

From:

Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 7:23 AM

To: 3-tracks comments

Subject: Comments in support of the proposed "3-Track Initiative/Program"

Dear Sir/Madam,

I'm an entrepreneur working on my first tech startup and wanted to offer my point-of-view on this issue. I really commend your forward thinking & efforts in introducing such a program! As you probably already understand that lengthy patent approval is really affecting competitive innovation in this country.

This problem affects entrepreneurs like me even more because we don't have an extensive IP portfolio that we can negotiate with competitors. We generally start off with a single idea and want to secure the IP, so we apply for a patent. However, that's where things go downhill for us. The lengthy patent examination process means that we can't wait for years to secure a patent and proceed with product development. So we proceed as usual, with patent pending status, and almost always end up infringing else's patent relevant to our technology. In this scenario, we don't have any legal protection as our patent is pending and will be for many years. However, since they have an approved patent they can immediately try to shut us down, while at the same time use our technology - since it's not patented yet. In many cases this either results in the entrepreneur selling future rights to the competitor at a low price or just backing out of the startup altogether. None of which are desirable in a free & competitive market!

This is why I strongly recommend that you please implement this 3-Track initiative and also include provisions for individuals and small businesses, so that we can get our ideas secured faster & at a lower cost (compared to large corporations).

Thanks,
Concerned Citizen