

Joint Announcement on the Full Implementation of the Patent Prosecution Highway between KIPO and the USPTO

The Korean Intellectual Property Office (KIPO) and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) hereby jointly announce that the KIPO-USPTO Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH), which was piloted for a year from January 28, 2008, will be implemented on a full-time basis from January 29, 2009.

Under the PPH, when either KIPO or the USPTO rule that at least one claim in an application is patentable, the applicant may request the other office to fast-track the examination of corresponding claims in corresponding applications. When such requests are made, the second office speeds up its patent examination process by referring to the examination results of the first office.

The success of the 12 month pilot period has confirmed that the 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 PPH on a full-time basis.

The PPH will now be implemented on a full-time basis under the same conditions as the pilot PPH. Further details are available on the Web sites of each office: <http://www.kipo.go.kr> and http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/pph/pph_kipo.html.

KIPO and the USPTO will continue to evaluate the needs of applicants and the progress of the 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 Korean Intellectual Property Office
and the United States Patent and Trademark Office**