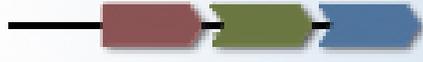


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APPLICATION
INITIATIVES



and

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Patents Trademarks IP Policy Learning and Resources Quick Links

1. Getting Started

Maintaining a Patent

Learn more about the fees associated with maintaining a patent.

Helpful Resources:

- > Maintain Your Patent
- > Patents Forms
- > Maintenance Fees
- > More Patent and Trademark Services
- > Patents Assignments, Change & Search Ownership
- > Patent Litigation

2. Application Process

3. Maintaining Your Patent

Patent Tools & Links

PatFT AppFT EFS-Web PAIR Fees and Payment

Search for Patents: Find existing patents, published patent applications and other published patent documentation

File Online: File a patent application online with EFS-Web

Check the Filing Status of Your Patent Application: Check patent application status with public PAIR and private PAIR

Pay fees and learn more about filing fees and other payments.

↓ Scroll down

Search for Patents: Find existing patents, published patent applications and other published patent documentation

See more patents resources

Search Trademark Database: Search database for trademark registrations and applications by mark, owner, or serial/registration number with Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS)

See more trademarks resources

Open data and mobility: We hold a treasure trove of data and we're giving it to you. The USPTO open data initiative is in full swing.

Data Visualization Center: Your access to Patents, Trademarks, Office of External Affairs, and Patent Trial and Appeal...

News & Updates: APRIL 20, 2016

↓

Manual of Patent Examining Procedure: Detailed information on patent examination laws, rules and regulations

Official Gazette for Patents: Weekly publication of issued patents

Contact Patents: Contact information for all stages of the patent process

Initiatives: A centralized listing of major Patent Application Initiatives provides applicants with access to information on several patent initiatives designed to advance and support the...

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Home / Patents / Initiatives

Initiatives

Past Events: Listing of past events supporting patents programs and initiatives.

A centralized listing of major Patent Application Initiatives provides applicants with access to information on several patent initiatives designed to advance and support the examination process. Compare the various patent application initiatives that are available prior to examination, during examination, or after close of prosecution to evaluate and contrast the benefits of participating.

Or

<http://www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/uspto-patent-application-initiatives-timeline>

- Helpful 16
- Not Helpful 9
- Initiatives
- Accelerated Examination
- Executive Actions
- Glossary Initiative
- Patent Application Initiatives**
- Patent Examiner Technical Training Program
- Patents for Humanity
- Third-Party Preissuance Submissions
- Site Experience Education (SEE) Program
- Software Partnership
- Track One
- First Action Interview
- Innovation Festival

USPTO Patent Application Initiatives Timeline

[Text Version](#)

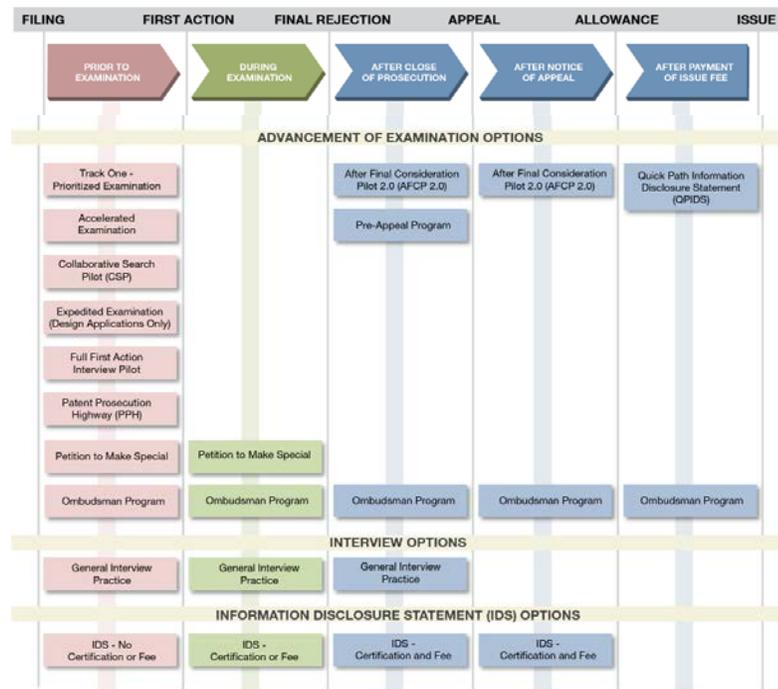
The **USPTO Patent Application Initiatives Timeline** displays various programs and initiatives that are available to applicants during each phase of the application process. Each program is designed to advance the progress of a patent application and to provide applicant assistance.

Program titles in the Timeline can be selected to access specific details on objectives and participation requirements.

Headings within each column can be selected to access a detailed **Matrix** which provides a comparison of the programs and initiatives.

If you have general questions about filing your patent application, please contact our [Customer Support Center](#).

Click here



USPTO Patent Application Initiatives - Prior to Examination

Prior To Examination **Then Click here**

View the Patent Application Initiatives Timeline

During Examination »

	Track One (Prioritized Examination)	Accelerated Examination	Collaborative Search Pilot (CSP)	Expedited Examination (Design Applications Only)	Full First Action Interview Pilot	Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)	Glossary Pilot	Ombudsman Program
Description	The goal is to provide a final disposition within twelve months, on average, of prioritized status being granted. Learn about Track One statistics.	Accelerated examination provides applicant the opportunity to have final disposition of an application in 12 months. Learn about Accelerated Examination statistics.	An applicant, with a corresponding application in either Japan or Korea, may request a collaborative serial (JPO) or parallel (KPO) search prior to entering the full first action interview pilot program. Examination of your application under CSP is accelerated.	The goal of this program is to provide expedited examination of a Design application (Benefit?).	Under this Program, an applicant is entitled to a first action interview, upon request, prior to the first Office action on the merits.	An applicant receiving a ruling from the Office of Earlier Examination (OEE) that at least one claim in an application filed in the OEE is patentable may request that the Office of Later Examination (OLE) fast-track examination.	Focus on enhancing claim clarity in the specification of software-related applications through the use of glossaries.	The Patents Ombudsman Program enhances the USPTO's ability to assist applicants or their representatives with issues that arise during patent application prosecution.

USPTO Patent Application Initiatives - During Examination

During Examination

View the Patent Application Initiatives Timeline

« **Prior to Examination After Close of Prosecution** »

	Petition to Make Special	Ombudsman Program	General Interview Practice
Description	Applications will not be advanced out of turn for examination or for further action except as provided by this part.	The Patents Ombudsman Program enhances the USPTO's ability to assist applicants or their representatives with issues that arise during patent application prosecution.	The USPTO encourages examiners to take a proactive approach to examination by reaching out and engaging our stakeholders in an effort to resolve issues and shorten prosecution.
Program Start Date	Circa 12/1959	04/2010	
Currently Active (accepting applications)	Yes	Yes	Yes

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MARK OFFICE

Patents Trademarks IP Policy Learning and Resources

Home / Patents / Initiatives / USPTO's Prioritized Patent Examination Program

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AFTER NOTICE OF APPEAL

N OPTIONS

After Final Consideration Pilot 2.0 (AFCP 2.0)

USPTO's Prioritized Patent Examination Program

Need to FAST track your patent? Use Track One!

trackone PRIORITIZED EXAMINATION Fast innovation is America's competitive edge. If you need to move your ideas quickly, USPTO's Track One prioritized examination will allow you to get a final disposition within about twelve months. The USPTO offers Track One for prioritized examination of your utility and plant patent applications. Track One gives your application special status with fewer requirements than the current accelerated examination program and without having to perform a pre-examination search.

Prioritized examination is available for a fee at the time of filing an original utility or plant application. A single request for prioritized examination may be granted for a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in a plant or utility application.

What are users saying about Track One!

Statistics for prioritized examination are reported below.

- [Prioritized Examination Request Form PTO/AIA/424](#)
- [EFS-Web Quick Start Guide for Prioritized Examination \(Track One\)](#) (November 2013)
- [Changes to Permit Delayed Submission of Certain Requirements for Prioritized Examination Interim Rule](#) (79 Fed. Reg. 12386, March 5, 2014)
- [Prioritized Examination \(Track One\) Final Rule](#) (76 Fed. Reg. 59050, September 23, 2011)
- [Prioritized Examination \(RCE\) Final Rule](#) (76 Fed. Reg. 78566, December 19, 2011)
- [Prioritized Examination Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Up-to-date statistics for **Track One** can be found on the [USPTO Dashboard](#).

After Final Consideration Pilot 2.0

The After Final Consideration Pilot 2.0 (AFCP 2.0) has been extended through **September 30, 2016**. AFCP 2.0 is part of the USPTO's on-going efforts towards compact prosecution and increased collaboration between examiners and stakeholders.

AFCP Response Form (PTO-2323)

The AFCP Response Form (PTO-2323) is designed to enhance communication between the Office and applicant.

In response to an AFCP 2.0 submission, applicant will receive a specialized AFCP 2.0 form (PTO-2323) that will communicate the status of the submission. If applicable, the form will also accompany an interview summary. The form is designed to more clearly indicate how the AFCP submission was treated by the examiner. Office communications containing the AFCP 2.0 response form have been issuing since November 2014.

AFCP 2.0 authorizes additional time for examiners to search and/or consider responses after final rejection. Under AFCP 2.0, examiners will also use the additional time to schedule and conduct an interview to discuss the results of their search and/or consideration with you, if your response does not place the application in condition for allowance. In this way, you will benefit from the additional search and consideration afforded by the pilot, even when the results do not lead to allowance.

To be eligible for consideration under AFCP 2.0, you must file a response under 37 CFR §1.116, which includes a [request for consideration under the pilot \(Form PTO/SB/434\)](#) and an amendment to at least one independent claim that does not broaden the scope of the independent claim in any aspect. Please see the notice published in the Federal Register at [78 Fed. Reg. 29117](#) for a complete description of how to request consideration under AFCP 2.0. As was the case with the AFCP, examiners will continue to use their professional judgment to decide whether the response can be fully considered under AFCP 2.0. This will include determining whether any additional search is required and can be completed within the allotted time, in order to determine whether the application can be allowed.

Helpful 22

Not Helpful 13

Initiatives

- Accelerated Examination
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- [Prioritized Examination \(RCE\) Final Rule \(76 Fed. Reg. 78566, December 19, 2011\)](#)
- [Prioritized Examination Frequently Asked Questions](#)



Up-to-date statistics for Track One can be found on the **USPTO Dashboard**.

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Data Visualization Center

Your window to the USPTO Patents Dashboard

Specials

First Action Allowance Rate - First Action Interview Pilot cases vs. all new cases

Track One Pendency From Petition Grant to First Office Action

Cumulative Through March 2016

Track One First Office Action pendency is the average number of months from the Track One petition grant date to the date a First Office Action is mailed by the USPTO.

The Track One first action pendency number displayed is the average for all Track One applications that have had a first office action mailed since inception of the program.

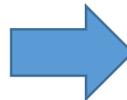
Track One Pendency From Petition Grant To Final Disposition

Track One Pendency From Petition Grant To Final Disposition is the average number of months from the Track One petition grant date to the date a Final Rejection, a Notice of Abandonment, or a Notice of Allowance is mailed by the USPTO.

The Track One final disposition number displayed is the average for all Track One applications that have received a final disposition since inception of the program.

Another way to get to the site: www.uspto.gov

The screenshot shows the USPTO homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Patents', 'Trademarks', 'IP Policy', and 'Learning and Resources'. Below this, there is a large blue banner for 'Basic facts about trademarks'. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Learn About the Process' (with sub-sections for Patents and Trademarks), 'Fees and Payment', 'Initiatives', 'Open data and mobility', and 'Greater Understanding'. A red circle highlights the 'Data Visualization Center' link in the 'Greater Understanding' section, with a red arrow pointing to it from the text 'Click here'.



The screenshot shows the 'Data Visualization Center' page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'Patents', 'Trademarks', 'IP Policy', and 'Learning and Resources'. Below this, there is a breadcrumb trail: 'Home / About Us / Performance and Planning / Data Visualization Center'. The main content area is titled 'Data Visualization Center' and features a banner with the text 'Data Visualization Center Your window to the USPTO'. Below the banner, there is a section titled 'The USPTO Dashboards' with a list of dashboard links: 'Patents Dashboard', 'Trademarks Dashboard', 'Office of Policy and International Affairs Dashboard', 'Patent Trial and Appeal Board Dashboard', and 'Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Dashboard'. A red circle highlights the 'Patents Dashboard' link, with a red arrow pointing to it from the text 'Then Click here'.

Data Visualization Center



The USPTO Dashboards

[Patents Dashboard](#) ← Then Click here

[Trademarks Dashboard](#)

[Office of Policy and International Affairs Dashboard](#)

[Patent Trial and Appeal Board Dashboard](#)

[Trademark Trial and Appeal Board Dashboard](#)

Or

<http://www.uspto.gov/about-us/performance-and-planning/data-visualization-center>

Click here

Data Visualization Center

Your window to the USPTO Patents Dashboard

March 2016 Patents Data, at a Glance

In response to public comment, we have redesigned the Patents Data Visualization Center. We hope you find the Dashboard useful. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback, please click here to send an e-mail to the Dashboard administrator.



The Patent Composite was discontinued at the end of Fiscal Year 2015 and new quality metrics are currently being baselined. For additional information regarding the Enhanced Patent Quality Initiative, please click here.



Click here

Pendency Data

Quality Data

Amendment Turnaround Data

Design Data

Central Reexamination Unit Data

Production, Backlog, and Filing Data

After Final Response Data

Patent Term Adjustment Data

Special Program Data

Petition Data

Click here

Each will open in a new window.

