

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

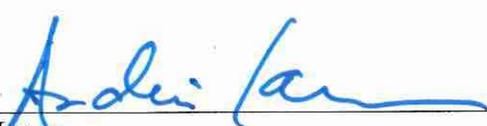
On January 6, 2014, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) commenced the IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program with the other IP5 offices, i.e. the European Patent Office (EPO), Japan Patent Office (JPO), Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO), and the National Intellectual Property Administration of the People's Republic of China (CNIPA). 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 initial term of the IP5 PPH pilot program was extended by the IP5 offices for an additional three years and was scheduled to terminate on January 5, 2020. *See* Continuation of the IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program with the IP5 Offices, 1433 OFF. GAZ. PAT. OFFICE 264 (December 27, 2016).

In order to continue to 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, 2023. The USPTO will treat as timely any PPH request based on the work product of any IP5 office filed in the USPTO between January 5, 2020, 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 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.

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Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office