

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sam Kozloff at the Department of Commerce Tel: 202-482-1599 Fax: 202-482-3159 E-mail: samuel.kozloff@cs.doc.gov.

The U.S. Franchising Matchmaker Delegation: Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm and Helsinki; November 9-13, 1998; Recruitment closed on September 30, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sam Dhir at the Department of Commerce Tel: 202-482-4457 Fax: 202-482-0178 E-mail: sdhir@cs.doc.gov. The Matchmaker Trade Delegation program Internet website: www.ita.doc.gov/uscs/mkrtext.html.

The Information Technology Dealmaker: Toronto, Canada; November 11-12, 1998; Recruitment closes on November 1, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Sam Kozloff at the Department of Commerce Tel: 202-482-1599 Fax: 202-482-3159 E-mail: samuel.kozloff@cs.doc.gov.

Corporate Executive Office Mission to MEDICA: Dusseldorf, Germany; November 18-21, 1998; Recruitment closes on November 10, 1998.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Sykes at the Department of Commerce Tel: 609-989-2020 Fax: 609-989-2395 E-mail: dsykes@cs.doc.gov.

Used Equipment Trade Mission: Costa Rica, Panama and Guatemala; April 18-28, 1999; Recruitment closes March 15, 1999.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: John Bodson, Department of Commerce Tel: 202-482-0681 Fax: 202-482-0304, or Reginald Beckham, Department of Commerce Tel: 202-482-5478 Fax: 202-482-1999.

Dated: October 28, 1998.

Tom Nisbet,

Director, Office of Trade Promotion Coordination.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Request for Comments on Interim Guidelines for Examination of Patent Applications Under the 35 U.S.C. 112 ¶1 "Written Description" Requirement; Notice of Change in Public Hearings, Extension of Comment Period

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of cancellation of public hearing in San Diego, California; change of location of November 4, 1998, public hearing; and extension of request period to present oral testimony.

SUMMARY: Due to insufficient interest, the public hearing to be held in San Diego, California, on November 6, 1998, is canceled. For the same reason, the public hearing to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, on November 4, 1998, will be held in Arlington, Virginia. The period to request an opportunity to present oral testimony at the Arlington location has been extended to November 3, 1998.

ADDRESSES: The November 4, 1998, hearing will be held in the Commissioner's Conference Room located in Crystal Park Two, Room 912, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, Virginia. Those interested in testifying should send their request to the attention of Mary Critharis addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box 4, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Requests may also be submitted by facsimile transmission to Mary Critharis at (703) 305-8885.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mary Critharis by telephone at (703) 305-9300, by facsimile at (703) 305-8885, by electronic mail at mary.critharis@uspto.gov, or by mail addressed to Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Box 4, Washington, DC 20231.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On September 23, 1998, the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) announced its intention to hold public hearings relating to the "written description" requirement under section 112 of title 35 of the United States Code. 63 FR 50,887 (1998). Interested members of the public were invited to testify on this subject at public hearings to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, on November 4, 1998 and San Diego, California, on November 6, 1998. The period to request an opportunity to present oral testimony at these hearings was set to end on October 30, 1998.

Due to insufficient interest, the public hearing in San Diego is canceled. For the same reason, the public hearing initially scheduled for Boston will instead be held in Arlington, Virginia, on November 4, 1998, starting at 9 a.m. and ending no later than 5 p.m. Those wishing to present oral testimony at the hearing must request an opportunity to do so no later than November 3, 1998.

Dated: October 28, 1998.

Bruce A. Lehman,

Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks.

[FR Doc. 98-29310 Filed 10-29-98; 10:07 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Grant of Interim Extension of the term of U.S. Patent No. 4,291,708; T-SCAN™.

AGENCY: Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of term extension.

SUMMARY: The Patent and Trademark Office has granted an interim extension under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) for one year of the term of U.S. Patent No. 4,291,708 that claims the medical device "T-SCAN™."

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Karin L. Tyson by telephone at (703) 305-9285; by mail marked to her attention and addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Box DAC, Washington, DC 20231; by fax marked to her attention at (703) 308-6916, or by e-mail at karin.tyson@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 156 of Title 35, United States Code, generally provides that the term of a patent may be extended for a period of up to 5 years if the patent claims a product, or a method of making or using a product, that has been subject to certain defined regulatory review. Under section 156, a patent is eligible for term extension only if regulatory review of the claimed product was completed before the original patent term expired.

On December 3, 1993, section 156 was amended by Pub. L. 103-179 to provide that if the owner of record of the patent or its agent reasonably expects the applicable regulatory review period to extend beyond the expiration of the patent, the owner or its agent may submit an application to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks for an interim extension of the patent term. If the Commissioner determines that, except for receipt of permission to market or use the product commercially, the patent would be eligible for a statutory extension of the patent term, the Commissioner shall issue to the applicant a certificate of interim extension for a period of not more than one year.

On September 4, 1998, patent owner Yeda Research & Development Co., filed an application under 35 U.S.C. 156(d)(5) for interim extension of the term of U.S. Patent No. 4,291,708. The patent claims the method of use of the medical device "T-SCAN™." The application indicates, and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has confirmed, that the medical device is currently undergoing a regulatory review before