United States Patent and Trademark Office

Office of the Commissioner for Patents

Dear Applicant,

You recently received an Office action from your examiner. Review of your patent application is under way! You can continue to advertise or mark any products covered by your application for your invention as "Patent Pending" for as long as this application is pending. This letter provides information about how to continue through the patent application process and the help available to you on your journey.

Where are you in the patent application process? Your patent application is now in step 3, Application Prosecution (www.uspto.gov/UtilityPatentGuide.) Though the Office action includes a "rejection," that does not mean that you don't have a good idea you can patent. It means your examiner believes your application is not yet ready for allowance.

Ready to respond? Responding to the Office action is your opportunity to address the issues raised by your examiner. Responses must be timely, complete, and in writing. In your response, you may want to consider amending your application (www.uspto.gov/patents/maintain/responding-office-actions).

We provide Pro Se Assistance, support specifically geared for independent inventors without an agent or attorney. Visit www.uspto.gov/ProSePatents for a consolidated list of resources, including a sample amendment format. Full description of amendment formatting can be found at www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/mpep/s714.html. Call us at 866-767-3848, or email proseassistancecenter@uspto.gov.

Have questions about the Office action? Contact your examiner! A conversation with your examiner (called an "interview") may help clarify and resolve any issues and possibly identify what you can patent. While an interview does not stop the clock for your official response or substitute for a response, there is no fee for an interview. To schedule a call or video, you can:

1. use the USPTO's Automated Interview Request (AIR) form (www.uspto.gov/patents/uspto-automated-interview-request-air-form);
2. file the Applicant Initiated Interview Request form (PTOL-413A) (www.uspto.gov/sites/default/files/documents/PTOL413A.pdf); or
3. contact your examiner directly via telephone (contact information is provided at the end of your Office action).

Need help near you? We have regional offices across the country (www.uspto.gov/locations), as well as Patent and Trademark Resource Centers in libraries in nearly every state (www.uspto.gov/ptrc), with specialists standing by to help you at no cost.

Become a *registered* electronic filer (registered eFiler). As a registered eFiler, you can electronically view your submission, track progress of your application, and respond to USPTO correspondence. (www.uspto.gov/NewPatentFilers)

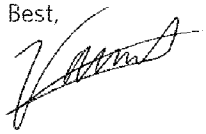
Contact us

- General information: USPTO Contact Center — 800-786-9199 • TTY/TDD 800-877-8339 • www.uspto.gov/help
- Patent Center: Patent Electronic Business Center www.uspto.gov/EBC
- Inventors Assistance Center www.uspto.gov/inventorassistance

Want to learn more?

- Hear about resources for startups, inventors, and entrepreneurs, as well as our initiatives engaging women, the military community, and others. These programs offer helpful tips and tricks on identifying and managing your IP, finding options for funding, and expanding your network to support your business.
  - www.uspto.gov/startups
  - www.uspto.gov/inventors
  - www.uspto.gov/initiatives
- Access our free services all in one spot. Find all of our contact centers, nationwide services, events, education and training. (www.uspto.gov/FreeServices)
- Connect with us on Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube.
- Hear about the great things we are doing by subscribing at www.uspto.gov/subscribe.

Best,



Vaishali Udupa
Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office