



**Enhanced
Patent
Quality
Initiative**

Patent Quality Initiatives

Biotechnology/Chemical/Pharmaceutical Customer Partnership

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United States Patent and Trademark Office





World-Class Patent Quality System

The Right Time for a Greater Focus on Quality

- America Invents Act (AIA) provides a stable budget to pursue quality initiatives
- USPTO continues to reduce patent application inventory and pendency
- IT and other resource improvement initiatives support our employees
- Enhancing patent quality is a priority

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Internal Steps to Improve Patent Quality

- Fall 2014 - Gathered valuable ideas from USPTO
 - focus groups made up of a cross section of employees
- Issued updated examiner guidance following court rulings
- Increase in training
- Patent Quality Forums held with Patents employees
 - March 11 and March 24, 2015





Internal Steps to Improve Patent Quality (continued)

- Increased resources to improve patent examination quality
- Compare best practices and collaborate with foreign counterpart offices to improve quality
- Research and consider leveraging data analytics to improve the examination process

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External Steps Toward Improving Patent Quality

- Understanding Our Stakeholder's Perspective
 - What does quality mean to IP stakeholders?
- Discuss current quality measure
 - Collect and analyze feedback
 - Re-evaluate current measures
- Public comments requested through Federal Register notice





Patent Quality Summit

- Held March 25 – 26, 2015
- Alexandria, VA Headquarters
- Excellent attendance and participation for both days of the Summit
- Stakeholder Discussion on the Importance of Quality
 - Speakers from various Intellectual Property Industries
 - All audience discussion
- Discussed Proposals to Enhance Patent Quality

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Patent Quality Summit

- I. Excellence in work products
 1. Applicant requests prosecution review of selected applications
 2. Automated pre-examination search
 3. Clarity of the record
- II. Excellence in measuring patent quality
 1. Review/improvements to quality metrics
- III. Excellence in customer service
 1. Review of current compact prosecution model and effect on quality
 2. In-person interview capability with all examiners





Patent Quality Summit

Emerging themes among the participants included:

- Providing a clear record throughout prosecution
- Differentiating between the measures of the patent process and the patent product
- The usefulness (necessity) of face-to-face interviews

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PROPOSAL 1

Applicant Requests for Prosecution Review of Selected Applications

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PROPOSAL 2

Automated Pre-Examination Search

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PROPOSAL 3 Clarity of Record

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PROPOSAL 4

Review of and Improvements to Quality Metrics

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PROPOSAL 5

Review of the Compact Prosecution Model and the Effect on Quality

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PROPOSAL 6
In-Person Interview Capability
with All Examiners

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Next Steps

- As we move ahead over the next several months we have several next steps planned:
 - Posting a video of the Summit on the web for you to access and review
 - Federal Register notice comment period runs through **May 6, 2015**
 - Submit your comments and ideas responsive to the FR Notice to WorldClassPatentQuality@uspto.gov email box
 - Road shows later in the summer

