

Designated Federal Officer
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Special Accommodations: Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to the Designated Federal Officer by June 27, 2022.

Paul Johnson,

Acting Chief Financial and Administrative Officer, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[FR Doc. 2022-13925 Filed 6-28-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2021-0037]

Fourth Extension of the Modified COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program for Patent Applications

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: To further support the acceleration of innovations in the fight against COVID-19, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) is extending the modified COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program, which provides prioritized examination of certain patent applications. Requests that are compliant with the pilot program's requirements and are filed on or before December 31, 2022, will be accepted. The USPTO will evaluate whether to terminate or further extend the program during this extension period.

DATES: The COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program is extended as of June 29, 2022, to run until December 31, 2022.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Robert A. Clarke, Director, Office of Patent Legal Administration (571-272-7735, robert.clarke@uspto.gov).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 14, 2020, the USPTO published a notice on the implementation of the COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program. See COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program, 85 FR 28932 (May 14, 2020) (COVID-19 Track One Notice). On September 3, 2021, the USPTO published a notice extending the program to December 31, 2021, and modifying it by removing the limit on the number of patent applications that could receive prioritized examination. See Modification of COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program, 86 FR 49522 (September 3, 2021). On

December 30, 2021, the USPTO published a notice extending the program to March 31, 2022. See Extension of the Modified COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program, 86 FR 74406 (December 30, 2021) (Second Extension Notice). On March 25, 2022, the USPTO published a notice extending the program to June 30, 2022. See Third Extension of the Modified COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program for Patent Applications, 87 FR 17073 (March 25, 2022) (Third Extension Notice).

The COVID-19 Track One Notice indicated that an applicant may request prioritized examination without payment of the prioritized examination fee and associated processing fee if: (1) the patent application's claim(s) covered a product or process related to COVID-19, (2) the product or process was subject to an applicable Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for COVID-19 use, and (3) the applicant met other requirements noted in the COVID-19 Track One Notice. As of May 16, 2022, 261 patents had issued from applications granted prioritized status under the pilot program. The average total pendency, from filing date or later submission of a request for continued examination to issue date, for those applications was 280 days. The shortest pendency from filing date to issue date for those applications was 75 days.

The Third Extension Notice indicated that the pilot program would expire on June 30, 2022. In the current notice, the USPTO is further extending the pilot program by setting the expiration date as December 31, 2022. The Office will evaluate whether to terminate or further extend the program during this fourth extension period. If the USPTO determines that an additional extension of the pilot program is appropriate, the Agency will publish a subsequent notice to the public.

Unless the pilot program is further extended by a subsequent notice, following the expiration of this extension, the pilot program will be terminated, and patent applicants interested in expediting the prosecution of their patent application may instead seek to use the Prioritized Examination (Track One) Program. Patent applications accorded prioritized examination under the pilot program will not lose that status merely because the application is still pending after the date the pilot program is terminated but will instead retain prioritized examination status until that status is terminated for one or more reasons, as described in the COVID-19 Track One Notice.

The Track One Program permits an applicant to have a patent application advanced out of turn (accorded special status) for examination under 37 CFR 1.102(e) if the applicant timely files a request for prioritized (Track One) examination accompanied by the appropriate fees and meets the other conditions of 37 CFR 1.102(e). See § 708.02(b)(2) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (9th ed., rev. 10.2019, June 2020). The current USPTO fee schedule is available at www.uspto.gov/Fees.

The Track One Program does not have the restrictions of the COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program regarding the types of inventions for which special status may be sought, as the Track One Program does not require a connection to any particular technology. Moreover, under the Track One Program, an applicant can avoid delays associated with the determination of whether a patent application presents a claim that covers a product or process related to COVID-19 and whether the product or process is subject to an applicable FDA approval for COVID-19 use.

Katherine K. Vidal,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2022-13892 Filed 6-28-22; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO-P-2022-0019]

Extension of the Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program and Request for Comments

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice; request for comments.

SUMMARY: On June 29, 2016, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) implemented the Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program in support of the White House's National Cancer Moonshot initiative, which sought to accelerate cancer research. The program permits patent applications pertaining to cancer immunotherapy to be advanced out of turn for examination. To date, over 835 petitions requesting participation in the pilot program have been filed, and over 615 patents have been granted under the program. In view of the continued interest in the Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program, as well as the White House's recent reinitiation of the National

Cancer Moonshot initiative, the USPTO is extending the program, with all parameters remaining the same, until September 30, 2022. The USPTO is also in the process of deciding whether to expand the scope of the pilot program and may, additionally, further extend it (with or without modifications), depending on feedback from the participants and the public, additional continued interest, and the program's effectiveness.

DATES: Comments must be received by July 29, 2022 to ensure consideration.

Pilot duration: The Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program will continue to run until September 30, 2022. Therefore, petitions to make special under the Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program must be filed on or before September 30, 2022.

ADDRESSES: For reasons of Government efficiency, comments must be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. To submit comments via the portal, enter docket number PTO-P-2022-0019 on the homepage and click "Search." The site will provide a search results page listing all documents associated with this docket. Find a reference to this notice and click on the "Comment Now!" icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments. Attachments to electronic comments will be accepted in ADOBE® portable document format or MICROSOFT WORD® format. Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that the submitter does not desire to make public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

Visit the Federal eRulemaking Portal website (www.regulations.gov) for additional instructions on providing comments via the portal. If electronic submission of comments is not feasible due to a lack of access to a computer and/or the internet, please contact the USPTO using the contact information below for special instructions.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For questions regarding this pilot program in general, please contact Susy Tsang-Foster, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, at 571-272-7711 or susy.tsang-foster@uspto.gov. For questions related to a particular petition, please contact Gary B. Nickol, Supervisory Patent Examiner, at 571-272-0835 or gary.nickol@uspto.gov; or Brandon J. Fetterolf, Supervisory Patent Examiner, at 571-272-2919 or brandon.fetterolf@uspto.gov, both of Technology Center 1600.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 29, 2016, the USPTO published a notice for the implementation of the Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program. See Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program, 81 FR 42328 (Cancer Immunotherapy Notice). The pilot program was designed to support the global fight against cancer. The Cancer Immunotherapy Notice indicated that an applicant could have an application advanced out of turn (accorded special status) for examination without meeting all the current requirements of the accelerated examination program set forth in item VIII of section 708.02(a) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure if the application contained at least one claim to a method of treating a cancer using immunotherapy and the applicant met other requirements specified in the Cancer Immunotherapy Notice.

The Cancer Immunotherapy Notice established that the pilot program would run for 12 months, beginning on June 29, 2016. Over the course of the pilot program, the USPTO has extended it through notices published in the **Federal Register**. The most recent notice extended the program until June 30, 2022. See Extension of the Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program, 85 FR 41570 (July 10, 2020). In view of the continued interest in the pilot program, the USPTO is hereby extending it through September 30, 2022. The extension will also allow the USPTO to continue its evaluation of the program. The requirements of the pilot program have not been modified.

Various stakeholders from around the world—including independent inventors, universities, research institutions, hospitals, medical centers, government agencies, and large and small companies—have filed petitions to participate in the pilot program. To date, over 835 petitions requesting participation have been filed, and over 615 patents have been granted under the pilot program.

The USPTO is currently deciding whether to expand the scope of the pilot program. The USPTO may further extend the program (with or without modifications), depending on feedback from the participants, additional continued interest, and the program's effectiveness. The USPTO welcomes public comment on these topics.

Katherine K. Vidal,

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2022-13908 Filed 6-28-22; 8:45 am]

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COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION

Energy and Environmental Markets Advisory Committee; Request for Nominations

AGENCY: Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC or Commission) is requesting nominations for Associate Members of the Energy and Environmental Markets Advisory Committee (EEMAC or Committee) and also inviting the submission of potential topics for discussion at future Committee meetings. The EEMAC is an advisory committee established by the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

DATES: The deadline for the submission of nominations and topics is July 13, 2022.

ADDRESSES: Nominations and topics for discussion at future EEMAC meetings should be emailed to EEMAC_Submissions@cftc.gov or sent by hand delivery or courier to Chris Lucas, Chief of Staff to Commissioner Summer K. Mersinger, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Three Lafayette Centre, 1155 21st Street NW, Washington, DC 20581. Please use the title "Energy and Environmental Markets Advisory Committee" for any nominations or topics you submit.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lauren Fulks, EEMAC Secretary, (816) 960-7719 or email: lfulks@cftc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EEMAC was established to conduct public meetings; submit reports and recommendations to the Commission; and otherwise serve as a vehicle for discussion and communication on matters of concern to exchanges, trading firms, end users, energy producers, and regulators regarding energy and environmental markets and their regulation by the Commission.

Pursuant to the EEMAC's authorizing statute, the EEMAC must have nine members. In addition, the EEMAC Charter requires that the Committee have approximately 9–20 Associate Members. The EEMAC currently has twelve Associate Members and Commissioner Summer K. Mersinger, the EEMAC's Sponsor, seeks additional Associate Members of the EEMAC.

Accordingly, the Commission invites the submission of nominations for EEMAC Associate Members who represent a wide diversity of opinions and a broad spectrum of interests