



USPTO Hour

Patent Prosecution Highway

July 2, 2025



UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ®

Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)

- Began in 2006 between the USPTO and the Japan Patent Office (JPO)
- Allows applicants who received a determination of allowable claims in an application from one Intellectual Property (IP) Office to obtain **fast track processing** of corresponding claims in an application pending in other IP Offices
- Effective strategy for U.S. applicants to get IP rights faster in global markets



How PPH works

- Applicant receives a positive examination result from a PPH participating Office – Office of earlier examination (OEE)
 - A national/regional office action
 - Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) Written Opinion or PCT International Preliminary Report on Patentability
- Applicant files a PPH request in a corresponding application in another PPH participating Office – Office of later examination (OLE)
- Once the PPH request is granted, the examination of the application in the OLE is expedited

OEE: Office of earlier examination
OLE: Office of later examination



General PPH requirements

- PPH petition form (no fee)
- Required documents
 - A copy of the most recent office action prior to the decision to grant a patent or the most recent PCT work product (translation as necessary)
 - Copies of all cited documents and any Office-specific documents
- All the claims must sufficiently correspond to the patentable/allowable claims in the OEE application
- Prosecution at OLE has not begun

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Benefits of PPH for applicants and Offices

- Applicants increasingly seek IP protection in other jurisdictions and PPH assists them in receiving those IP rights faster
- Applicants can improve consistency across jurisdictions by leveraging an already-allowed claim set
- Participating IP Offices gain efficiencies by leveraging each other's work in light of the "corresponding claim" requirement

Types of PPH agreements

- **Global PPH**
 - Began in 2014
 - 28 participating Offices
- **IP5 PPH**
 - Began in 2014
 - 5 participating Offices
- **Bilateral Agreements**
 - 11 bilateral agreements at USPTO

Global PPH participants with the USPTO

Global PPH Principles

1. AUSTRALIA (IPAU)	7. DENMARK (DKPTO)	13. ISRAEL (ILPO)	19. PERU (INDECOPI)	25. UNITED KINGDOM (UKIPO)
2. AUSTRIA (APO)	8. ESTONIA (EPA)	14. JAPAN (JPO)	20. POLAND (PPO)	26. VISEGRADE (VPI)
3. BRAZIL (INPI)	9. FINLAND (NBPR)	15. KOREA (KIPO)	21. PORTUGAL (INPI)	
4. CANADA (CIPO)	10. GERMANY (DPMA)	16. New Zealand (IPONZ)	22. SINGAPORE (IPOS)	
5. CHILE (INAPI)	11. HUNGARY (HIPO)	17. NORDIC (NPI)	23. SPAIN (SPTO)	
6. COLOMBIA (SIC)	12. ICELAND (IPO)	18. NORWAY (NIPO)	24. SWEDEN (PRV)	

IP5 PPH participants with the USPTO

- European Patent Office (EPO)
- Japan Patent Office (JPO)
- Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO)
- China National Intellectual Property Administration (CNIPA)

Bilateral PPH participants with the USPTO

Bilateral agreements	
1. TAIWAN (TIPO)	7. SAUDI ARABIA (SAIP)
2. CZECH REPUBLIC (IPOCZ)	8. FRANCE (INPI-France)
3. PHILIPPINES (IPOPHE)	9. MALAYSIA (MYIPO)
4. NICARAGUA (NRIP)	10. MOROCCO (OMPIC)
5. ROMANIA (OSIM)	11. BAHRAIN (NPOB)
6. MEXICO (IMPI)	

PPH eXtra (Improvements to the PPH)

- USPTO and JPO established a voluntary PPH improvement initiative in 2022 setting PPH pendency targets
 - Established as result of stakeholder feedback about inconsistent treatment across Offices
- PPH eXtra pendency targets
 - Completion of PPH request to first office action (FA): within 3 months
 - Applicant FA response to subsequent office action: within 3 months
- Benefits of PPH eXtra
 - Further improves U.S. applicant experiences under the PPH by making it easier to predict the timing of examination abroad
 - Promotes consistency of timeliness at Offices
- All PPH offices have been invited to join the initiative
 - As of July 1, 2025, KIPO, CNIPA, and Austria have also joined



PPH Globally – Calendar Year 2024

- 31,405 PPH requests were filed worldwide in 2024
- U.S. applicants use PPH globally at highest rate; USPTO selected as OLE most often
 - IP5 Offices as OEE:
 - USPTO – 10,907 (35%)
 - EPO – 5,269 (17%)
 - JPO – 6,690 (21%)
 - KIPO – 1,716 (5%)
 - CNIPA – 4,633 (15%)
 - Non-IP5 (combined) – 2,190 (7%)
 - IP5 Offices selected as OLE:
 - USPTO – 8,590 (27%)
 - EPO – 1,291 (4%)
 - JPO – 3,763 (12%)
 - KIPO – 2,815 (9%)
 - CNIPA – 4,942 (16%)
 - Non-IP5 (combined) – 10,004 (32%)

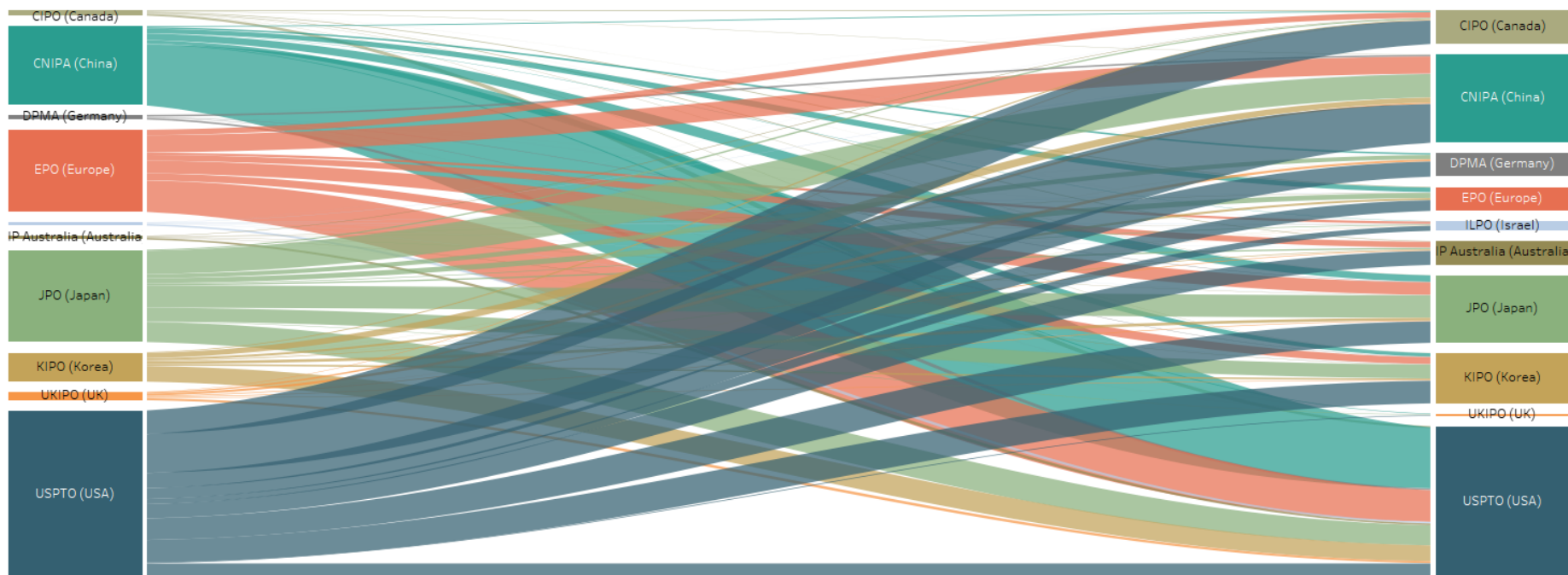
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PPH Requests* – OEE to OLE

- U.S. applicants leverage PPH across many jurisdictions



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*CY 2024 and includes top 10 Offices



USPTO OEE work product usage 2024

- USPTO work products are used most often for PPH worldwide
- U.S. applicants receive faster IP rights globally using PPH

Foreign Office	PPH requests with USPTO as OEE	Total PPH requests	PPH First Action Pendency*	Average Non-PPH First Action Pendency*
EPO	593	1,291	9.5 months	15.2 months
JPO	1,186	3,763	2.3 months	9.1 months
KIPO	1,244	2,815	2.4 months	16.1 months
CNIPA	2,138	4,942	1.5 months	13 months

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USPTO as OLE – Calendar year 2024

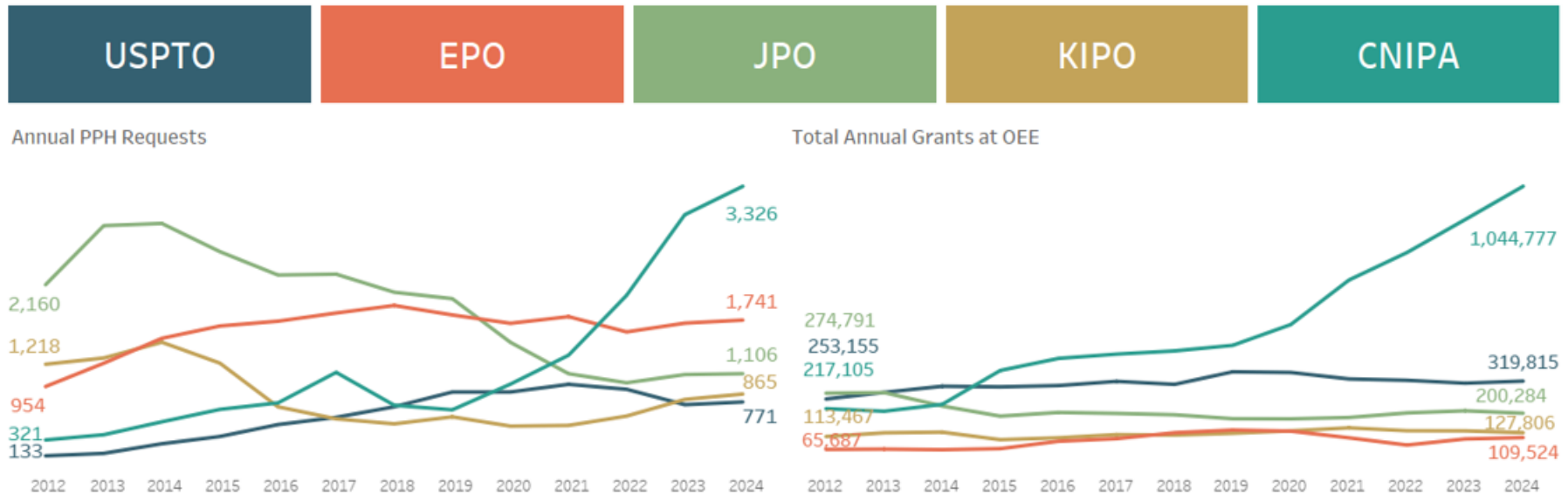
- PPH represented less than 2% of the total serialized utility applications at the USPTO in 2024
 - OEE breakdown when USPTO is OLE
 - USPTO: 771 (0.2%*)
 - EPO: 1,741 (0.4%)
 - JPO: 1,106 (0.2%)
 - KIPO: 865 (0.2%)
 - CNIPA: 3,326 (0.7%)
 - Non-IP5 (combined): 786 (0.2%)
 - Applicant origin
 - United States: 1,137 (0.2%)
 - Europe: 1,530 (0.3%)
 - Japan: 891 (0.2%)
 - Korea: 554 (0.1%)
 - China: 3,355 (0.7%)
 - Non-IP5 (combined): 1,128 (0.2%)

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PPH requests from IP5 at USPTO

- Annual PPH requests at the USPTO generally track to annual grant rates at the OEE

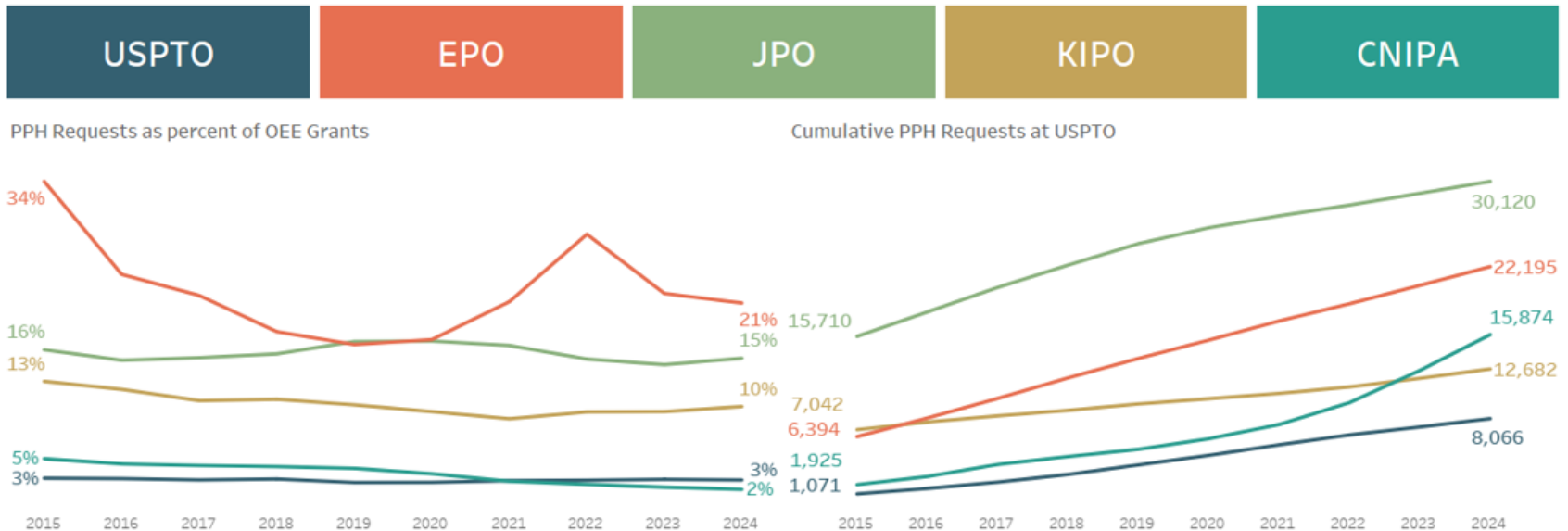


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PPH requests from IP5 at USPTO (cont.)

- Percentage of PPH requests relative to OEE grants has remained fairly consistent



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PPH volume by Technology Center (TC)

- PPH applications represent small percentages of applications across all TCs

TC	Technology fields	PPH volume by TC in CY 2024	PPH share of average total filings in TC
1600	Biotechnology and organic fields	746	1%
1700	Chemical and materials engineering	1815	4%
2100	Computer architecture software and information security	549	2%
2400	Computer networks, multiplex, cable, and cryptography/security	416	1%
2600	Communications	720	1%
2800	Semiconductors, electrical and optical systems and components	1635	2%
3600	Transportation, electronic commerce, construction, agriculture, licensing and review	1169	2%
3700	Mechanical engineering, manufacturing and products	1188	2%

PPH efficiencies at the USPTO

- PPH cases are typically in better condition for allowance due to the prior work of the USPTO and foreign Offices
 - Allowability already indicated at OEE
 - Prior work included from OEE

CY 2024	First Action Allowance Rate	Overall Allowance Rate*	Percent of Applications with at least one RCE	Percent of Applications with at least one continuation	FAOM Pendency (Months)	Disposal Pendency (Months)	Actions per Disposal*
PPH Applications	32.6%	75.1%	15.7%	16.1%	7.7	15.3	2.2
Non-PPH Applications	14.2%	61.9%	23.9%	23.3%	20.8	30.1	2.4

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Other worksharing efforts

- Accelerated Patent Grant (APG) program
 - Applicant who receives a U.S. patent may request a partner Office to grant a corresponding national application pending in that Office on the basis of the issued U.S. patent
 - Subject to relevant national laws in that country, for example, subject matter eligibility
- Current USPTO APG agreements
 - Cambodia
 - Dominican Republic
 - El Salvador
 - Mexico
 - Panama
 - Trinidad and Tobago



Next steps

- USPTO continuously reviews, monitors and refines PPH
 - PPH statistics
 - PPH eXtra
 - Outcome studies with other PPH offices
 - Feedback from U.S. users

Takeaways

- PPH is an effective strategy for U.S. applicants to get IP rights in global markets
 - Faster, more efficient, greater consistency
- Globally, U.S. applicants leverage PPH at the highest rate
- PPH at the USPTO remains less than 2% of all serialized utility filings
 - Used by variety of applicants, including U.S. applicants, to access the U.S. market



How to learn more

- USPTO's PPH website - <https://www.uspto.gov/pph>
- For specific questions about the PPH petition form or process, send an e-mail to PPHfeedback@uspto.gov

