



Joint Announcement on the Full Implementation of the Patent Prosecution Highway between the USPTO and KIPO based on the Patent Cooperation Treaty Work Products

May 31, 2012

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) hereby jointly announce the USPTO-KIPO Patent Prosecution Highway based on the Patent Cooperation Treaty Work Products (PCT-PPH) pilot program, which is scheduled to be terminated on May 31, 2012, will be implemented on a full-time basis from June 1, 2012.

Under the PCT-PPH, when the PCT international work product (either Written Opinion of International Searching Authority or Written Opinion of International Preliminary Examining Authority or International Preliminary Examination Report) produced by either office has assessed the patentability of a PCT application, the applicant will be entitled to the benefit of an accelerated examination before the other office for the corresponding application relevant to the PCT application.

The pilot program has confirmed that the PCT-PPH significantly expedites the acquisition of patent rights for applicants and enhances the efficiency of administrative work for both offices. As a result, we have agreed to run the PCT-PPH on a full-time basis.

The PCT-PPH will now be implemented on a full-time basis under the same conditions as the pilot program. Further details are available on the Web sites of each office:

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

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

KIPO and the USPTO will continue to evaluate the needs of applicants and the progress of the PCT-PPH. Whenever appropriate, we will hold further discussions to revise the requirements

and improve the procedure for filing applications. Notification of any revisions will be posted on the Web sites of each office.

**The United States Patent and Trademark Office
and the Korean Intellectual Property Office**