Notice

This content is for informational purposes only and is not legal advice. Please consult with appropriate sources for legal authority and guidance on these matters.
The USPTO is America’s innovation agency

Committed to:

• Fostering innovation and economic growth

• Creating a reliable, predictable, and high-quality IP system
Historical foundation of intellectual property

• Intellectual property (IP) is deeply rooted in our nation’s history.
  – U.S. constitution Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8: “The Congress shall have Power ... to promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries ... ”
What is a patent?

The right to exclude others from:

– making, using, selling, offering for sale, or importing the claimed invention

• Limited term

• Territorial: A U.S. patent provides protection only in the United States
  – No worldwide patents
What is a trademark?

• Key Purposes:
  – Allow consumers to identify the source or producer of different products and services – helps their buying decisions
  – Encourage trademark owners to provide goods and services of consistent quality and to build goodwill in the trademark
What is a copyright?

• Protects “original works of authorship” including literary, dramatic, musical, artistic and other works fixed in a tangible medium

• Library of Congress administers registration; USPTO advises the Executive branch on intellectual property issues including copyright

• © symbol can be used without registration
What is a trade secret?

• Any information that derives economic value from not being generally known or ascertainable
• Can be formulas, patterns, compilations, programs, devices, methods, techniques or processes
• Protection stems from common law dating to the 1800’s
• All states have some sort of trade secret protection
• Most laws based on the Uniform Trade Secrets Act
USPTO resources
www.uspto.gov

Entrance into education for inventors, entrepreneurs, start-ups, kids, and teachers.

Inspiring stories of invention and innovation.

Easy access to COVID-19 relief and support.

Includes demystifying the patent system toolkit.

Find direct resources in your geographic location.

Find It Fast
Quick links to applications and tools.
- Patents
- Trademarks

New to IP?
Learn the basics of intellectual property.
- Patent basics
- Trademark basics
- Find help in your area

Cultivating curiosity
Words of wisdom from a woman in STEM on how to encourage young innovators. FULL STORY>
Expanding Innovation Hub

“To maintain our technological leadership, the United States must seek to broaden our intellectual property ecosystem demographically, geographically, and economically.” — USPTO Director Andrei Iancu

Demystifying the patent system
Explore our educational tools for understanding the patent system and leveraging intellectual property
> View toolkit

Mentoring programs
Discover how to make crucial connections for the next generation of innovators in your organization
> Create a mentoring program

Community groups
Learn about community groups and find out how to start and maintain one within your organization
> Community group resources

Find help in your area

USPTO offices:
Headquarters:
- Alexandria, VA
Regional offices:
- Detroit
- Denver
- Silicon Valley
- Dallas

Additional resources:
- Inventors Assistance Center
- Patent Pro Bono Program
- Law school clinics
- Patent and Trademark Resource Centers

uspto.gov
Finding help in your area

District of Columbia

District of Columbia residents have access to a host of unique resources and assistance in their state. Expand the categories below to see what is available to you. Additionally, our USPTO headquarters provides additional support and resources for customers in the Eastern region of the United States.

Expand all | Collapse all

- Get free patent and trademark legal assistance
- Learn to search for inventions and trademarks at PTRCs
- Attend inventor and entrepreneur workshops, trainings, and other events in your region
- Find a registered patent attorney or agent in the District of Columbia
- Network with inventor and entrepreneur organizations in your area

Do you have suggestions for resources to include on this page? Please contact innovationdevelopment@uspto.gov.
Inventor and entrepreneur resources

Welcome to the USPTO’s hub for resources and information for inventors, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. This page provides you centralized access to a variety of products and services available from the USPTO and encourages active participation in the innovation ecosystem.
Startup Resources

Many startup businesses face unique IP-related challenges, such as IP portfolio prerequisites to secure funding, and the possibility of costly patent infringement demand letters and lawsuits. We have tailored this area of our website to suit the specific needs of startup businesses, a segment of our stakeholders that continues to be recognized as an outsized engine of job creation, economic growth, and unparalleled innovation in the United States.

This portal is part of our Startup Partnership Initiative—putting key resources and critical information for startups in a single place so it’s easier to find what you may need when you need it.

**Patents for Startups**
- The patent process can be challenging if you are not familiar with it. Here is basic information on the patent process.
  - Patent Process Overview
  - Inventors Assistance Center
  - Patent FAQs
  - Patent Homepage
  - Search for Patents
  - Official Gazette for Patents

**Trademarks for Startups**
- The trademark process can be confusing for a beginner, so here is basic information on registering a trademark.
  - Trademark Basics
  - Search for Trademarks
  - Filing online
  - Trademark Homepage

**Startup Assistance**
- The Inventors Assistance Center and Trademark Assistance Center provide information and services to the public. Center staff can answer questions on patent and trademark processes, but cannot provide specific legal advice.
  - Inventors Assistance Center
  - Trademark Assistance Center
  - Patents Ombudsman Program
  - BusinessUSA (link is external)

**Current Events**
- Information about conferences, conventions and other opportunities to engage.
  - Upcoming Events
  - Inventors Eye | Events & Announcements

[www.uspto.gov/startups](http://www.uspto.gov/startups)
USPTO Subscription Center

12 available subscriptions

• Patent Alerts
• Trademark Alerts
• Copyright Alerts
• Patent Trial and Appeal Board
• USPTO Regional Office Updates
• USPTO Press Releases
• USPTO Director’s Forum Blog
• USPTO Monthly Review
• FYI at the USPTO
• Inventors Eye
• Intellectual Property for K-12 Educators
• USPTO Awards

Patent Alert

USPTO announces COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program for small and micro entities

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) today announced a new COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program.

Under this new pilot program, the USPTO will grant requests for prioritized examination to applicants that qualify for small or micro entity status without payment of the typical fees associated with other prioritized examination. In addition, the USPTO will endeavor to reach final disposition of applications in this program within six months if applicants respond promptly to communications from the USPTO.

Read the full press release on the USPTO website.
Learn how to draft patent claims - virtual only

Claim drafting may be the most important part of protecting your invention. Learn the basics of claim drafting from USPTO experts in this interactive workshop. You will develop a better appreciation of how a patent examiner views a claim during the course of examination. This event is free and open to the public, so register early.

The May 15 session will be offered virtually via WebEx for those that have registered for the class.

To get the most out of this workshop, you should have an intermediate knowledge of the intellectual property system and of patents specifically. We recommend that you complete the previous sessions, “Learn the basics of intellectual property with a focus on patents” and “Learn how to draft your patent application” before attending.

Please note that the Silicon Valley USPTO is a federal facility. Attendees are required to present a valid form of government-issued identification (driver license or passport) and may be subject to screening to gain access.

This event is accessible to individuals with disabilities. To request a reasonable accommodation, including captioning, sign language interpreting, or other, please email siliconvalley@uspto.gov or call 408-928-9900.

Register today!
Inventors Assistance Center (IAC)

The Inventors Assistance Center (IAC) provides patent information and services to the public. The IAC is staffed by former supervisory patent examiners and experienced former primary examiners who answer general questions concerning patent examining policy and procedure.

TTY customers can dial 800-877-8339 for customer assistance.

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. ET, except federal holidays
- 800-PTO-9199
  (800-786-9199)
- 571-272-1000
Trademark Assistance Center (TAC)

- Provides general information about the registration process
- Responds to status inquiries
- Hours of Operation
  - 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday
- Phone
  - (571) 272-9250 or (800) 786-9199
- Email
  - TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov
- Webpage: www.uspto.gov/TrademarkAssistance
Pro Se Assistance Program

• Hours of Operation
  – 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. (ET), Monday through Friday

• Email
  – innovationdevelopment@uspto.gov

• Phone
  – (866) 757-3848
  – Webpage www.uspto.gov/ProSePatents
USPTO Patent Pro Bono Program

A nationwide network that assists financially under-resourced independent inventors and small businesses

• Program participants must have income 300% below federal poverty guidelines

For more information, visit www.uspto.gov/probonopatents.
Pro Bono Program organizations

- Washington Pro Bono Patent Network
- Idaho Patent Pro Bono
- CLA
- ProBoPat
- Arizona Public Patent Program
- LegalCorps (MN)
- Pro Bono Patent Project (MI)
- Gateway Venture Mentoring Service
- TALA
- The Ella Project
- Chicago-Kent Patent Hub
- PatentConnect for Hoosiers (IN KY)
- Ohio Invents
- BBVLP Patent Program (MS AL)
- New England Program
- New York Tri State Program
- Delaware Program
- FCBA (Mid-Atlantic)
- PA Patent
- NC Leap
- Georgia Patents
- Patent Pro Bono FL
Law school clinics

The USPTO’s Law School Clinic Certification Program allows law students enrolled in a participating law school’s clinic program to practice before the USPTO under the guidance of a law school faculty clinic supervisor.

For more information, visit www.uspto.gov/lawschoolclinic.
Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRC)

Nationwide network of public, state, and academic libraries designated by the USPTO to disseminate patent and trademark information and support the intellectual property needs of the public.

For more information, visit www.uspto.gov/ptrc.
Reduced patent fees

**Small Entity**
- 50% reduction in most patent fees
- Must be an individual or
- A small business (less than 500 employees) or a non-profit organization

**Micro-Entity**
- 75% reduction in most patent fees
- Meet small entity requirement
- Filed no more than 4 previous applications
- Income not greater than 3x median income
- Not assigned to other than a micro-entity
- Inventions assigned to employer don’t count against you

For more information on Micro Entity: [www.uspto.gov/MicroEntity](http://www.uspto.gov/MicroEntity)
Need patent protection fast?

Need to FAST track your patent? Use Track One!
Move your ideas quickly with USPTO's Track One

www.uspto.gov/patent/initiatives/usptos-prioritized-patent-examination-program
Other USPTO resources

Helpline: 1-800-PTO-9199

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<tr>
<th>Resource</th>
<th>Website</th>
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<td>Utility patent application guide</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uspto.gov/patents/resources/types/utility.jsp">www.uspto.gov/patents/resources/types/utility.jsp</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patent process</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process">www.uspto.gov/patents/process</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patent search guide</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uspto.gov/patents/process/search">www.uspto.gov/patents/process/search</a></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pro se assistance</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uspto.gov/ProSePatents">www.uspto.gov/ProSePatents</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro entity Information</td>
<td><a href="http://www.uspto.gov/PatentMicroentity">www.uspto.gov/PatentMicroentity</a></td>
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</table>
COVID-19 Response Resource Center
The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has posted all COVID-19 resources and updates on a page dedicated solely to COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Response Resource Center webpage is accessible via the USPTO homepage.
The COVID-19 Response Resource Center is a central hub for information about the USPTO’s efforts to accelerate innovation, keep our stakeholders informed of recent developments, and promote new technologies.

The webpage details:

- Patent and licensing resources
- Innovation incentives
- Trademark counterfeiting and consumer fraud
- International updates
- Contact information for the USPTO
Response Resource Center

Patent and licensing resources:

- The USPTO’s Patent Pro Bono Program
- Patents 4 Partnerships platform
- Other special resources for inventors and entrepreneurs

The USPTO’s COVID-19 Response Resource Center is a central hub for information about the USPTO’s efforts and other helpful information in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Learn about the various actions the USPTO is taking to accelerate innovation, keep our stakeholders informed of recent developments, and promote new technologies.

For USPTO notices regarding the COVID-19 outbreak, please go to www.uspto.gov/coronavirus.
Response Resource Center

Innovation incentives:

• COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Program
• Voluntary early publication of patent applications
• Deferred-Fee Provisional Patent Application Pilot Program
Response Resource Center

Trademarks, counterfeiting, and fraud:

- COVID-19 Prioritized Trademark Examination Program
- Federal government resources
- How to report fraud and counterfeiting
Response Resource Center

International updates:

• The World Intellectual Property Organization’s COVID-19 IP Policy Tracker
• Patent Cooperation Treaty updates
• Madrid Protocol updates
• Hague Agreement updates
• Links to other patent offices
We encourage our stakeholders to send any recommendations or suggestions for us to consider as we assist the intellectual property community to COVIDcomments@uspto.gov.
Patents 4 Partnerships
Patents 4 Partnerships

A searchable repository of patents and published patent applications related to the COVID-19 pandemic that are indicated as available for licensing.
Currently, listings are limited to those technologies that the owner believes are reasonably related to the prevention, treatment, diagnosis, protection from, or alleviation of the symptoms of coronaviruses in general, and COVID-19, in particular.

You can search and sort the information by keyword, inventor name, assignee, and issue date.

Content has been drawn from:

- USPTO
- Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer (FLC Business)
- AUTM Innovation Marketplace (AIM)
- Universities
- National Institutes of Health
- Department of Energy
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Food and Drug Administration
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Department of Defense
- Department of Veterans Affairs databases
You can list additional technology on the platform by emailing the completed form to IPMarketplace@uspto.gov.
COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Pilot Programs
Patent Prioritized Examination Pilot Program

For COVID-19 related patent applications:

- The USPTO will grant requests for prioritized examination to patent applicants that qualify for small or micro entity status without payment of the typical fees associated with other prioritized examinations.

- The aim is to provide final disposition of applications in this program within six months if applicants respond promptly to communications from the USPTO.

Patent Prioritized Examination Pilot Program

- The USPTO launched a webpage that provides additional resources and information.
- The webpage details:
  - Criteria of the pilot program
  - How to request participation
  - Announcements and public comments
  - Questions and answers
Patent Prioritized Examination Pilot Program

Criteria of the pilot program:

• There are no fees required to participate in the program.

• Applications must contain one or more claims related to COVID-19 and must be subject to an applicable Food and Drug Administration approval for COVID-19 use.

• Applicants must certify that they qualify for either small or micro entity status.

• Applicants should file the Pilot Program Form PTO/SB/450 using the USPTO patent electronic filing system, EFS-Web.

How to request participation:

- Fill out Pilot Program Form PTO/SB/450.
- Save the form and upload it via the patent electronic filing system EFS-Web.
  - When uploading your form, select document description “COVID-19 Prioritized Examination Request” (found under both the “Track I - Prioritized Examination” and “Pilot Programs” categories) on the EFS-Web Attach Documents screen to ensure processing.

Patent Prioritized Examination Pilot Program

The webpage also details announcements and public comments:

• Link to the Federal Register Notice (85 Fed. Reg. 28,932)
• The USPTO’s announcements regarding the pilot program
• Up-to-date information on how many applications have been granted prioritized examination under this program
• Public comments in response to the Federal Register Notice

Questions and Answers

Expand all | Collapse all

- When does the pilot go into effect?
  
  The pilot is effective upon the publication of the notice in the Federal Register. Note, the initial published notice erroneously stated that the effective date was July 13. The effective date is May 14.

- How long will the pilot last?
  
  The USPTO will accept requests for the prioritized examination pilot program until such time as the USPTO has accepted 500 requests. The USPTO may extend the pilot program (with or without modifications) or terminate it depending on the workload and resources needed to administer the program, feedback from the public, and the effectiveness of the program. If the pilot program is extended or terminated, the USPTO will notify the public.

- What does “subject to an applicable FDA approval for COVID-19 use” mean?
  
  U.S. FDA approvals may include, but are not limited to, an Investigational New Drug (IND) application, an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE), a New Drug Application (NDA), a Biologics License Application (BLA), a Premarket Approval (PMA), or an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). Information on these items are available at www.fda.gov.

- Is an invention that is an apparatus or composition of matter that is related to COVID-19 and subject to an applicable FDA approval eligible for the pilot program?
  
  Yes. To qualify, the claim(s) of an application must cover a product or process related to COVID-19, and such product or process must be subject to an applicable FDA approval for COVID-19 use. The phrase “product or process” includes any process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter as set forth in 35 U.S.C. 101.

- Can a large entity (i.e., an applicant that does not qualify for small or micro entity status) file a request for the pilot program?
  
  No. The pilot program is only for applicants that qualify for either small (37 CFR 1.27) or micro entity (37 CFR 1.25) status. An applicant that does not qualify as either a small or a micro entity applicant may request prioritized examination under 37 CFR 1.104(a).

- Why does the pilot program include IREs where COVID-19 is a new virus?
  
  Some inventions that are useful in treating COVID-19 patients were invented prior to the known cases of...
Trademark Prioritized Examination Program

For trademark applications related to COVID-19:

• The USPTO will accept petitions to advance the initial examination of applications for marks used to identify qualifying COVID-19 medical-related products and services and waive the petition fee.

• The goal is to expedite the initial examination process by approximately two months if the petition is granted and applicants promptly respond to the examining attorney.

Trademark Prioritized Examination Program

- The USPTO launched a webpage that provides additional resources and information.
- The webpage details:
  - Criteria of the program
  - How to request participation
  - Frequently asked questions
Trademark Prioritized Examination Program

Criteria of the program:

• There are no fees required to participate in the program.

• Applicants must first file the application and then file a Petition to the Director that includes the assigned serial number.

• The application must be for COVID-19 medical-related goods or services subject to FDA approval.
How to request participation:

- After filing the application, applicants must file a Petition to the Director using the USPTO Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS).

- The petition must provide:
  - a **statement of facts**, supported by an affidavit or declaration setting forth the applicant’s COVID-19 medical-related goods or services; and
  - an **explanation** of why the goods or services are of a type that qualifies for prioritized examination, including the section of the Code of Federal Regulations under which the goods or services are regulated.

Trademark Prioritized Examination Program

- The USPTO will monitor the workload and resources needed to administer the program, feedback from the public, and the effectiveness of the program.

- Questions:
  - Members of the public may submit comments or questions regarding the program to TMPolicy@uspto.gov.
  - Questions regarding how to access or submit the TEAS Petition to Director form should be addressed to TEAS@uspto.gov.
  - To reach the Trademark Assistance Center, call 1-800-786-9199 or email TrademarkAssistanceCenter@uspto.gov.
Deferred-Fee Provisional Pilot Program
Deferred-Fee Provisional Pilot Program

For COVID-19 related provisional patent applications:

- The USPTO will permit applicants to defer payment of the provisional filing fee until the filing of a non-provisional if the applicant agrees to publication of the provisional on the Office’s searchable collaboration database.

- The goal is to provide a cost-effective means for inventors to disclose ideas quickly to facilitate collaborations, partnerships, or joint ventures.

Deferred-Fee Provisional Pilot Program

- The USPTO launched a webpage that provides additional resources and information.
- The webpage details:
  - Criteria of the pilot program
  - How to request participation
  - Announcements
  - Questions and answers
Deferred-Fee Provisional Pilot Program

Criteria of the pilot program:

• Certification that the product or process is related to COVID-19 and subject to applicable FDA approval.

• Agree to public disclosure of the technical subject matter via the Office’s searchable collaboration database.

• Applicants should file the Pilot Program Form PTO/SB/452 using the USPTO patent electronic filing system, EFS-Web.
Deferred-Fee Provisional Pilot Program

How to request participation:

• Fill out Pilot Program form PTO/SB/452.

• Save the form and upload it via Patent Center with the provisional application including all required parts.

  – When uploading your form, select document description “COVID-19 Collab Database Request for Prov Appl” (found under “Pilot Programs” category) on the Patent Center Attach Documents screen to ensure processing.
Deferred-Fee Provisional Pilot Program

The webpage contains additional information:

- Link to the Federal Register Notice (Federal Register notice 85 Fed. Reg. 58038)
- The USPTO’s announcements regarding the pilot program

### Questions and Answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. When is the pilot effective?</td>
<td>The pilot is effective or starts on September 17, 2020, the date of publication of the notice in the Federal Register.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. How long will the pilot last?</td>
<td>The pilot will last for one year from September 17, 2020, unless subsequently revised by the Office.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. May I file a request in a previously filed provisional application?</td>
<td>No, the request can only be made with the filing of a provisional application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. How do I file a request for the pilot program?</td>
<td>Participation is requested by filing a technical disclosure in legible DOCX format as well as a provisional application cover sheet and a certification and request to participate in the program (form PTO/SB/452, titled “Certification and Request for COVID-19 Provisional Patent Application Program,” available at <a href="https://www.uspto.gov/patent/forms/forms-patent-applications-filed-or-after-september-16-2012">https://www.uspto.gov/patent/forms/forms-patent-applications-filed-or-after-september-16-2012</a>). The filing fee for a provisional application does not need to be paid at the time of filing. A submission that fails to include a legible specification in DOCX format will not be treated as a program submission, even if it is accompanied by form PTO/SB/452. The submission will be handled as a provisional application, and a notice will be sent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.53(g), including a requirement for payment of the basic filing fee ordinarily within two months of the date of the notice. See MPEP 601.01(b).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Deferred-Fee Provisional Pilot Program

• The USPTO will monitor the workload and resources needed to administer the program, feedback from the public, and the effectiveness of the program.

• Questions:
  – Members of the public may submit comments or questions regarding the program to COVID19ProvisionalApplication@uspto.gov
  – Requests for assistance with electronic filing should be directed to the Patent Electronic Business Center at EBC@uspto.gov.
Stakeholder support
Remote interviews and hearings

Interviews, oral hearings, and in-person meetings have all been conducted remotely by video or telephone since March 13:

- For interviews, applicants should contact the patent examiner or managing attorney directly.
- For Patent Trial and Appeal Board (PTAB) oral hearings, practitioners should contact PTABHearings@uspto.gov.
  - The PTAB has also given a Boardside Chat Webinar discussing everything practitioners need to know about appearing before the PTAB.
- For Trademark Trial and Appeal Board (TTAB) oral hearings, practitioners should contact TTABHearings@uspto.gov.
Remote hearings generally

- The PTAB addressed the logistics for virtual proceedings and public remote viewing of hearings on May 1, 2020 in their Boardside Chat Webinar.

- Oral hearings for appeals are by telephone.

- Oral hearings for AIA trials are by video or telephone.

- Parties will receive a Hearing Order with relevant instructions.
  - Appeals: a few days before oral hearing date
  - AIA trials: approximately three weeks before oral hearing date

- You can email questions or special requests to PTABHearings@uspto.gov.

- You can request public access to hearings at least three business days prior to the oral hearing date.
International unity

- A joint statement from the USPTO and the EPO about standing united in supporting the public during this crucial time was published on April 30, 2020.

- A joint statement from the USPTO and the JPO about standing united for the future of innovation was published on June 1, 2020.

Waivers

The USPTO considers the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak to be an “extraordinary situation” within the meaning of 37 CFR § 1.183. As a result, the USPTO has:

• Waived the original handwritten signature requirement of 37 CFR § 1.4(e)(1) and (2)
  – eSignature = typed name between two forward slashes (e.g., /Dr. James T. Jones, Jr./)

• Allowed the filing of plant patent applications and correspondence via the patent electronic filing system, EFS-Web or Patent Center

As set forth in the Legal Framework for Patent Electronic System, plant patent applications (see 35 U.S.C. 164) filed under 37 CFR 1.183 and follow-on documents associated with plant patent applications have not been permitted to be filed with the USPTO via USPTO patent electronic filing systems (EFS-Web or Patent Center) in accordance with this notice.

The requirements for filing plant patent electronic filing systems are as follows:

(1) The USPTO must accompany the document.
(2) An indication of the filing system is required (see 35 U.S.C. 164.
(3) The document description “Proprietary” is required (see 35 U.S.C. 164.
(4) The document description “Proprietary” is required (see 35 U.S.C. 164.

As discussed in Section 146 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), eSignature = typed name between two forward slashes (e.g., /Dr. James T. Jones, Jr./)
Waivers

The USPTO considers the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak to be an “extraordinary situation” within the meaning of 37 CFR § 1.183. As a result, the USPTO has:

- Permitted patentees to file initial patent term extension applications that meet certain criteria via EFS-Web or Patent Center
- Extended the time period for petitioning for certain rights of priority or benefit and waived the associated petition fee

Thank you!

Elizabeth Dougherty

Eastern Regional Outreach Director

Elizabeth.dougherty@uspto.gov
Easternregionaloutreachoffice@uspto.gov

571-270-7733

www.uspto.gov