

From: wwurst
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2010 3:04 PM
To: 3-tracks comments
Subject: Three-track patent applications

Dear Sir and Madam,

The three-track process, chosen by the inventor or assignee, would seem to make sense to minimize the time required when a potential invention needs to be accelerated for some reason, especially if there is danger of infringement on an existing patent; otherwise, a “patent pending” designation would seem to provide nearly the same protection until the patent issues.

One article that I read indicated that the additional cost for the speediest review might be “considerable.” This would be unfortunate, and perhaps discourage the very inventors that would benefit the most, which I would characterize as individuals or (very) small businesses. These entities may not have the resources to pay the additional fees, while large corporations may not blink at the added costs. The effect, then, might be to actually delay examinations for the smaller businesses, since the larger businesses may consume all of the USPTO’s resources with their “fast track” applications.

Rather than have a “considerable” additional fee, would it be feasible that, for a nominal extra fee, any business entity could have a certain number – arbitrarily let’s say five – “fast-track” applications per year. This would keep the number down, keep the cost down, and still not have the USPTO swamped with “fast-track” applications.

Thank you,

Bill Wurst
Sr. Project Engineer

Q-Lab Corporation
800 Canterbury Road
Westlake, Ohio 44145

phone 440-835-8700
fax 440-835-8738
email wwurst@q-lab.com

formerly Q-Panel Lab Products