Methodology.

Bibliographic references were recorded from patents which were filed between 2000 and 2005 in public patent databases using the International Patent Code from the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

These public patent databases are:

- US (Granted)
- US (Applications)
- European (Applications)
- WIPO PCT
- Abstracts of Japan
- INPADOC

Once patents were recorded, patent information was treated, analysed and displayed on graphics using the software Mathéo Analyzer. Using this software, correlations between the various patent fields were analysed.

Patents usually are registered on more than one patent database (patenting can be applied for via different pathways) so some inventions could be over-represented, therefore duplicates for the patents with the same priority number were removed.

The information was examined and adjusted to give a uniform version and spelling of each organisation's name.

Patent information has been represented in the form of tables and graphs, these are:

1) The most active organisations: This table shows the private companies or public organizations which own the greatest number of patents (top assignees). This assignee data, however, does not indicate whether the property rights have been transferred from the original assignee to one or more other organisations through licensing, sale or other transactions.

2) Trends in technology: This graph is a histogram representing the number of patents which were filed during the period of time (2000-2005).

3) Collaboration work: This is a network which represents assignees who have jointly applied for a patent with other assignees, i.e they have collaborated. The number next to the name of the assignee is the total number of patents for this assignee and the number between both assignees is the number of collaborations.

4) Patent activity per country: This graph is a histogram which shows the number of patents in each country. In some cases the country field was blank therefore it was not able to be included in this graph.