

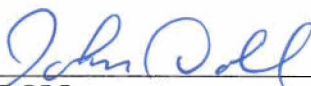
**Continuation of the Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program
between the USPTO and IP Australia**

On April 14, 2008, 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 IP Australia to have the corresponding application filed in the USPTO advanced out of turn for examination. See notice entitled "Patent Prosecution Highway Pilot Program between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and IP Australia," 1329 *Off. Gaz. Pat. Office* 165 (April 22, 2008). The USPTO indicated that the pilot program would last for a period of one year ending on April 14, 2009, but may be extended for an additional time period thereafter.

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

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.

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