

Extension of the Full First Action Interview Pilot Program

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a notice to implement the Full First Action Interview (FAI) Pilot Program. *See Full First Action Interview Pilot Program*, 1367 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 42 (June 7, 2011). Under the program, participants are permitted to conduct an interview with the examiner after reviewing a Pre-Interview Communication providing the results of a prior art search conducted by the examiner. Participants experienced many benefits including: (1) the ability to advance prosecution of an application; (2) enhanced interaction between applicant and the examiner; (3) the opportunity to resolve patentability issues one-on-one with the examiner at the beginning of the prosecution process; and (4) the opportunity to facilitate possible early allowance. The Full First Action Interview Pilot Program expanded the eligibility criteria to all utility applications of the previous Enhanced First Action Interview Pilot Program. *See Enhanced First Action Interview Pilot Program*, 1347 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 173 (October 20, 2009).

The USPTO is extending the Full FAI Pilot Program until November 16, 2012. During this time, the Office will be analyzing feedback obtained in response to the July 9, 2012 request for comments notice to determine whether to modify the program's procedure and to determine the future of the program. *See Extension of the Full First Action Interview Pilot Program and Request for Comments*, 77 Fed. Reg. 40,342 (July 9, 2012).

Inquiries concerning a specific application should be directed to the appropriate Technology Center. Questions concerning this notice or the program may be directed to Joseph Weiss, Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration (by phone (571) 272-7759, or e-mailed to first.action.interview@uspto.gov).

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