



**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND  
DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

SEP 12 2005

Mr. Carl Oppedahl  
Oppedahl & Larson LLP  
P.O. Box 5088  
Dillon, Colorado 80435-5088


Dear Mr. Oppedahl:

Thank you for your recent letter asking the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to make available additional International Searching Authorities (ISAs) and International Preliminary Examining Authorities (IPEAs) for U.S. applicants. We understand and share your interest in obtaining timely and cost-effective international search and preliminary examination reports.

Pursuant to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Strategic Plan, the USPTO has been investigating new options to reduce patent pendency. As part of this effort, I have recently asked each of the ISAs and IPEAs that are currently unavailable to U.S. applicants to provide their services to U.S. residents and nationals that file with the United States or the International Bureau as a Receiving Office. I am currently awaiting a response from these Authorities. Neither the USPTO nor the World Intellectual Property Organization may deem an Authority competent for U.S. applicants without the Authority's consent. I hope to receive positive responses in the near future in order to provide new options for U.S. applicants.

Thank you for your concern and persistence. As you can see, we are seeking to address this issue.

Sincerely,

  
JON W. DUDAS  
Under Secretary and Director