"Patents 4 Partnerships" IP Marketplace Platform Pilot Program

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is announcing a pilot program: the intellectual property (IP) marketplace platform "Patents 4 Partnerships." The platform is a centralized and easily accessible database of U.S. patents and published patent applications that are voluntarily made available for licensing. With this new tool, the USPTO seeks to facilitate the availability of inventions in the market by helping identify technologies voluntarily made available for licensing and by facilitating communications between IP owners and potential licensees.

The Patents 4 Partnerships platform is searchable by keyword, patent number, inventor name, and other fields and provides licensing contact information or a link to an external website where the licensing contact information and additional details about the invention are available. The Patents 4 Partnerships platform is accessible at: https://developer.uspto.gov/ipmarketplace/search/patents.

The Patents 4 Partnerships platform has been populated with patents and published patent applications that were voluntarily identified as available for licensing by the owners in the "Patents and Patent Applications Available for License or Sale" listings in the USPTO Official Gazette Notices and on publicly available websites. The initial launch is limited to patents and published patent applications related to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of or protection from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), including disinfectants, test kits, ventilators, and components thereof. IP owners may add additional patents and published patent applications for these and other relevant technologies, such as machines and methods for manufacturing and researching COVID-19 technologies, to the platform by completing the form provided on the platform webpage. There is no fee to add a patent or published patent application to the platform. In addition, if a patent or published patent application is incorrectly included in the platform as being available for licensing, a request may be submitted via email (IPMarketplace@uspto.gov) to remove or correct the entry. Because some information on the platform has been obtained from third parties, the USPTO cannot be responsible for its accuracy. Inclusion on the platform does not constitute legal or professional advice of any kind. Inclusion in the database is not a representation that the technology has been endorsed by the U.S. government or otherwise determined to be useful or important in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. The information on the platform is not a complete listing of all technologies available for addressing this problem and is intended for general information purposes only.

The USPTO plans to test this pilot program during the next six months and will subsequently consider whether to make the program permanent and/or expand it to other areas of technology. The USPTO also plans to use the pilot period to determine whether the platform should replace or supplement the Official Gazette Notice of Patents and Patent Applications Available for License or Sale.

Inquiries regarding the pilot program may be directed to Marina Lamm, Patent Attorney, Office of Policy and International Affairs, by telephone at 571-272-5905 or by email to IPMarketplace@uspto.gov. Inquiries concerning the use of the Patents 4 Partnerships platform may be directed to Scott Beliveau, Branch Chief of Enterprise Advanced Analytics, Office of the Chief Information Officer, by telephone at 571-272-7343 or by email to IPMarketplace@uspto.gov.

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