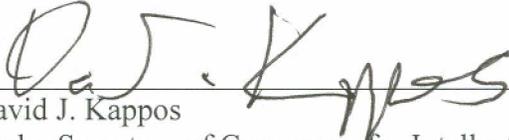


Extension of the Enhanced First Action Interview Pilot Program

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a notice to implement the Enhanced First Action Interview Pilot Program. *See Enhanced First Action Interview Pilot Program*, 1347 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 173 (October 20, 2009). Under the program, participants are permitted to conduct an interview with the examiner after reviewing a Pre-Interview Communication providing the result of a prior art search conducted by the examiner. Participants experienced many benefits including: (1) the ability to advance prosecution of an application; (2) enhanced interaction between applicant and the examiner; (3) the opportunity to resolve patentability issues one-on-one with the examiner at the beginning of the prosecution process; and (4) the opportunity to facilitate possible early allowance. The USPTO indicated in the Enhanced First Action Interview Pilot Program notice that the program would last for a period ending on April 1, 2010. The USPTO is extending the Enhanced First Action Interview Pilot Program for six months. Therefore, any request for a First Action Interview filed **before October 1, 2010**, will be granted if all of the requirements set forth in the Eligibility and Requirements sections of the Enhanced First Action Interview Pilot Program notice are satisfied.

Any inquiries concerning a specific application should be directed to the appropriate Technology Center. Any questions concerning this notice and the pilot program may be directed to Joseph Weiss, Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, by telephone at (571) 272-7759; or e-mailed to first.action.interview@uspto.gov.

Date: 4/7/10



David J. Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office