



Joint Announcement of the Continuation of the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the German Patent and Trademark Office and the Korean Intellectual Property Office

June 30, 2012

The German Patent and Trademark Office (DPMA) and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) hereby jointly announce that the DPMA-KIPO Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) pilot program will be extended in its current state.

The DPMA-KIPO PPH pilot program was launched on July 1, 2010 and benefits applicants to both offices. If an application is deemed to be patentable at one office, the results of that office's examination are used to expedite the examination of the corresponding application filed at the other office.

In order to adequately assess the feasibility of the PPH, the DPMA and KIPO have agreed to extend the pilot program in its current state in order to collect more information before any formal decision on the pilot program is made.

The pilot program will be extended until June 30, 2014. The DPMA and KIPO will continue to evaluate the pilot program and the needs of applicants. Notification of any changes to the pilot program will be posted on the DPMA's and KIPO's websites.

More information and guidelines on the DPMA-KIPO PPH pilot program are available on the two offices' websites at:

- DPMA: <http://www.dpma.de/english/patent/procedures/pph/index.html>

- KIPO: http://www.kipo.go.kr/kpo/user.tdf?a=user.english.html.HtmlApp&c=100016&catmenu=ek02_02_03

**The German Patent and Trademark Office
and the Korean Intellectual Property Office**