

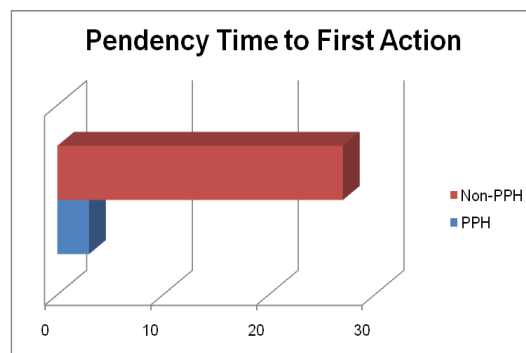
An Introduction to The Patent Prosecution Highway



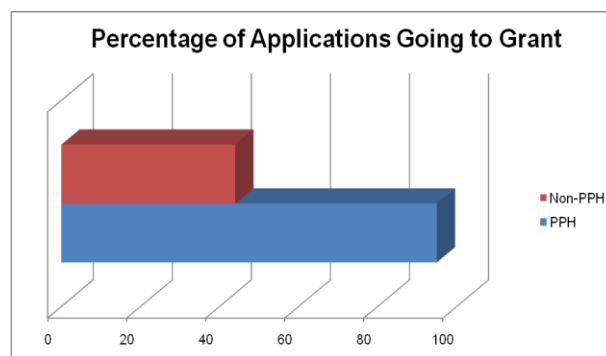
The Patent Prosecution Highway

The **Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)** is an agreement between the Intellectual Property Office and other national intellectual property offices which offers you a means of **greatly reducing the time and expense associated with obtaining patent protection abroad.**

Under the PPH the **pendency period** for the first examination relating to PPH applications has been seen to be **reduced from 27 months to less than 3 months**¹ at some participating offices.



An astonishing **95% grant rate**² for PPH applications has been achieved at some national offices, with **more than 20% of PPH applications going to grant with just one action**³.



¹ Figures are for PPH request to JPO based on USPTO as office of first filing

² Based on figures of PPH between USPTO and JPO

³ Figures are for PPH request at USPTO based on JPO as office of first filing

The PPH procedure itself is **free** in the UK and results in a potential **reduction in the number of office actions** which are needed to put your application in order for grant thereby **reducing the costs of attorney's fees** which arise from responding to each office action.

The PPH **provides rapid, high quality patent protection at low cost.**

The Intellectual Property Office currently has pilot PPH agreements in place with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO) and, from the 1st October 2009, the Korean Intellectual property Office (KIPO).

The Patent Prosecution Highway Process

The PPH supports you in your efforts to **quickly obtain cost effective, robust patent protection for your products around the world.**

If you have a patent application relating to the same invention at 2 or more different national intellectual property offices then you may be able to use the PPH procedure to accelerate examination of your patent application at 1 or more of those offices.

If the claims of your patent application to a first intellectual property office have been found to be allowable at that office then you may use the PPH to request accelerated examination of a corresponding application at another intellectual property office.

When you make a PPH request you will be asked to provide information relating to your corresponding application at the first office and to indicate how the claims in your application correspond to those that were found to be allowable in the first office. You are free to amend your claims when you request accelerated examination if you need to do so.

Under the PPH we then conduct our own examination making full use of the examination work already conducted on your corresponding patent application at the first national office as well as the extra information that you provide. This enables us to **rapidly provide you with high quality patent examination.**

PPH and the Patent Cooperation Treaty

The PPH is **fully compatible with the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)**. The PCT enables you to apply for patent protection in many national offices via a single application to the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) which can be filed at a national receiving office. After search by an International Search Authority, your PCT application goes on to become a national application at each of the countries where you are seeking patent protection.

The PPH then allows you to accelerate examination of your application at a variety of national offices based on the examination results of the first national office to examine your PCT application.

In combination the PCT and PPH can deliver rapid, high quality patent protection in many countries based on a single PCT application.



Further Information

You can find out more about the Intellectual Property Office and the services we provide at

www.ipo.gov.uk

You can find out more about the PPH on our website at

<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/types/patent/p-applying/p-after/p-pph.htm>

For further information regarding the PPH please telephone Mr Alastair Kelly on +44 (0)1633 814417

or email us at pph@ipo.gov.uk