



Joint Statement of Intent

Between

The Korean Intellectual Property Office and
The Intellectual Property Office of the United Kingdom
To Cooperate in the Field of Patent Prosecution

Recognizing the appropriate patent protection is a key element of fostering technological innovation;

Recognizing the increasing necessity to adequately cope with the ever-growing number of internationally filed patent applications which have arisen from a growing need for patent protection in the context of globalization of the world economy;

Recognizing the importance of ensuring the benefits of expeditious, inexpensive, and high-quality patent protection for applicants who file applications in the Republic of Korea and the United Kingdom;

Recognizing the benefits to industry of avoiding duplicative work, reducing workloads, and streamlining the patent procedures of both offices;

Recognizing their leading role in cooperative worldwide efforts in the field of patents;

The Korean Intellectual Property Office and the Intellectual Property Office of the United Kingdom declare their intentions as follows:

1. Both offices will start a pilot program of the "Patent Prosecution Highway" (PPH) for the patent applications (including PCT applications) filed with both offices. The

basic concept of the pilot program is as follows: where the office of first filing (OFF) has assessed the patentability of a patent application, the office of second filing (OSF) ensures that the applicant is entitled to benefit from an accelerated examination for the corresponding application, provided that certain conditions are met. Those conditions include sufficient correspondence in the claims of the two applications and the search and examination results of the OFF being made available to the OSF.

2. The pilot program of the PPH will commence on October 1, 2009. The duration of the pilot program is one year with an option to extend the program at the request of the Offices. Both Offices will evaluate the results of the pilot program to determine whether and how the PPH should be fully implemented after the trial period.

3. The details of the pilot program of the PPH will be determined before the start of the program.

4. Both Offices will periodically evaluate and exchange information on the status of the PPH pilot program, and consider making modifications to the program on the basis of the results of the evaluation.

5. If either Office perceives a need to amend this statement, they may request a mutual review of the statement, and the other office will immediately accept the request.

Signed in Seoul, Republic of Korea

June 5, 2009

Jung-Sik Koh

Ian Fletcher

Commissioner

Chief Executive & Comptroller General

Korean Intellectual Property Office

Intellectual Property Office of the
United Kingdom