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To:	Prior Art Access
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Subject:	Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP comments for submission to USPTO on Importing Prior Art Roundtable held September 28
Date:	Friday, October 28, 2016 2:16:30 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments to the Federal Register Notice, "Importing Prior Art Automatically & Streamlining Patent Issuance". On behalf of the Patent Best Practice and the Patent Operations Committees of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockon LLP (KTS), we offer the following suggestion for how to best use available USPTO electronic resources to provide examiners with information (e.g., prior art, search reports, etc.) from applicant's other applications as early as possible to increase patent examination quality and efficiency.

In particular, we suggest that the USPTO set up an electronic, optional-for-the-applicant system that would:

1. allow Applicant to identify related cases in the US or other IP5 countries by country/region code and application number;
2. automatically pull in Office Actions and cited art from the identified cases for examiner review as prosecution progresses; and
3. provide Applicant with the ability to confirm that the information has been received and reviewed by the Examiner.

This would be technically feasible, apprise USPTO examiners of the latest status of corresponding applications in other IP5 patent offices, create a clearer record of the prior art for PTAB review and other appeals, would also significantly diminish the number of IDSes to be filed by applicants and stored by the USPTO, be legally consentable to the USPTO by applicants through ADS checkboxes or other means, and not require alteration of existing 35 U.S.C. statutes. It would also ensure earliest possible availability of information to examiners in order to improve patent examination quality and efficiency.

KTS urges the USPTO to move in the direction of implementing this sort of system as soon as possible.

Sent on behalf of KTS Patent Best Practice and Patent Operations Committees

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