

From: Latticet LLC

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To: External Examination Time Study <ExternalExaminationTimeStudy@USPTO.GOV>

Subject: Answers to Questions 4 and 5

My input to Questions 4 and 5--

To keep costs and Examination Time down, and to reduce backlog, you might want to discuss whether an office action could be a 2 or 3-page form rather than a 10+ page legal document. Generic printed pages of text of relevant statutes could simply be placed in the envelope with the office action form before mailing.

RCEs and use of the PTAB should not become a "normal" part of prosecution. Ideally these instruments should be used only when claims have really been discussed and/or amended to no conclusion, and an applicant might really be competing with a competitor to do future business. Thus priority in Examiner time should be given to examination of an application, its prior art and to interviews *early in prosecution*.

A single interview, however, should be kept to 20 to 30 minutes to keep costs down and to ensure that an applicant comes to an interview well prepared and states his/her points quickly. Subsequent interviews the same length, or even shorter for 5 or 10 minutes, should be encouraged in Examiner Time if the dialogue helps avoid an RCE or a filing at the PTAB.

Christine Kennefick, Ph.D.

Patent Owner and Applicant

Principal and Founder

Latticet LLC

Email: ckennefick@latticet.com

Tel: 703-476-8014

Mailing address: 2029 Turtle Pond Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4005