

Collaborative Search Pilot Program (CSP)

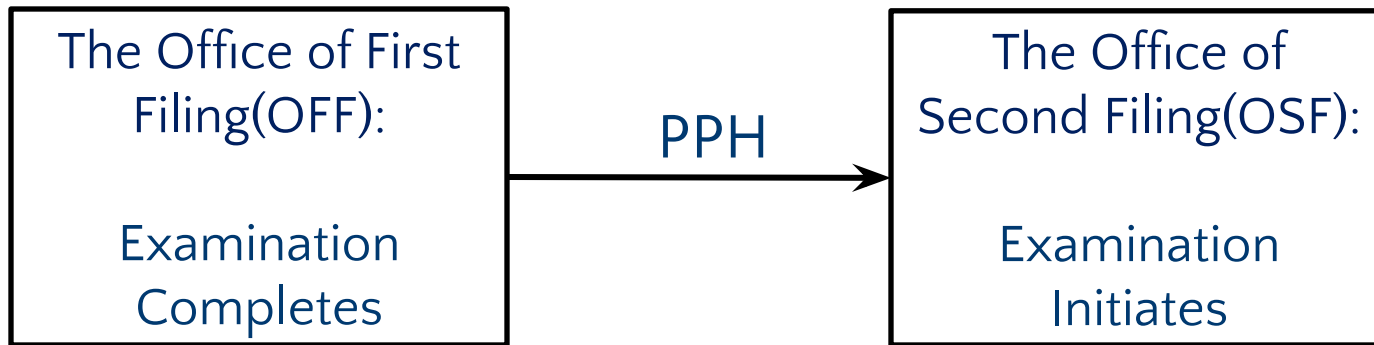


September 8, 2020

Aki Ryuka

Japanese Patent Attorney
Attorney at Law, California, U.S.A.

Problems in Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)



The OFF cannot utilize the examination results of the OSF.

All the claims in OSF application sufficiently correspond to the allowable/patentable claims in OFF applications.

Collaborative Search Pilot Program (CSP) enable synchronized examinations



Cited from the JPO Website :

https://www.jpo.go.jp/torikumi_e/torikumi_e/nichibei_e.htm

Requirements for CSP

- Common priority
- Petitions in both offices
- Claim Limits: 3 Independent, 20 Total
- Independent claims be substantially the same.
 - JPO requires a copy of the US claims, if unpublished in US yet.
 - USPTO requires a claims correspondence table.

(<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-10-30/pdf/2017-23661.pdf> pp. 50124)
- Ready for the examination
 - Examination has not been initiated
 - JPO requires Japanese language translation

Benefits to the Applicant

- Greater consistency in examination across offices leading to more certainty of IP rights
- No office fee
- Citations of the Japanese first office action do not have to be submitted as US IDS. (Later citations must be submitted)
- Single analysis for responding to two office actions
→ Saves agent fees and in-house time
- The first office action is typically issued within 6 months. Slightly shorter than normal period of 10 months, but longer than expedited examination, which takes 3 months

Pilot Duration for CSP

First Pilot: Two years from August, 2015

- Only 34 were requested in the first year.
(RYUKA requested 8 of 37.)

Expanded Pilot: Three years from November, 2017

- Accepts up to 400 applications per year