

USPTO and JPO further improve Patent Prosecution Highway

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and Japan Patent Office (JPO) will continue improvements to their Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) programs in 2023. Both offices [launched this initiative in January 2022](#) and are following through on their plan to review it annually.

A fast-track examination framework, the PPH enables applicants to request accelerated examination of a patent application pending at a second office (known as the office of later examination or OLE). This applies when a corresponding application has been found allowable/patentable by a first office (known as the office of earlier examination or OEE).

To improve the application experience under the PPH, the USPTO and JPO each set deadlines for issuing office actions for PPH applications, making it easier for applicants to predict the timing of examination. In 2022, the USPTO met its PPH goals for reducing patent application pendency (duration of the process). On average, it issued a first office action on the merits (FAOM) within three months after granting a PPH petition. The office issued a subsequent action within one month following an applicant's response to the FAOM.

For more information about the PPH, visit the <https://www.uspto.gov/patents/basics/international-protection/patent-prosecution-highway-pph-fast-track>