



Hungarian
Patent
Office

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New Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the Hungarian Patent Office and the United States Patent and Trademark Office

BUDAPEST – The Hungarian Patent Office (HPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) launch a new pilot Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) program.

PPH agreements are cooperative initiatives that streamline the patent system and promote expeditious, inexpensive and high-quality patent protection throughout the world. The PPH between the two offices will allow applicants to obtain patents faster and more efficiently. It will permit each office to exploit the work previously done by the other office and reduce duplication. In turn, the initiative will reduce examination workload and improve patent quality. The pilot period will begin on July 1, 2010, and continue for a period of one year.

“Creative exploitation of synergies is the hidden reserve of the patent world”, said President of the Hungarian Patent Office Miklós Bendzsel. “Utilization of the results of patent examinations, performed according to common quality standards for the benefit of our clients, may accelerate technology transfer between the USA and Hungary, as well as enhance co-operation in the field of innovation. The efforts and performance of the USPTO serve as benchmark for us in diminishing the impact of the crisis and facilitating economic recovery.”

“The amount of repetitious work involved in examining patent filings first filed in other patent offices represents a significant impact on the USPTO’s workload and the workload of other offices, and contributes to our backlog and long pendency periods,” said Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO David Kappos. “Work sharing with other similarly skilled examiners in other patent offices such as the Hungarian Patent Office is one of our most important tools to speed patent examination and enhance quality.”

Under PPH agreements, an applicant receiving a favorable ruling from one nation's patent office on at least one claim in an application may request that the corresponding application filed with the other nation be fast tracked for examination. By coordinating patentable results between both nations' offices, applicants can expect to obtain patents in both nations more quickly.



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Hungarian Patent Office requirements for participation can be found at:

<http://www.mszh.hu/English/szabadalom/pph/index.html>

USPTO requirements for participation in the U.S.-Hungarian PPH are available at:

http://www.uspto.gov/patents/init_events/pph/index.jsp

The Hungarian Patent Office and the USPTO will continue to evaluate the needs of applicants and the progress of the PPH. Discussions on revisions to the requirements and to improve the procedure of the PPH will be ongoing.

The pilot program may be extended if necessary to adequately assess the feasibility of the PPH program. Notification of any revisions will be posted on the Web sites of each office.