

PATENT PROSECUTION HIGHWAY PROGRAMME - FEE SAVING PILOT INITIATIVE

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (“**IPOS**”) has established a Patent Prosecution Highway (“**PPH**”) programme with several participating IP offices (including those in China, Japan, Korea, US and the EU) to facilitate faster and more efficient patent examinations.
2. Under the programme, IPOS relies on the patent search and examination results of the other participating IP offices to establish the search and/or examinations reports. The benefits of the programme include increased likelihood of patent grant, faster office action within 10 months from the date of PPH request and fewer office actions.

II. PILOT INITIATIVE – FEE SAVINGS FOR USING THE PPH PROGRAMME

3. IPOS is currently piloting a fee refund initiative for search and/or examination reports to encourage businesses to use the PPH programme. Specifically, requests made from 15 September 2025 to 31 December 2027 (both dates inclusive) to use the PPH programme will be eligible for a 30% refund of official fees paid for search and examination requests. The refund amounts are:
 - (1) For search and examination reports: \$615;¹ and
 - (2) For requests for examination reports: \$426.

III. ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION

4. Applicants for the PPH can apply for the refund under the initiative at the time of filing a request for search and/or examination report. Alternatively, they can do so after filing a request for search and/or examination report but before search/examination has started.
5. IPOS will initiate the refund once the PPH request is accepted, and there is no need to make a separate refund request. Applicants can expect to receive the refund within 1 to 2 months.

¹ For search and examination reports for PCT applications entering the national phase, where the International Search Report or International Preliminary Report was established by IPOS, the refund is \$315.

IV. COMMENTARY

6. The PPH programme offers businesses yet another route to receive search and/or examination reports earlier than usual. The programme is in addition to other acceleration programmes offered by IPOS, such as the SG Patents Fast 4 and 8 which were launched in May 2025. With the fee saving initiative, businesses have more incentive to use the programme.
7. If you have any queries relating to the PPH programme and the fee saving initiative, please do not hesitate to contact our Senior Partner, Mr. Tan Tee Jim, S.C. (tanteejim@leenlee.com.sg).

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