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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/58/434) 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.
USPTO’s Prioritized Patent Examination Program

Need to FAST track your patent? Use Track One!

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 PTOL/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. 22386, March 5, 2014)
- Prioritized Examination (Track One) Final Rule (76 Fed. Reg. 59505, September 23, 2011)
- Prioritized Examination Frequently Asked Questions

Up-to-date statistics for Track One can be found on the USPTO Dashboard.
Another way to get to the site: www.uspto.gov

Or

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.

Each will open in a new window.