

USAID's Implementation and Procurement Reform Working Group process. We would like to ask some of our implementing partners from the non-profit and contracting community to indicate their level of interaction and reactions to the financial data currently available on USAID's Web site. This will be the first step towards concrete improvements to the accessibility, availability, and ease of use of information.

*Annual Reporting Burden:*

Respondents: 100.

Total annual responses: 100.

Total annual hours requested: 25 hours.

Dated: May 20, 2010.

**Robert Miranda,**

*Director, Office of Administrative Services,  
Bureau for Management.*

[FR Doc. 2010-12865 Filed 6-1-10; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6116-01-M**

## DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

### Patent and Trademark Office

#### United States Patent Applicant Survey

**ACTION:** Proposed collection; comment request.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, invites the general public and other Federal agencies to take this opportunity to comment on the extension of a currently approved collection, as required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, Public Law 104-13 (44 U.S.C. 3506(c)(2)(A)).

**DATES:** Written comments must be submitted on or before August 2, 2010.

**ADDRESSES:** You may submit comments by any of the following methods:

- *E-mail:*

*InformationCollection@uspto.gov.*

Include "0651-0052 comment" in the subject line of the message.

- *Fax:* 571-273-0112, marked to the attention of Susan K. Fawcett.

- *Mail:* Susan K. Fawcett, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

- *Federal e-Rulemaking Portal:*  
*http://www.regulations.gov.*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Gerard Torres, Economist, Office of Corporate Planning, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450,

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450; by telephone at 571-272-4951; or by e-mail at *gerard.torres@uspto.gov* with "Paperwork" in the subject line.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

For several years the USPTO has supported an ongoing forecasting program for patent application filings that includes the use of quantitative and qualitative methodologies. Given the importance of accurate application filing forecasts, the USPTO considers more than one type of methodology. As part of this strategy, information from a survey of the inventor community is included when formulating application filing forecasts. In addition to using the survey as part of a comprehensive approach to forecasting, the USPTO is also using this tool in response to Senate Appropriations Report 106-404 (September 8, 2000). This report directed the USPTO to "develop a workload forecast with advice from a representative sample of industry and the inventor community." A patent application filing survey assists the USPTO in better understanding key factors driving future application filings, such as newly emerging technologies.

The USPTO developed the United States Patent Applicant Survey as part of the continuing effort to better predict the future growth of patent application filings by understanding applicant intentions. The main purpose of this survey is to determine the number of application filings that the USPTO can expect to receive over the next three years from patent-generating entities, ranging from large domestic corporations to independent inventors.

In recent decades, the rate of patent application filings to the USPTO steadily increased with expanding technological innovations. However, newly emerging technologies, patenting strategies, patent valuations and costs, and intellectual property legislative changes, among other factors, may significantly impact patent applicants' decisions to file applications at the USPTO. These factors cannot easily be accounted for in other methodologies or sufficient information is not available from databases or other sources. Therefore, it is necessary for the USPTO to conduct the Patent Applicant Survey to obtain information directly from applicants. The information will allow the agency to anticipate demand and estimate future revenue flow more reliably; to identify input and output triggers and allocate resources to meet and understand customer needs; and to reassess output and capacity goals and

re-align organization quality control measures with applicant demand by division.

The Patent Applicant Survey is a mail survey, although respondents have the option to complete the survey electronically. They may also provide their responses verbally over the telephone. A survey packet, containing the survey, a cover letter explaining the purpose of and outlining instructions for completing the survey, and a postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelope will be mailed to all survey groups. The USPTO plans to survey four groups of respondents: Large domestic corporations (including those with 500+ employees), small and medium-size businesses, universities and non-profit research organizations, and independent inventors. The USPTO does not plan to survey foreign entities and will rely on the European Patent Office (EPO) and the Japan Patent Office (JPO) to provide forecasts of application filings by foreign entities. Due to variances in filing and the varying needs of the different patent applicant populations, the USPTO has developed two versions of the survey: One for the large domestic corporations and small and medium-size businesses and one for universities, non-profit research organizations, and independent inventors.

The surveys do not have USPTO form numbers associated with them and once they are approved, they will carry the OMB Control Number and the expiration date of the information collection.

**II. Method of Collection**

By mail or electronically over the Internet when respondents elect the online option to complete the survey.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0651-0052.

*Form Number(s):* None.

*Type of Review:* Extension of a currently approved collection.

*Affected Public:* Business or other for profit; not-for-profit institutions.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 400 responses per year. Of this total, the USPTO expects that 267 surveys will be completed using the online option.

*Estimated Time Per Response:* The USPTO estimates that it will take approximately 30 minutes (0.50 hours) for all of the patent applicant populations to provide their responses, with the exception of the independent inventors. The USPTO estimates that it will take independent inventors approximately 15 minutes (0.25 hours) to provide their responses. These estimates include the time to gather the necessary information, complete the

survey, and submit it to the USPTO. The USPTO believes that it will take the same amount of time to complete the surveys whether they are completed on paper and mailed to the USPTO or completed and submitted electronically.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 140 hours per year.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden:* \$17,080 per year. The USPTO estimates that 31% of the respondents completing these surveys will be lawyers, about 9% will be legal assistants, and 60% will have diverse occupations. Using the professional hourly rate of \$325 for intellectual

property lawyers, a legal assistant specializing in intellectual property rate of \$100, and a rate of \$20 for the majority of the respondents, the USPTO believes that the average hourly rate for completing these surveys will be approximately \$122 (\$101 + \$9 + \$12). The professional rate used for the intellectual property lawyers is based on the median rate for attorneys in private firms as published in the 2009 report of the Committee on Economics of Legal Practice of the American Intellectual Property Law Association. This report summarized the results of a survey with data on hourly billing rates. The

estimated hourly rate used for the legal assistants specializing in intellectual property is based on the rates for the 2008 National Utilization and Compensation Survey, published in March 2008 by the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA). Due to the many different occupations that can possibly be held by the majority of respondents, the USPTO is estimating \$20 per hour as the hourly rate for those respondents. Therefore, the USPTO estimates that the salary costs for the respondents completing these surveys will be \$17,080.

Item	Estimated time for response (minutes)	Estimated annual responses	Estimated annual burden hours
Large Domestic Corporations .....	30	27	14
Large Domestic Corporations (electronic surveys) .....	30	53	27
Small and Medium-Size Businesses .....	30	18	9
Small and Medium-Size Businesses (electronic surveys) .....	30	37	19
Universities and Non-Profit Research Organizations .....	30	5	3
Universities and Non-Profit Research Organizations (electronic surveys) .....	30	10	5
Independent Inventors .....	15	83	21
Independent Inventors (electronic surveys) .....	15	167	42
Total .....	.....	400	140

*Estimated Total Annual Non-Hour Respondent Cost Burden:* \$0 per year. There are no capital start-up, maintenance, or recordkeeping costs associated with this collection. Respondents do not submit filing or other fees with the surveys. The USPTO provides postage-paid, pre-addressed return envelopes for the completed mail surveys so there are no postage costs associated with this information collection.

**IV. Request for Comments**

Comments are invited on: (a) Whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information shall have practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, e.g., the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection;

they will also become a matter of public record.

**Susan K. Fawcett,**  
*Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*  
 [FR Doc. 2010-13163 Filed 6-1-10; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Foreign-Trade Zones Board**

[Docket 41-2010]

**Foreign-Trade Zone 46-Cincinnati, Ohio; Application for Reorganization/Expansion Under Alternative Site Framework**

An application has been submitted to the Foreign-Trade Zones (FTZ) Board (the Board) by the Greater Cincinnati Foreign-Trade Zone, Inc., grantee of FTZ 46, requesting authority to reorganize and expand the zone under the alternative site framework (ASF) adopted by the Board (74 FR 1170, 1/12/09; correction 74 FR 3987, 1/22/09). The ASF is an option for grantees for the establishment or reorganization of general-purpose zones and can permit significantly greater flexibility in the designation of new "usage-driven" FTZ sites for operators/users located within a grantee's "service area" in the context of the Board's standard 2,000-acre

activation limit for a general-purpose zone project. The application was submitted pursuant to the Foreign-Trade Zones Act, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), and the regulations of the Board (15 CFR part 400). It was formally filed on May 21, 2010.

FTZ 46 was approved by the Board on January 12, 1979 (Board Order 141, 44 F.R. 4003, January 19, 1979). On December 19, 1994 the zone was relocated and expanded (Board Order 720, 59 F.R. 66891, December 28, 1994). The zone was further expanded on December 15, 1997 (Board Order 943, 62 FR 67044, December 23, 1997), December 15, 1999 (Board Order 1070, 64 F.R. 72643, December 28, 1999) and December 29, 2000 (Board Order 1135, 66 F.R. 3985, January 17, 2001).

The general-purpose zone includes the following sites: *Site 1* (35 acres)—Avon Products, Inc., 175 Progress Place, Springdale (Hamilton County); *Site 2* (122 acres)—Cincinnati Machine, 4701 Marburg Avenue, Cincinnati (Hamilton County); *Site 3* (833 acres)—Clermont County Industrial Park, 4165 Half Acre Road, Batavia (Clermont County); *Site 4* (490 acres)—Brown County Industrial Park, 418 W. Main Street, Mt. Orab (Brown County); and, *Site 5* (160 acres)—Harrison Commerce Park, Southwest Parkway, Harrison (Hamilton County).