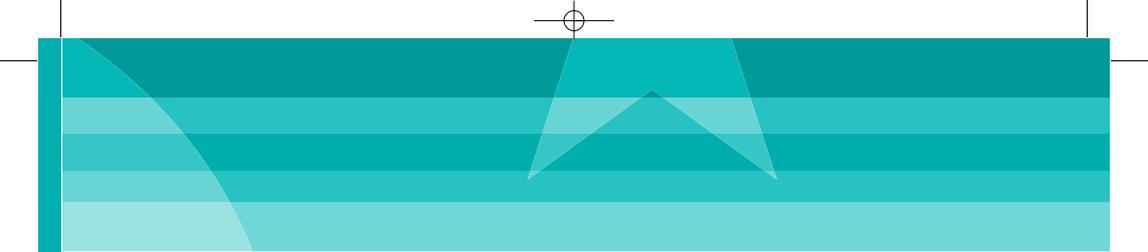
DID YOU KNOW ...?

... OHIM IS FUNDED ENTIRELY BY FEES PAID FOR BY ITS USERS ...

OHIM is an independent, self-financing, non-profit-making European agency. We have a workforce of 655 including more than 70 teleworkers.

PRODUCTIVITY (REGISTRATIONS/MEMBER OF STAFF)





The success of the Community Trade Mark and the Registered Community Design systems means that OHIM's total income in 2007 was around €200 m (including financial revenue) ⁽¹⁾ compared with an expenditure of €138m. Due to more efficient working methods income has been outstripping expenditure for a number of years leading to a substantial accumulated cash surplus. Since staffing levels have changed little, over a four year period productivity in terms of registrations made has soared by 58% — in 2007 alone it went up by over 10%.

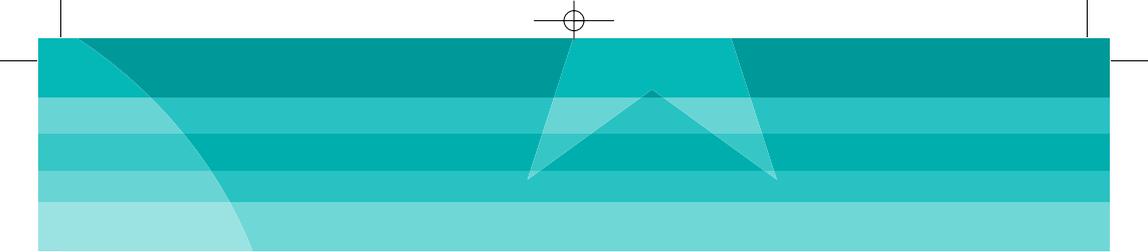
A first fee reduction was implemented in 2005 and a further reduction is currently envisaged by the European Commission in order to pass on these savings to our customers.

⁽¹⁾ Figures are unaudited and provisional, so are subject to change.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

... OHIM HAS A SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL
ROLE IN IP PROTECTION ...

OHIM is working with national offices in the EU to exchange knowledge, and share data and best practice. On the world stage, we are cooperating with other major IP Offices to try and reduce unnecessary differences between international systems.



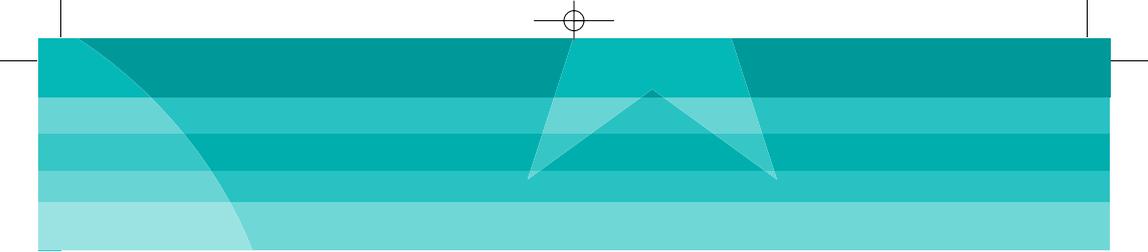
We have identified four main areas for technical cooperation between OHIM and the national trade marks and designs offices of EU member states – training of staff of the national offices; IT projects; promotion and information services; and other projects including seminars and conferences. These activities represent a significant annual investment of around €3.8m.

For a number of years OHIM has also been exchanging information with the US Patent and Trademark Office and the Japan Patent Office in order to try and minimise differences in the way applications are treated. In 2007, the Chinese Trademark Office took part as observers in the sixth annual trilateral meeting, held in Tokyo, and an agreement was made to hold annual workshops in China, and share information on IT and business practices. We have also agreed to more regular exchanges with Chinese IP practitioners via the China Trademark Association.

DID YOU KNOW ...?

... OHIM IS AN ORGANISATION THAT
LISTENS TO ITS USERS ...

We carry out annual users satisfaction surveys, gather input from user groups and have a published Service Charter which is updated quarterly.



The Office is committed to meeting users' needs and expectations. This implies both listening carefully and then taking action. The OAMI Users Group and the E-Business Users Group provide valuable feedback, and this is combined with analysis of the User Satisfaction Survey, and a careful examination of complaints or information requests.

While the main finding of the User Satisfaction Survey was that users in general, and especially agents, continue to be generally satisfied with OHIM, we realise there is no room for complacency. The launch of the OHIM Service Charter, providing standards for timeliness, consistency and accessibility, was a major step forward and other concrete actions have included bi-lateral discussions with national and international NGOs who had specific concerns.



OFFICE FOR HARMONIZATION IN THE INTERNAL MARKET

(TRADE MARKS AND DESIGNS)

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