



Oficina Española
de Patentes y Marcas



Joint Statement of Intent
between
the Spanish Patent and Trademark Office
and
the Japan Patent Office
to cooperate in the field of Patent Prosecution

The Spanish Patent and Trademark Office and the Japan Patent Office (hereinafter referred to as "both offices")

Reaffirming the need for patent protection as a key element for fostering technological innovation and accelerating economic development;

Noting the increasing necessity to adequately cope with the ever-growing number of internationally filed patent applications resulting from a significant demand for patent protection in the context of globalization of the world economy;

Acknowledging the importance of ensuring high quality, expeditious and inexpensive patent protection for applicants filing their applications with both offices;

Recognizing the benefits for patent applicants and industry of avoiding unnecessary duplication of work, reducing workloads, and streamlining the patent procedures in both offices; and

Desiring to further enhance their significant role in cooperative efforts to be made worldwide in the field of patents;

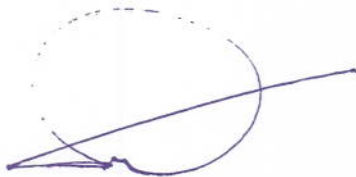
state their intention as follows:

1. Both offices will commence a "Patent Prosecution Highway" (PPH) pilot program. The basic concept of the PPH program is that where the office of

the first filing (OFF) has determined that one or more claims of a patent application is/are allowable, the applicant will be entitled to the benefit of an accelerated examination before the office of the second filing (OSF) for the corresponding, subsequent application, provided that certain conditions are met, including the sufficient correspondence of claims between the two applications and that work results of the OFF are made available to the OSF.

2. Both Offices will begin the pilot programme on 1 October, 2010.
3. The common understanding concerning the details of the pilot programme as well as documents on its implementation will be finalized before the start of the programme.
4. This statement as well as the afore-mentioned common understanding and the documents concerning the implementation of the pilot programme are subject to regular review and can be modified upon each Office's request and by mutual consent.

Signed in SPTO, Madrid
3 September, 2010



Alberto Casado Cerviño
Director General
Spanish Patent and Trademark
Office



Yoshiyuki Iwai
Commissioner
Japan Patent Office