

Official Gazette Notice

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. As such, the PPH program allows the applicant to obtain an expedited patentability decision in the second office. The examiner at the office of later examination is able to utilize and augment the search and examination results from the office of earlier examination, potentially reducing duplication of effort. The PPH program promotes the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) goal of providing high-quality and timely examination of patent applications by facilitating an expedited, thorough examination.

On January 6, 2014, the USPTO commenced the IP5 PPH pilot program with the other IP5 offices and currently includes the European Patent Office (EPO), the Japan Patent Office (JPO), the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Intellectual Property (MOIP), and the China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA). Under 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 scheduled to terminate on January 5, 2026. *See* Continuation of the IP5 Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) Pilot Program with the IP5 Offices, 1507 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 456 (February 28, 2023).

The USPTO and the IP5 offices have agreed to extend the pilot for a period of three years ending on January 5, 2029, 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 with the USPTO on or before January 5, 2029. In addition, the USPTO will treat as timely any PPH program request based on the work product of any IP5 office filed at the USPTO between January 5, 2026, 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.

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

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John A. Squires
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office