

## Peer to Patent: The Community Patent Review Project

**Peer to Patent** is a historic initiative by the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) that opens the patent examination process to public participation for the first time. **Peer to Patent** is an online system that aims to improve the quality of issued patents by enabling the public to supply the USPTO with information relevant to assessing the claims of pending patent applications.

This pilot project connects an open network for community input to the legal decision-making process. The community supplies information and research based on its expertise. The patent examiner makes the final determination on the basis of legal standards. This process combines the democracy of open participation with the legitimacy and effectiveness of administrative decision making.

After a promising one-year pilot, the USPTO announced the extension of **Peer to Patent** until June 15, 2009. In addition, the project has expanded to include eligible applications in Technology Center 3600 Class 705 ("Data Processing: Financial, Business Practice, Management, or Cost/Price Determination") in addition to Technology Center 2100 ("Computer Architecture, Software, and Information Security").

**Peer to Patent** provides an opportunity to:

- Open up the closed patent review process to more information and enable better decision making.
- Improve the existing system by avoiding the issuance of overly broad patents.
- Demonstrate empirically the role that non-governmental experts can play in improving decision making.

This is more than just a Web site about patent applications—it makes public participation relevant to actual decision making.

## Advisory Board Members

### Tilo Bachmann

Administrator, European Patent Office

### Robert Barr

Executive Director, Berkeley Center for Law and Technology  
Berkeley Law School

Former Vice President for Intellectual Property  
and Worldwide Patent Counsel, Cisco

### John Bracken

Program Officer, MacArthur Foundation

### Dennis Crouch

Patently-O

Associate Professor of Law, University of Missouri  
School of Law

### Sean Dennehey

Director of Patents, UK Patent Office

### John Duffy

Professor of Law, George Washington University Law School

### Will Fitzpatrick

Corporate Counsel, Omidyar Network

### Alan Kasper

Vice President of the Board of Directors  
American Intellectual Property Law Association

Partner, Sughrue Mion, PLLC

### Stephen Kunin

Special Counsel, Oblon Spivak

Former Deputy Commissioner for  
Patent Examination Policy, USPTO

### Mark Lemley

Director, Stanford Program in Law, Science and Technology  
William H. Neukom Professor of Law, Stanford Law School

### Stephen Merrill

Executive Director, Science, Technology, and Economic Policy  
National Academies

### Mike Messinger

Director, Sterne, Kessler Goldstein, & Fox P.L.L.C.

### Marcus Mueller

European Patent Office, EPO Scenarios for the Future Project

### Gideon Parchomovsky

Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania Law School

### Arti K. Rai

Elvin R. Latty Professor of Law, Duke University Law School

### Steven Weiner

Partner, Davis Polk & Wardwell

### Terry Winograd

Professor of Computer Science, Stanford University

Introducing...



in cooperation with  
**United States Patent and Trademark Office**





## Submit Your Application for Review

**Peer to Patent** is accepting patent applications in Technology Center 2100 (Computer Architecture, Software, and Information Security) and Technology Center 3600 Class 705 (Data Processing: Financial, Business Practice, Management, or Cost/Price Determination)

### As a participating inventor you:

- Get your application reviewed sooner.
- Strengthen the quality of your patent.
- Find information to make your application better.
- Participate in improving the patent examination process.
- Enjoy the benefits of community review and research.
- Discover the community of innovators with common interests and expertise.

### By submitting an application you:

- Receive up to four months of community review and research.
- Have your application advanced more expeditiously.
- May request early Pre-grant Publication, pursuant to USPTO rules.
- Add an audio, video, or text introduction to your application to focus community attention.
- Receive assistance from the USPTO to determine whether your application is eligible.

Apply now for admission to the pilot! To submit a request to have your application reviewed, go to [www.peertopatent.org](http://www.peertopatent.org). With questions about eligibility, please e-mail us at [applicant@peertopatent.org](mailto:applicant@peertopatent.org).

## Sign Up to Be a Reviewer

**Peer to Patent** only works with your help.

### Become a community reviewer and improve the quality of patents:

- Share your knowledge and expertise with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.
- Work with the community, not alone, to research a patent application.
- Spend a few minutes evaluating the relevance of research to claims.
- Network with innovators in your field.
- Get noticed for your participation.
- Share in the feeling that you've done something good for science and innovation.

### Help others participate by facilitating an application. As a facilitator, you will:

- Encourage community involvement by posting updates on the application home page.
- Jump-start participation with your own postings to the discussion board.
- Focus community attention on finding prior art and identifying experts who might know where to find it.
- Help flag any important or inappropriate content.

Sign up at [www.peertopatent.org](http://www.peertopatent.org) or e-mail us at [reviewer@peertopatent.org](mailto:reviewer@peertopatent.org).