

Patent Public Advisory Committee Meeting Patents for Humanity



Edward Elliott
Expert Advisor
Office of Policy and External Affairs
February 14, 2012



Overview

For over two centuries, strong patents have provided business incentives that encourage technological progress to build our modern world. As we struggle against humanitarian issues plaguing many of the world's poor, patents play an essential role in creating lasting solutions.

The USPTO *Patents for Humanity* program creates business incentives for patent holders to engage in humanitarian issues. After consulting with industry, universities, and non-profits, the USPTO has developed this 12-month voluntary pilot program to recognize patent owners and licensees who apply their technology to pressing global challenges.



Why?

- Advances the President's global development agenda
- Highlights successful models of how business interests and strong patent rights contribute to humanitarian solutions



Principles

- Respect the rights of all patent holders – including the right not to participate
- Provide positive incentives to act
- Highlight diversity of effective models
- Support market-based approaches



Program Structure

- Program structured as awards competition.
- Participants will submit applications describing how they have used their patented technology or products to address humanitarian needs.
- Judging performed by outside experts from academia and Federal labs.
- Up to 50 recipients chosen.



Eligible Technologies

- Confront global challenges in four categories:
 - Medical Technology
 - Food & Nutrition
 - Clean Technology
 - Information Technology
- Possible technologies include: life-saving medicines and vaccines, medical diagnostic equipment, more nutritious or heartier crops, food storage and preservation technology, water sterilization devices, cleaner sources of household light and heat, information devices promoting literacy and education, and many others



Participants

- Open to organizations of all shapes and sizes, including small businesses
- Seeks to recognize the diversity of successful models for all types of entities to engage in humanitarian efforts



Judging Criteria

Two ways to qualify:

- Humanitarian Use – fostering use of patented technology or products to significantly address public health or quality of life issues faced by an impoverished population. Focus is on successfully delivering life-altering technologies to people in need.
- Humanitarian Research – contributing patented technology or products to advance scientific research on neglected humanitarian issues.



Awards

Selected awardees will receive:

- A certificate for expedited processing of a select matter before USPTO:
 - appeal to the Board of Patent Appeals & Interferences
 - *ex parte* reexamination, including one appeal
 - examination of a patent application, including one appeal
- Public recognition for their efforts at a USPTO awards ceremony



External Support

Input and support from many organizations, including:

- Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO) - Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) - Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)
- GE - Gilead Sciences - GlaxoSmithKline - Novartis - Sanofi-Aventis - Ocean Tomo
- Global Access in Action – BIO Ventures for Global Health (BVGH) - Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors without Borders - Oxfam - Incentives for Global Health (IGH)
- Association of American Universities (AAU) - Council on Governmental Relations (COGR) - Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) - University of California

“In our global economy, progress in even the poorest countries can advance the prosperity and security of people far beyond their borders, including my fellow Americans.”

**President Barack Obama
U.N. Millenium Development Goals Summit
September 22, 2010**

