



Intellectual
Property
Office

International work sharing and collaboration



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Intellectual Property Office is an operating name of the Patent Office

The challenge

- Demand has doubled in 15 years
 - Estimated 4 million applications awaiting examination worldwide
 - 3 years of work
- Applications more difficult to process
 - More prior art
 - Different languages
 - Rapid advance of technology
- Delays create uncertainty for innovators, investors and competitors



A solution



- Work sharing reduces duplication, and therefore increases efficiency
- Individual offices apply their own laws in deciding whether to grant a patent – but get a “head start”



UK involvement

- UK patent law amended to allow sharing of information before publication
- Also participate in a number of other work sharing initiatives



Pre-publication work sharing



- New power introduced
1st October 2014
- Allows sharing of data with other national offices before publication - when it can be of more use



Pre-publication work sharing

- Will require written agreement with the other office setting out strict confidentiality and data handling terms
- Working on details of implementation
- Hope to agree our first work sharing arrangement under this provision in 2015
- Details of all agreements will be published on the UK IPO website



Other work sharing initiatives

- Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT)
 - One of the first 18 contracting states
 - Support PCT improvement (e.g. PCT 20/20 proposals with US)
- Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH)
 - One of the initial 17 Global PPH members
 - Also hold a number of additional bilateral PPH agreements
- WIPO CASE
 - Co-founders as one of the Vancouver Group
 - Support expansion and linkage to the IP5's One Portal Dossier



Thank you

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A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of three overlapping triangles. The top triangle is a medium blue, the middle one is a darker blue, and the bottom one is the darkest blue. They all point towards the bottom right corner.