

IP Hot Topic

USPTO's Latest Pilot Program in Semiconductor Technology

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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) has recently launched a [new pilot program](#) aimed at accelerating the patent examination process for innovations in semiconductor technology. The Office has designed the new pilot program to support the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) Act of 2022. Recognizing the rapid pace of advancements in this field and the critical role it plays in various industries, the USPTO is taking proactive measures to expedite the patent application process, ultimately fostering innovation and economic growth.

This new pilot program comes as a response to the growing importance of semiconductor technology in shaping the future of various sectors, from electronics and telecommunications to healthcare to AI and beyond. By streamlining the examination process, the USPTO aims to reduce the time it takes for inventors and companies to obtain patents for their semiconductor-related inventions, providing a more efficient pathway to market.

Timing is of the essence, and the USPTO is keen on rolling out this pilot program promptly. An applicant must file a timely petition to make special under this pilot program for qualifying semiconductor devices and processes and such application will then be advanced out of turn for examination (granted special status).

The program is now underway, and the PTO will be accepting applications for participation until December 24, 2024, or the date when a total of 1,000 applications have been granted special status under this program, whichever occurs earlier. The program presents an excellent opportunity for inventors and companies to benefit from expedited patent examination and gain a competitive edge in the dynamic semiconductor landscape. Additional procedural requirements must be met under the program.

As IP counsel, we can provide insight on whether this pilot program is a good fit for you or your organization. Taking advantage of this streamlined process could significantly accelerate the protection of your intellectual property, allowing you to bring your innovations to market faster.

Should you have any questions or require further assistance in navigating the application process, please do not hesitate to contact us.