


**Extension of the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program  
Between the USPTO and the UKIPO**

On September 4, 2007, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) commenced a Patent Prosecution Highway pilot program (PPH) which enabled an applicant whose claims have been determined allowable/patentable in an application filed in the United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) to have the corresponding application filed in the USPTO be advanced out of turn for examination. See notice entitled "Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the United Kingdom Intellectual Property Office," 1322 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 258 (September 25, 2007). The USPTO indicated that the pilot program would last for a period of one year ending on September 4, 2008, but may be extended for an additional time period thereafter.

The requirements of the PPH pilot program were modified on January 28, 2008 to permit certain applications based on PCT filings to qualify for participation in the PPH pilot program (the September 25, 2007 notice excluded PCT applications). See notice entitled "Revised Requirements for Requesting Participation in the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program in the USPTO (Between the USPTO and the UKIPO)," 1327 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 54 (February 5, 2008). In view of this recent modification, the USPTO has decided to extend the PPH pilot program until further notice. The USPTO and UKIPO will evaluate the results of the pilot program periodically to determine whether and how the program should be fully implemented at a later date.

Please continue to direct inquiries on the PPH pilot program to Magdalen Greenlief at 571-272-8800 or via e-mail addressed to [Magdalen.greenlief@uspto.gov](mailto:Magdalen.greenlief@uspto.gov).

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