

USPTO Updated Strategic Plan in Brief

March 3rd, 2010





USPTO Strategic Priorities

The USPTO has identified strategic priorities that are in support of the Administration/Department performance goal. These include:

- Reduce Patent Pendency and Backlogs
- Improve Quality of Examination
- Improve/Enhance Patent Appeal and Post-Grant Processes
- Demonstrate Global Leadership in all Aspects of IP Policy Development
- Improve Information Technology Infrastructure and Tools
- Secure a Sustainable Funding Model, and
- Improve Relations with Stakeholders

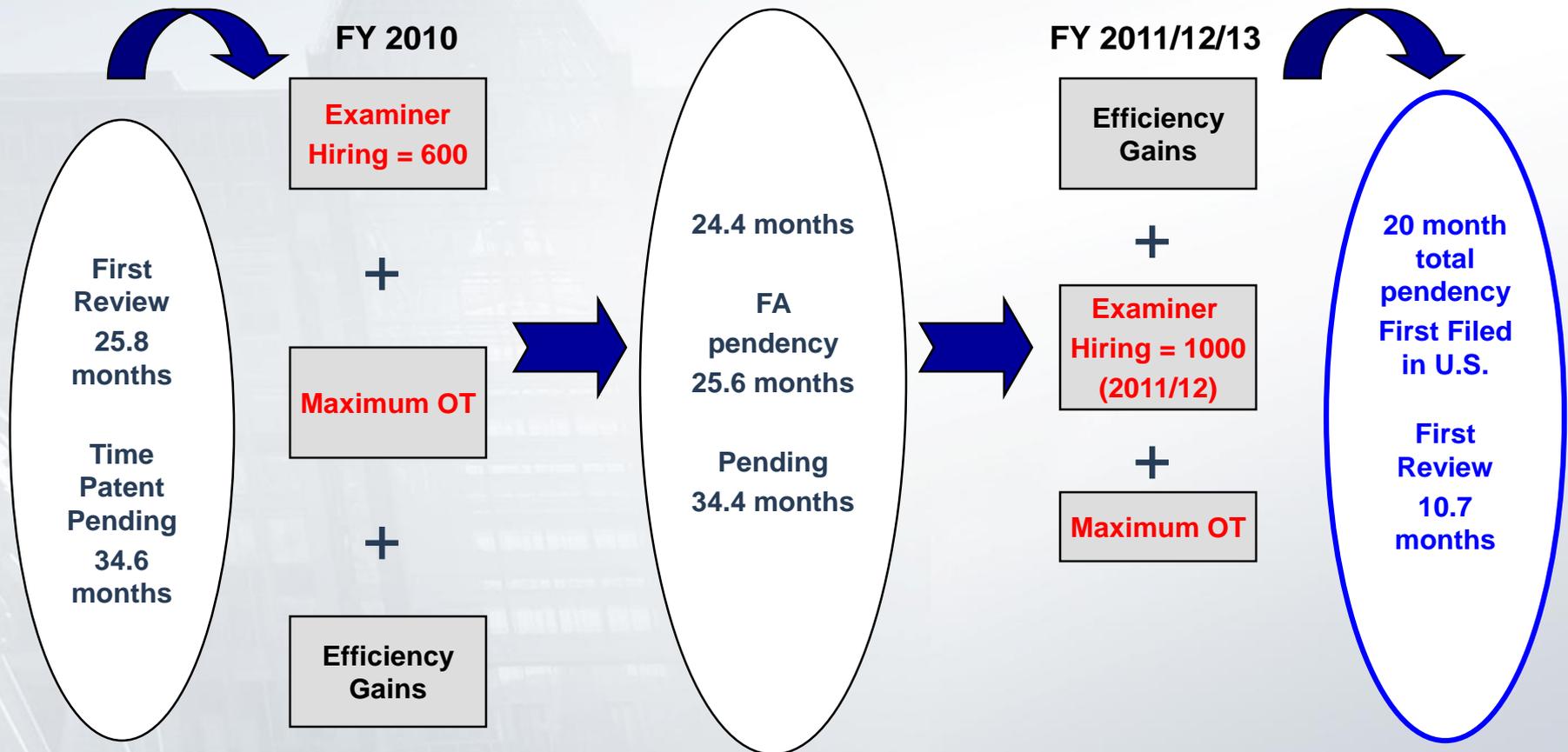


Aggressive Pendency Reduction Goals

2009

2010

2013





USPTO Actions To Reach Pendency/Backlog Goals by 2013

○ Patent Goals

- ↗ 10 months to first action and 20 months total pendency for patent applications; inventory reduction of 326,000 cases
- ↗ Achieve targeted inventory level per examiner of 10 months

○ Short/Long Term Plan Components*

- ↗ Efficiency Improvements
- ↗ Examination Firepower
- ↗ Develop and deploy 21st Century IT System that permits end-to-end electronic processing

*Fee setting authority is critical to achieve success



Increase Examination Capacity

- Hiring 1,000 patent examiners in each of FY 2011 and 2012
- Initiating a New Hiring Model that emphasizes:
 - ✦ Recruiting candidates with significant IP experience (IP professionals, such as agents and attorneys, and technologists with invention experience)
 - ✦ Hiring outside the Washington, D.C. area
- Implemented/In Process:
 - ✦ Hiring, including rehires and IP specialists—replacing current attrits with experienced IP professionals
 - ✦ Turn On Limited Overtime
 - ✦ Shorten training period for hires
 - ✦ Align performance plans and awards with Agency goals
 - ✦ PCT contractor outsourcing/assists
 - ✦ Resources back to TCs
- Under Development:
 - ✦ Accelerated signatory program
 - ✦ Nationwide workforce
 - ✦ Information technology upgrades



Efficiency Improvements – Patent Prosecution

- Achieving efficiency improvements of 3 percent a year by reengineering management and operations systems and processes; for example
- Implemented/In Process:
 - ✦ Compact prosecution initiatives – interview, prosecution, and claim interpretation; statistical analysis to target areas for improvement
 - ✦ Revisions to the examiner count system
 - ⇒ Internal review and changes
 - ⇒ External study of relative complexity of patent examiner goals
 - ⇒ Improved docket management
 - ✦ First Action Interview Program
 - ✦ Patent Prosecution Highway/Work-Sharing
 - ✦ Backlog reduction for small entities
 - ✦ Quality study to identify methods for enabling compact prosecution
 - ✦ Reengineering classification system
 - ✦ Ombudsman Program
 - ✦ Addressing historic ex parte appeal workload growth
- Under Development:
 - ✦ Customized examination tracks
 - ✦ End-to-end electronic processing
 - ✦ Efficiencies in reexaminations and appeals processing

• Efficiency improvements targeted to yield 3% increase in office capacity



Develop and Deploy 21st Century Information Technology System

- Funds are requested to begin working towards a new IT Vision which includes:
 - Conducting a ground up redesign of the USPTO's infrastructure and applications on 21st Century platforms
 - Stabilizing current systems to “keep the trains running”
- This will be done by investing \$122M for:
 - Patent end-to-end electronic processing
 - Trademark's Next Generation
 - Stabilize current systems



USPTO Sustainable Funding Model: *Addressing Short Term and Long Term Needs*

- Short Term / Interim Funding Authority - Begins putting USPTO on stable ground to set USPTO priorities in motion
 - Full access to USPTO fee collections
 - Interim Fee Adjustment on Patent fees
 - Fee Setting Authority
 - Operating Reserve
- Long Term / Sustainable – Reform USPTO Fee Structure and manage multi-year plans
 - Establish fees that reflect costs of services
 - Structure fees to provide appropriate incentives for innovation
 - Structure fees to facilitate the effective administration of patent and trademark processes
 - Maintain Operating Reserve