

**Memorandum of Understanding
on the Patent Prosecution Highway between
the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office (STPO)
and
the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland (NBPR)**

The Spanish Patent and Trademark Office and the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland, referred hereinafter to as "the Offices",

Recognizing the importance of patent protection in fostering technological innovation and economic development

Taking into account the increasing necessity to cope with the ever-growing number of patent applications in the context of the new global economic model of knowledge

With an aim to recognize the value of worksharing as a key strategy to combat the growing patent backlogs and increased pendency

Desirous of promoting inter-office effective cooperation and avoiding the duplication of work;

state their intention as follows:

1. The Offices will start a pilot program of Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) for the patent applications filed with the Offices.
2. The basic concept underlying the PPH is that where the office of first filing has assessed the patentability of a patent application, the office of second filing ensures that the applicant enjoys the benefit of an accelerated examination for the corresponding application, provided certain conditions are met. One condition is that the claims of the two applications must have sufficient correspondence. Another condition is that the search and examination results of the office of first filing must be made available to the office of second filing.
3. The PPH pilot program will commence on March 1, 2011.
4. The Offices will prepare guidelines for the pilot program before the program starts.

5. This statement, together with the documents concerning the implementation of the pilot program are subject to regular review and can be modified upon each Office's request and by mutual consent.

Signed in The Hague, The Netherlands,

December 14, 2010



Mr. Eero MANTERE

Senior Deputy Director-General of the NBPR



Mr. Alberto CASADO

Director-General of the SPTO