DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No.: PTO–P–2009–0032]

Request for Comments on Patents Ombudsman Pilot Program


ACTION: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is currently developing a Patents Ombudsman Pilot Program. The USPTO is proposing that the pilot program take the following form. It is envisioned that pro se applicants or applicant’s representatives would initiate use of the Patents Ombudsman Pilot Program via a link on the USPTO web site where pro se applicants or applicant’s representatives would provide their name and phone number and select the ombudsman for the patent division (e.g., Technology Center) in which they are seeking assistance; reply to the initial communication for this pilot program will be by telephone rather than by written communication, such as e-mail. The USPTO is inviting public comment on the proposed Patents Ombudsman Pilot Program. Written comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to ombudsmanprogram@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments (Attention: Patents Ombudsman Pilot Program), Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450. Although comments may be submitted by mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via the Internet.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mindy Fleisher, Special Programs Advisor, Technology Center 2400, at (571) 272–3365, or Pinchus M. Laufer, Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, at (571) 272–7726.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The majority of patent applications filed with the USPTO proceed through the examination process consistent with established USPTO procedure. However, some patent applicants, attorneys, and agents have expressed that their applications have not proceeded in accordance with established procedure. In some situations, the patent applicants, attorneys, and agents have felt that examination has stalled and that their efforts to move their applications forward through the normal channels have not been effective. Patent applicants, attorneys, and agents have suggested that there be a dedicated resource they can turn to in such instances. These suggestions have led the USPTO to consider implementing a Patents Ombudsman Pilot Program.

The USPTO is proposing that the pilot program take the following form. It is envisioned that pro se applicants or applicant’s representatives would initiate use of the Patents Ombudsman Pilot Program via a link on the USPTO web site where pro se applicants or applicant’s representatives would provide their name and phone number and select the ombudsman for the patent division (e.g., Technology Center) in which they are seeking assistance; reply to the initial communication for this pilot program will be by telephone rather than by written communication, such as e-mail. The USPTO is inviting public comment on the proposed Patents Ombudsman Pilot Program. Written comments should be sent by electronic mail message over the Internet addressed to ombudsmanprogram@uspto.gov. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments (Attention: Patents Ombudsman Pilot Program), Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313–1450. Although comments may be submitted by mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via the Internet.

The written comments will be available for public inspection at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, located in Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, and will be available via the USPTO Internet Web site (address: http://www.uspto.gov). Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that is not desired to be made public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Availability of the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) Services Contract Inventory

AGENCY: Defense Commissary Agency, DoD.

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with Section 2330a of Title 10 United States Code as amended by the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2008 (NDAA 08) Section 807, the DeCA Director of Contracting, in coordination with the Office of the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Office of Strategic Sourcing (DPAP/SS) will make available to the public the first inventory of activities performed pursuant to contracts for services. The inventory will be published to the DeCA Web site at the following location: