

**Continuation of the IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program
with the IP5 Offices**

On January 6, 2014, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) commenced the IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program with the other IP5 offices, i.e., the European Patent Office (EPO), Japan Patent Office (JPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and State Intellectual Property Office of the People's Republic of China (SIPO). The IP5 PPH pilot program enables an applicant whose claims have been determined allowable or patentable in an application filed in one IP5 office to have the corresponding application filed in another IP5 office advanced out of turn for examination. *See* Implementation of the Global and IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Programs with Participating Offices, 1400 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 172 (March 18, 2014). The notice announcing the IP5 PPH pilot program indicated that the IP5 PPH pilot program would terminate on January 5, 2017, but may be extended thereafter.

In order to further assess the IP5 PPH pilot program, the IP5 offices have agreed to extend the pilot for a period of three years ending on January 5, 2020.

Any inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to Bryan Lin, International Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-3303, or via e-mail addressed to bryan.lin@uspto.gov.

Specific questions about the Patent Prosecution Highway should be directed to the Office of Petitions at 571-272-3282, or via e-mail addressed to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov.

Date: 11/17/16



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Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office