



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

The Biotechnology and Chemical Pharmaceutical Customer
Partnership

Patent Process Reengineering Team as part of the Patent End-To-End Processing Team

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Patent Process Reengineering Team
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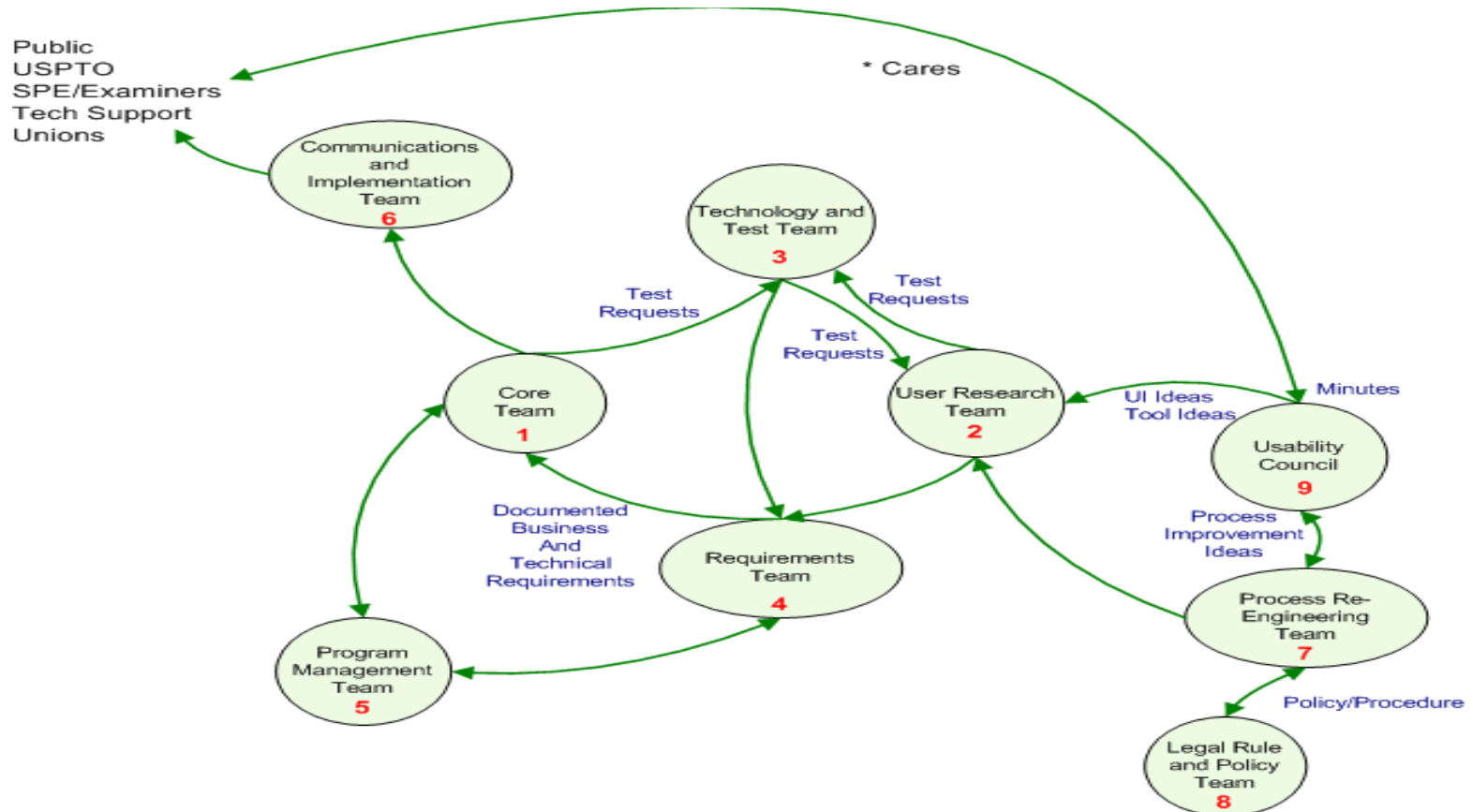


Patent End-to-End Processing Team

- Overall Goal:
 - The USPTO's Patent automation systems are a collection of systems, some dating back to the 1970s, that have evolved independently. The USPTO ultimately seeks to develop a system architecture which will incorporate a re-design of the pre-examination, examination and post-examination processes.



End-to-End Team Structure





Patent Process Reengineering Team Business Areas Represented

- **Patents**
- **Search & Information Resources Administration**
- **Office of Data Management**
- **Office of Patent Processing Services**
- **Office of Patent Legal Administration**
- **POPA and NTEU 243 Representatives**



Reengineering Team Goal

- To streamline the patent application process to meet the challenges of adapting to rapidly evolving technologies and stakeholder priorities, while ensuring success in meeting the goals of timeliness, quality, and efficiency.



Reengineering Team Scope and Priorities

- The Patent Process Reengineering Team (PPRT) will identify processes and procedures that need to be reengineered to align with the Under Secretary's vision and direction and feed requirements based on the new processes and procedures to the End-to-End teams.
- PPRT will work to improve the patent examination process, streamline the exception processes, and reduce application handling time, including the publication process.
- PPRT is responsible for developing patent processes that will increase efficiency by maximizing the sharing of foreign and domestic work and by integrating current initiatives, when appropriate.



Reengineering Team Scope and Priorities (continued)

- The new process(es) will incorporate input from both employees and external stakeholders, while addressing the challenges that the Patent Corps is faced with today, including pendency, quality, responsiveness, etc.
- The new process(es) will be staff-friendly, stakeholder friendly, and transparent.
- The process(es) will prioritize incoming work through use of initiatives such as Project Exchange and Accelerated Examination.
- The new process(es) will institutionalize compact prosecution of applications by resolving core issues earlier in the process.



Initiatives

- Analyze all business processes and adapt them to a text-based application process.
- Review all business processes for elimination of unnecessary steps or elements.
- Review all business processes for simplification and eliminate all impediments to efficiency.
- Review transitions between processes to ensure smooth and efficient handling of applications from filing to termination of office proceedings.



Initiatives (continued)

- Provide direction regarding the appropriate level, vehicle, approach and timing of communications and integration regarding major changes across the USPTO, Patent Corps and key stakeholders.
- Develop and document any changes to business processes.
- Work with Patent Training Academy to develop training plan and material for implementation of business process changes.
- Organize and facilitate roundtables with the public.



Planned Actions

- Initial set up: establish team, charter, timetables, and plans
- Collect data and ideas from multiple sources
- Organize concepts (vetting, quick fixes, long-term)
- Present and validate reengineered straw man
- Collect feedback and adjust
- Present recommendations for collaboration with IT team
- Provide support for testing and prototyping
- Provide assistance for development of training materials



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Questions?