

Epispark consortium showcased Patents Manager Service at the European Research 2002 exhibition

Epispark consortium is pleased to announce it has successfully demonstrated and discussed its innovative service **Patents Manager** at the European Research 2002 Exhibition in Brussels, the 11th-12th and 13th November 2002.

Patents Manager, a complete solution for patents management for Small to Medium Enterprises, is a result from European research project funded under FP5, and provided a platform for new projects under FP6.

European Research 2002 was attended by around 3000 exhibitors, including a substantial number working in the field of IPR. Finance, industry and the scientific community were well represented. An estimated 9000 delegates attended, well in excess of forecast figures, and the exhibition was judged to be successful beyond expectations, attracting considerable media attention.

IPR exhibitors drew a great deal of interest, and the **Patents Manager** stand attracted particular attention, including a write-up in the exhibition newspaper "The Sixth Sense". Business people from large and small enterprises, IPR professionals from Europe and beyond, and interested researchers stopped at the stand, taking details of the proposed service, that soon will be publicly available at the official website address www.ipr-manager.com.

Hundreds of visitors were treated to demonstrations of the user interface and in-depth discussions with the consortium representatives about the functionality of the system; many visitors requested further details of the Epispark service **Patents Manager**.

Selected visitors (especially universities and research organisations) also inquired technical details about the e-commerce features of the site and about the Legal Encoding tools for the LISA software, able to give answers to user natural language queries about IPR laws in different languages.

Protect your rights!

The protection of Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) is a pressing issue for all those involved in Framework Programmes.

The IPR Helpdesk is a first port of call for all those participating - or thinking of participating - in the EU's FP6. Set up thanks to EU funding, the IPR Helpdesk provides a multilingual support and advisory service for project participants. The IPR Helpdesk can be visited in the 'Research and Innovation' exhibition area.

<http://www.ipr-helpdesk.org>

Patents provide an important tool for protecting technical inventions. The European Patent Office (EPO) (stand 14, hall 11) received a total of 158 200 applications for European patents last year, confirming the growing demand in this area in recent years. Work still needs to be done, however, to increase awareness of the role of patents and patent information in supporting innovation. <http://www.european-patent-office.org/esp@cenet>, is the internet-based patent information service set up by the EPO in co-operation with national patent offices and the European Commission in 1998. <http://ep.espacenet.com>

The 'Patents Manager' - a new EU-funded project, still in the development stage, is at stand 19 in hall 7 (Research and Innovation). The aim of this project is to provide an on-line service for SMEs to allow them to manage their patent-related issues more effectively. A demo site should be available by the end of 2002 at <http://www.ipr-manager.com>

The World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) - an inter-governmental organisation of 179 Member States is exhibiting at stand 17 in hall 7. <http://www.wipo.int>



Patent manager programme

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