USPTO Announces New Version of PAIR, Version 4.11

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO or Office) is pleased to announce the release of the **Patent Application Information Retrieval System (PAIR), Version 4.11.**

PAIR provides customers with direct secure Internet access to patent application status information and general patent information publicly available. There are two components of PAIR: Public and Private.

Public PAIR provides status and history information for issued patents and published applications to the general public via the Internet.

Private PAIR allows independent inventors, registered patent attorneys, and patent agents the ability to access real-time status of their pending patent applications. PAIR provides Internet-based access to patent application status, application documents and history information using Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) security technology.

Benefits of PAIR 4.11

PAIR 4.11 offers the following benefits to both Public and Private PAIR:

- **Updated Documentation –** The on-line Help and Frequently Asked Questions sections have been updated to include the newest features in Public and Private PAIR.

- **Easier Publication Searches –** The Kind Code is no longer required when conducting a Publication Number search in either Public or Private PAIR.

- **Detailed Search Error Messages –** Application/Patent/Publication number search errors now provide a detailed description of the search error.

Benefits to Private PAIR include:

- **New "Assignments" search option –** Private PAIR will include a link to assignment data on the Application, Patent, and Publication details screen.
- **New "Printer Friendly Version" Print Option –** Private PAIR now provides a black-and-white Print option ("Printer Friendly Version") from the following points:
  1) the Application, Patent, and Publication details screen (bibliographic data, search options, File History) and
  2) the Patent Term Adjustment/Patent Term Extension (PTA/PTE) History screen.

- The **Attorney Docket Number** will be added to Outgoing Correspondence Notification results.

- Availability of the **Publication Review option** has been expanded.

Registering for Private PAIR

To register for Private PAIR, customers must first obtain the essential identification materials:
1. Customer Number
   - Unique number associated with a correspondence address, practitioner(s) of record, and/or fee address of the filer.

2. Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Certificate
   - Unique profile (created using security software) associated with a single registered practitioner or an independent inventor not retaining counsel.

Once the Customer Number and PKI Certificate have been obtained, customers must:

3. Associate Current Patent Applications with the Customer Number
   - Customers must associate current patent applications with their new customer number.

The required forms and instructions on registering for Private PAIR are available on the USPTO Internet's PAIR New Users Page: **http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/digitalcert.htm.**
Contact Information

The Patent Electronic Business Center (EBC) is a complete customer service center that supports all Patent e-business products and service applications. EBC representatives can be reached at **703-305-3028 or toll free at 866-217-9197** between the hours of **6 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday EST,** or by e-mail at: **ebc@uspto.gov**. Additional information is available on the Patent EBC Web site at: **http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html**.