# Patent Public Advisory Committee Meeting

# Patent End-To-End (PE2E)

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# Patent Examination Tools & Infrastructure

**Completed:** The Patent Examination Tools and Infrastructure Phase 1 and Phase 2 projects released the first generation of the application viewer and docket viewer to the pilot group of 39 Patent Corps Examiners representing all technology centers in November 2012, January 2013, and April 2013.  Functionality included:

- Case listing and case table-of-contents (file wrapper)
- Text-based document viewer
- Ability to search within an application
- Claims tree and claims analysis tool
- Reference management tools
- The abandonment office action with Examiner's ability to view a list of rejected, returned, and completed cases
- An improved data intake process
- Workflow Infrastructure developed to support the Abandonment forms and future Office Action functionality
- Miscellaneous improvements

- Next Steps for FY13-14: Enhanced docket viewer, which will support Examiners' efforts to manage work load, make informed decisions on how to prioritize tasks, and understand the impact of decisions on performance goals; and the integration of deliverables from other projects into the core PE2E application

# PE2E Office Action

- **Completed:** PE2E Office Action Phase 1 and 2 was released to the group of pilot Patent Corps Examiners representing all technology centers testing the Docket and Application Viewers in April 2013. This included foundational capabilities and minor Office Action functionality to set the stage for incremental additions of more features.

- Next steps for FY13: Cancelled due to budget constraints

- In the future, the PE2E Office Action tool will be a fully integrated system able to leverage notes and references to minimize redundant tasks when officially corresponding with Patent Applicants

# Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)

**Requirement due to critical business needs emerging from an international agreement**

- **Completed:** Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC) is a partnership with the European Patent Office (EPO) to harmonize patent classification between offices under a single standard. The CPC Database project reclassifies USPTO patents from the USPC classification system to the CPC classification system, including necessary USPTO legacy system changes. The classification system will be jointly managed and maintained by both the EPO and USPTO, and will incorporate best practices in classification from the two offices. CPC officially launched with the EPO in January 2013 and deployed enhancements to the conflict resolution engine in June 2013.

- Next steps for FY13: Development for miscellaneous classification changes which allows Examiners to update classification allocations for patent documents.

- In the future, CPC will require substantial modification to legacy systems.

# PATI Continuous Capture of Application Data and PATI Gap Conversion

- **Completed:** PATI Continuous Capture of Application Data and PATI Gap Conversion projects converted and made available to Patent Examiners claims, specifications, and abstracts for approximately 21 million pages in the XML4IP format. This is in addition to the 65 million pages of claims, specifications, and abstracts previously made available to the Patent Corps in the Backfile Migration project in FY 12

- Next steps for FY13: Continue to convert the claims, specifications and abstracts for all new patent applications

- In the future, USPTO will continue to fund new ways to automate XML tagging

  - Resume work on XML tagging of Remarks and IDS documents

  - Converting existing Office Action archive in to XML

# Global Patent Search Network (GPSN)

- **Completed**: Deployed functionality to make Chinese patents information available for searching by USPTO Patent Examiners and the public via the Web. The Chinese patents provided by the Chinese State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) for 2008-2011 are now available in structured text (XML)

- Used the same base technology as Patent Search demo

- Next steps for FY13: Test SIPO patents for 1985-2007 and prepare additional years of Chinese patents for availability via the Web

- In the future, USPTO will add additional searchable patents, including US Patent and Application content.

# One Portal Dossier (OPD)

- **Completed:** OPD deployed functionality to transmit USPTO patent data to all IP5 Offices as of July 2013. OPD will promote work-sharing among the IP5 Offices (USPTO, EPO, JPO, KIPO, and SIPO) reducing redundant work among IP5 Office Examiners while examining patent applications that are members of the same patent family.

- Future steps: Analyze requirements for receiving patent data from IP5 Offices. Implementation slated for FY15.

# Resuming FY13 Suspended Projects

Suspended FY13 projects to be resumed in FY14:

- Core PE2E examiner tool projects; working with POPA to validate milestones and assign dates

  - Exploring Search Technologies - phase 2

  - PE2E Office Action - phase 2

  - IFW Images and Legacy Services Retired

- Applicant tool and data projects

  - Applicant to Office Interface/Text2PTO (phase 2 begins work based upon completed phase 1 prototype)

  - Convert Existing Office Action Data to XML

Suspended FY13 projects to be restarted in FY15 under PE2E 2

- BPR eGrant - phase 1 (continued)


FY13 projects cancelled and will not be resumed

- Continuous Capture of CRU Data

- Business Architecture: being subsumed into PE2E Architecture Support project

# Challenges for Resuming Projects

- 6 month calendar delay due to suspension of projects

- Restarting projects and procurements (60 to 90 days)

  - Must be phased to accommodate USPTO capacity

  - Working to get a head start on some projects

- Re-hiring to replace contract staff (6 to 12 months)

  - Touches every aspect of the project

    - Programmers and architects

    - Project managers and technical leads

    - Support areas; e.g., database support and testing

  - Will take 9 to 18 months to achieve previous velocity

    - Not feasible to hire contractors all at once

    - New contractors will take months to onboard, replacing people with much as 18 months experience with these projects

# Questions and Comments?

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