

# THE YEAR AHEAD

- ▶ PTO expects to issue 105,800 utility, plant and reissue patents and register 95,800 trademarks in fiscal year 1995.
- ▶ The PTO's 1996-2000 Strategic Plan was published and transmitted to the Congress, the Administration, and PTO employees and customers.
- ▶ The GATT Treaty was signed by President Clinton on December 8, 1994 and 20-year patent term becomes effective on June 8, 1995.



- ▶ The United States signed the Trademark Law Treaty on October 28, 1994 and the PTO will work with its Congressional Committees to introduce implementing legislation in the 104th Congress.
- ▶ The Twelfth Trilateral Conference was held in Tokyo on November 18, 1994, and the European Patent Office, the Japanese Patent Office and the PTO recognized the necessity and importance of further international harmonization of their patent systems and expressed their intention to continue their cooperation on the many projects that are under way.
- ▶ Legislation to implement an early publication system is expected to be reintroduced in the 104th Congress; public hearings on regulatory issues will be held on February 15, 1995.
- ▶ The Patent Reexamination Reform Act was passed by the Senate on October 4, 1994, but was not passed by the House of Representatives. The legislation is expected to be reintroduced in the 104th Congress.
- ▶ The final report on the National Information Infrastructure (NII) is expected to be issued in the first half of fiscal year 1995.

- ▶ On October 26, 1994, AIDS-related patents were available on the INTERNET; through the Trilateral Agreement, AIDS-related patents from the Japanese Patent Office and the European Patent Office are being selected for addition to the data base.
- ▶ A partnership agreement was signed with the University of New Mexico on October 6, 1994 to strengthen engineering, scientific, and technological programs especially for women and minorities for the mutual benefit of the University and the PTO.
- ▶ The PTO University will be expanded to accommodate 398 students and offer seven courses which will lead to Certificate and AA degrees. Also in fiscal year 1995, the PTO will begin curriculum research for the implementation of Bachelor's and graduate level degrees in 1996.
- ▶ The Pre-Grant Publication System (PGPub) will be implemented by January 1996 to publish patent applications by 18 months from the earliest effective filing date.
- ▶ Access to the Automated Patent System's Full-Text Search and Retrieval (APS-Text) will be offered to all Patent and Trademark Depository Libraries beginning January 1995.
- ▶ A partnership with the Sunnyvale Center for Innovation, Invention, and Ideas (SCI3) located in Sunnyvale, California was initiated in November 1994 to find better ways of serving the needs of uniquely focused regions across the country by developing a wide range of products and services that would be beneficial to local citizens and businesses.
- ▶ A similar partnership with the Detroit Public Library is expected to be completed in the first half of 1995.
- ▶ A survey of approximately 10,000 patent and trademark customers will be completed as a follow-up to focus sessions conducted in fiscal year 1994.