



United States Patent and Trademark Office

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

Mr. Pascal Faure
Director General
French Patent and Trademark Office
15 rue des Minimes
CS 50001
92677 Courbevoie Cedex
France

Dear Mr. Faure:

I am writing to express the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) interest in extending the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program currently in place with the French Patent and Trademark Office (INPI). Under the Joint Statement of Intent between the USPTO and INPI on the Patent Prosecution Highway, signed November 8, 2021 (the "JSI"), the PPH pilot program is intended to run through November 30, 2024. Section II of the JSI provides that the PPH pilot program may be extended upon mutually determined guidelines by our two offices. The USPTO is interested in extending the PPH pilot program for an additional five years, through November 30, 2029, and I understand that your office also wishes to extend the program by five years. Doing so would enable qualifying U.S. and French applicants to continue to benefit from the current PPH pilot program. We kindly request that you provide a signed letter conveying your decision to extend the program for a 5-year period, through November 30, 2029. Our exchange of letters on this matter would constitute our mutual written decision to extend the trial period for this program upon the date of your confirmation letter. The extension includes all of the same conditions that are included in the JSI.

My team has also informed me that our two offices have agreed to work jointly to further promote our PPH agreement in each of our jurisdictions. I appreciate our continued and close collaboration and look forward to the continuation of the PPH program between our offices.

Sincerely,

Katherine K. Vidal
Under Secretary of Commerce for
Intellectual Property and Director of the
United States Patent and Trademark Office