

**NATIONAL BOARD OF PATENTS
AND REGISTRATION OF FINLAND**

**Memorandum of Understanding
on the Patent Prosecution Highway
between
the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic
and
the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland**

Recognizing the importance of patent protection in promoting a strong national and global economy, encouraging economic investment, and fostering technological innovation;

Taking into consideration the increasing necessity of coping with the ever-growing number of internationally filed patent applications, which have arisen from a growing need for patent protection in the context of globalization of the world economy;

Striving to ensure the benefits of expeditious, inexpensive, and high-quality examination for applicants and the benefits of avoiding duplicative work and reducing the examination workload; and

Desirous of promoting inter-office cooperation and enhancing leadership in cooperative worldwide efforts in the patent field.

The Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic (IPO-CZ) and the National Board of Patents and Registration of Finland (NBPR), referred to as “the Offices,” have reached an understanding on the following:

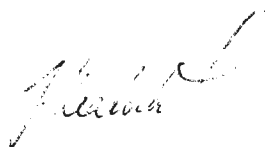
1. The Offices will start a pilot program of the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) for the patent applications filed with the Offices.
2. The PPH pilot program will commence on November 1st, 2013. The duration of the pilot program is one year and may be extended with the mutual written consent of the Offices.
3. The basic concept of 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.

4. The Offices will prepare guidelines for the pilot program before the program starts. The guidelines will include the conditions outlined in paragraph 3 as well as the requirements and procedures for participating in the pilot program.
5. The Offices will periodically evaluate and exchange information on the status of the pilot program and consider modifying the program on the basis of the evaluation results. At the end of the pilot program both offices will evaluate the results of the pilot program to determine whether and how the PPH program should be fully implemented after the trial period.
6. Upon completion of the pilot program, the PPH will be automatically implemented on a full-time basis under the same conditions as the pilot program, unless, at least a month before the end of the pilot program, either Office gives the other Office written notice of its intention to discuss the future of the pilot program. However each office may terminate the PPH on full-time basis if the volume of participation exceeds a manageable level, or for any other reason.
7. This memorandum of understanding will come into effect on the date of November 1st, 2013 and may be amended at any time with the mutual written consent of the Offices. Further, the Offices may also terminate the PPH pilot program early if the volume of participation exceeds manageable level, or for any other reason. Notice will be published if the PPH pilot program is terminated early.

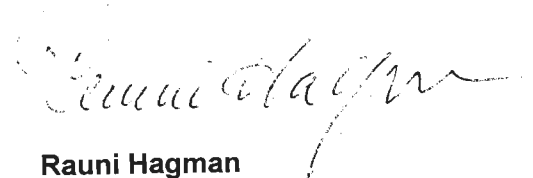
Signed in Munich,

on 16.10.2013



Josef Kratochvíl

President, Industrial Property Office of the
Czech Republic



Rauni Hagman

Director General, National Board of Patents
and Registration of Finland