

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

The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) program is a work-sharing arrangement between two or more patent offices that enables an applicant who receives a positive ruling on patent claims from one participating office to request accelerated prosecution of corresponding claims in another participating office. Therefore, the PPH program allows the applicant to obtain an expedited patentability decision in the second office. The examiner in the office of later examination is able to utilize and augment the search and examination results from the office of earlier examination, thus allowing for a more comprehensive review and reduced duplication of effort. The PPH program promotes the USPTO's goal of providing high-quality and timely examination of patent applications by facilitating an expedited, thorough examination.

On January 6, 2014, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) commenced the IP5 PPH pilot program with the other IP5 offices, i.e., the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA), the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO). In the IP5 PPH pilot program, an applicant whose claims have been determined allowable or patentable in an application filed in one IP5 office may 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). This PPH pilot program was due to terminate on January 5, 2023. *See Continuation of the IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program with the IP5 Offices*, 1471 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 66 (February 4, 2020).

The USPTO and the IP5 offices have agreed to extend the pilot for a period of three years ending on January 5, 2026, so that their respective applicants may continue to obtain the benefits of expedited prosecution and to maintain their commitment to enhancing intellectual property cooperation. The USPTO will treat as timely any PPH program request based on the work product of any IP5 office filed in the USPTO on or before January 5, 2026. In addition, the USPTO will treat as timely any PPH program request based on the work product of any IP5 office filed in the USPTO between January 5, 2023, and the publication date of this notice.

Any inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to Bryan Lin, International Patent Legal Administration, at 571-272-3303 or [bryan.lin@uspto.gov](mailto:bryan.lin@uspto.gov).

Specific questions about the PPH pilot program should be directed to the Office of Petitions at 571-272-3282 or [PPHfeedback@uspto.gov](mailto:PPHfeedback@uspto.gov).

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