

Continuation of the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Israeli Patent Office based on Patent Cooperation Treaty Work Products

On August 1, 2012, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) commenced a Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program based on Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) work products (PCT-PPH pilot program) with the Israeli Patent Office (ILPO). The PCT-PPH pilot program enabled an applicant who has received a written opinion or an international preliminary examination report from the ILPO as the International Searching Authority (ISA) or International Preliminary Examining Authority (IPEA) indicating that at least one claim in the PCT application has novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability to have the corresponding application filed in the USPTO advanced out of turn for examination. See "Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Israeli Patent Office based on Patent Cooperation Treaty Work Products," 1381 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 147 (August 14, 2012). The USPTO indicated that the PCT-PPH pilot program would terminate on July 31, 2013, but could be extended for an additional time period thereafter.

In order to adequately assess the feasibility of the PCT-PPH pilot program, the USPTO and the ILPO have agreed to collect more information before any final decision on the program is made. The pilot has been extended indefinitely.

Any inquiries concerning this notice may be directed to Bryan Lin, Office of PCT 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.

Date: _____

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