



**Joint Statement of Intent**

between

the Japan Patent Office

and

the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic

to Cooperate in the Field of Patent Prosecution

The Japan Patent Office and the Industrial Property Office of the Czech Republic (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;

express their intention as follows:

1. Both offices will commence a "Patent Prosecution Highway" (PPH) pilot programme. The basic concept of the PPH programme 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 April, 2015.
3. The documents on its implementation of the pilot programme will be finalized before the start of the programme.
4. This statement and the documents on the implementation of the pilot programme are subject to regular review and can be modified upon each office's request and by mutual consent.

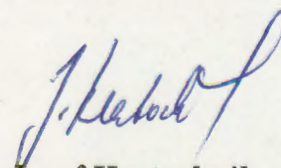
Signed in Tokyo, 19 January 2015, by the Japanese side  
and in Prague, 29/01/2015, by the Czech side, in duplicate.

For Japan Patent Office

For Industrial Property Office of the  
Czech Republic



Hitoshi Ito  
Commissioner



Josef Kratochvil  
President



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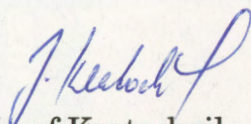
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