

Dated: December 2, 2011.

Susan K. Fawcett,

Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011-31353 Filed 12-6-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

**Patent and Trademark Office**

**National Medal of Technology and Innovation Nomination Application**

**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 continuing information 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 February 6, 2012.

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

- *Email:* [InformationCollection@uspto.gov](mailto:InformationCollection@uspto.gov). Include "0651-0060 comment" in the subject line of the message.
- *Mail:* Susan K. Fawcett, Records Officer, Office of the Chief Information Officer, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
- *Federal Rulemaking Portal:* <http://www.regulations.gov>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Requests for additional information should be directed to the attention of Steven Berk, Program Manager, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, by telephone at (571) 272-8400, or by email to [nmti@uspto.gov](mailto:nmti@uspto.gov), with "Paperwork" in the subject line. Additional information about this collection is also available at <http://www.reginfo.gov>

under "Information Collection Review."

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**I. Abstract**

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation is the highest honor for technological achievement bestowed by the President of the United States on America's leading innovators. Established by an Act of Congress in 1980, the Medal of Technology was first awarded in 1985. The Medal is awarded annually to individuals, teams (up to four individuals), companies or divisions of companies for their outstanding contributions to the Nation's economic, environmental and social well-being through the development and commercialization of technology products, processes and concepts, technological innovation, and development of the Nation's technological manpower.

The purpose of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation is to recognize those who have made lasting contributions to America's competitiveness, standard of living, and quality of life through technological innovation, and to recognize those who have made substantial contributions to strengthening the Nation's technological workforce. By highlighting the national importance of technological innovation, the Medal also seeks to inspire future generations of Americans to prepare for and pursue technical careers to keep America at the forefront of global technology and economic leadership.

The National Medal of Technology and Innovation Nomination Evaluation Committee, a distinguished independent committee appointed by the Secretary of Commerce, reviews and evaluates the merit of all candidates nominated through an open, competitive solicitation process. The committee makes its recommendations for Medal candidates to the Secretary of Commerce who, in turn, makes recommendations to the President for final selection. The National Medal of Technology and Innovation Laureates

are announced by the White House and the Department of Commerce once the Medalists are notified of their selection.

The public uses the National Medal of Technology and Innovation Nomination Application to recognize through nomination an individual's, team's or company's extraordinary leadership and innovation in technological achievement. The application must be accompanied by six letters of recommendation or support from individuals who have first-hand knowledge of the cited achievement(s).

**II. Method of Collection**

The nomination application and instructions can be downloaded from the USPTO Web site. Nomination files should be submitted by electronic mail to [NMTI@USPTO.gov](mailto:NMTI@USPTO.gov). Alternatively, letters of recommendation may be sent by electronic mail, fax, or overnight delivery.

**III. Data**

*OMB Number:* 0651-0060.

*Form Number(s):* None.

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

*Affected Public:* Primarily business or other for-profit organizations; not-for-profit institutions; individuals or households.

*Estimated Number of Respondents:* 40 responses per year.

*Estimated Time per Response:* The USPTO estimates that it will take approximately 40 hours to gather the necessary information, prepare the nomination form, write the recommendations, and submit the request for the nomination to the USPTO.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Burden Hours:* 1,600 hours.

*Estimated Total Annual Respondent Cost Burden:* \$60,000. The USPTO expects that private sector individuals of various occupations and professions will complete this information. The hourly rate for these individuals is estimated to be \$37.50.

| Item  | Estimated time for response (hours) | Estimated annual responses | Estimated annual burden hours |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| National Medal of Technology and Innovation Nomination Form ..... | 40                                  | 40                         | 1,600                         |
| TOTALS .....  |                                     | 40                         | 1,600                         |

*Estimated Total Annual (Non-Hour) Respondent Cost Burden:* \$0.

Although it is possible for the public to submit the nominations through

regular or express mail, to date no submissions have been received in this manner. The majority of recent submissions have been through

electronic mail. The USPTO, therefore, is not calculating an estimate of 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.

Dated: December 2, 2011.

**Susan K. Fawcett,**

*Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.*

[FR Doc. 2011-31356 Filed 12-6-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

##### United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0081]

##### Extension of Comment Period Regarding Comments on Intellectual Property Enforcement in China

**AGENCY:** United States Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of public comment period.

**SUMMARY:** To provide interested parties with the opportunity to comment further to the original request for public comment (see <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2011-10-17/pdf/2011-26757.pdf>), The United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO") is extending the period for public comment regarding any challenges that U.S. inventors and companies are facing with the judicial and/or administrative patent enforcement systems of the People's Republic of China.

USPTO invites any member of the public to submit written comments on China's patent enforcement system, including, but not limited to, the following five topics: acquisition and enforcement of utility model and design patents; evidence collection and preservation in Chinese courts;

obtaining damages and injunctions; enforceability of court orders and judgments; and administrative patent enforcement. The USPTO would like to resolve rights holders' concerns by working with them to identify problems regarding these and other areas of China's patent enforcement system so that it can then address these issues with the Chinese Government. To help the USPTO address these issues, it encourages interested members of the public to respond to this request.

**DATES:** Written comments must be received on or before December 21, 2011.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent by electronic mail message via the Internet addressed to [IP.Policy@uspto.gov](mailto:IP.Policy@uspto.gov). Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop OPEA, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, *Attn:* Elizabeth Shaw. Although comments may be submitted by mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via the Internet. If you would like to submit confidential business information that supports your comments, please contact Elizabeth Shaw at [elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov](mailto:elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov), or 571-272-8494.

The written comments will be available for public inspection by appointment only at the Office of Policy and External Affairs in the Executive Library located in the Madison West Building, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia, 22314. *Contact:* Elizabeth Shaw at [elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov](mailto:elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov), or 571-272-8494.

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.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Elizabeth Shaw, Office of Policy and External Affairs, by phone 571-272-8494, by facsimile to 571-273-0123, by email at [elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov](mailto:elizabeth.shaw2@uspto.gov), or by mail addressed to: Mail Stop OPEA, United States Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, *Attn:* Elizabeth Shaw.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On October 17, 2011, the USPTO published a Request for Comments on Intellectual Property Enforcement in China. See 76 FR 64075, Oct. 17, 2011. More specifically, the USPTO invited members of the public to comment on their patent enforcement experiences in

China. Of concern were the two primary avenues of patent enforcement in China: the judiciary; and the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO). In regard to the former, concerns over China's judiciary (such as lack of adequate discovery powers, evidentiary burdens, and low damages rewards) have been cited as reasons why U.S. and foreign companies do not file more patent suits in Chinese courts. In regard to the latter, limited investigative powers of the agency and ineffectual penalties for infringement have been cited as reasons for the weakness of this enforcement route.

The notice invited the public to submit written comments on China's patent enforcement system, including, but not limited to, the following five topics: (1) Acquisition and enforcement of utility model and design patents; (2) evidence collection and preservation in Chinese courts; (3) obtaining damages and injunctions; (4) enforceability of court orders; and (5) administrative patent enforcement. The USPTO is now extending the period for submission of public comments until *December 21, 2011*.

Dated: November 30, 2011.

**David J. Kappos,**

*Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.*

[FR Doc. 2011-31305 Filed 12-6-11; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

#### DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

##### Department of the Navy

##### Notice of Public Meeting on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Basewide Water Infrastructure and Stuart Mesa Bridge Replacement at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, CA

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy, DoD.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to Section (102)(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) (42 United States Code [U.S.C.] Sections 4321-4370h); the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) parts 1500-1508); Department of the Navy Procedures for Implementing NEPA (32 CFR part 775); and Marine Corps NEPA directives (Marine Corps Order P5090.2A), the Marine Corps (USMC) has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a Draft Environmental Impact Statement