

collected; and (d) Minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses.

Dated: March 12, 2013.

Susan K. Fawcett,

Records Officer, USPTO, Office of the Chief Information Officer.

[FR Doc. 2013-06046 Filed 3-14-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2012-0052]

Extension of the Period for Comments on the Enhancement of Quality of Software-Related Patents

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments; extension of the comment period.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a notice announcing the formation of a partnership with the software community to enhance the quality of software-related patents (Software Partnership), and a request for comments on the preparation of patent applications, seeking input on potential practices for preparing patent applications. The USPTO also conducted two roundtables to obtain public input from organizations and individuals on topics relating to the quality of software-related patents and the preparation of software-related patent applications including: establishing clear boundaries for claims that use functional language; identifying additional topics for future discussion by the Software Partnership; and potential practices that applicants can employ at the drafting stage of a patent application in order to facilitate examination and bring more certainty to the scope of issued patents. The USPTO has received several requests for additional time to submit comments in response to the notice. Accordingly, the USPTO is extending the comment period to provide interested members of the public with additional time to submit comments to the USPTO.

DATES: *Comment Deadline Date:* To be assured of consideration, written

comments must be received on or before April 15, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent by electronic mail addressed to *SoftwareRoundtable2013@uspto.gov*. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of Seema Rao, Director, Technology Center 2100. Although comments may be submitted by postal mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via electronic mail because sharing comments with the public is more easily accomplished.

The comments will be available for public inspection on the USPTO's Web site at <http://www.uspto.gov>, and will also be available at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, currently located in Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that the submitter does not desire to make public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments. Parties who would like to rely on confidential information to illustrate a point are requested to summarize or otherwise submit the information in a way that will permit its public disclosure.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Seema Rao, Director, Technology Center 2100, by telephone at 571-272-5253, or by electronic mail message at *seema.rao@uspto.gov*; or Matthew J. Sked, Legal Advisor, by telephone at (571) 272-7627, or by electronic mail message at *matthew.sked@uspto.gov*.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 3, 2013, the USPTO published a notice announcing the Software Partnership, which is a cooperative effort between the USPTO and the software community to explore ways to enhance the quality of software-related patents. See *Request for Comments and Notice of Roundtable Events for Partnership for Enhancement of Quality of Software-Related Patents*, 78 FR 292 (January 3, 2013). The Software Partnership commenced with two bi-coastal roundtable events held in Silicon Valley on February 12, 2013, and in New York City on February 27, 2013, during which multiple speakers from the software community and the public offered oral comments on functional claim language, topics for future discussion by the Software Partnership, and the preparation of patent applications. The notice also invited the public to submit written comments on or before March 15, 2013.

The USPTO has received several requests for additional time to submit comments, and is now extending the period for submission of public comments until April 15, 2013.

Dated: March 11, 2013.

Teresa Stanek Rea,

Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Acting Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2013-06014 Filed 3-14-13; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-16-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

[Docket No. PTO-P-2011-0046]

Extension of the Period for Comments on the Preparation of Patent Applications

AGENCY: United States Patent and Trademark Office, Commerce.

ACTION: Request for comments; extension of the comment period.

SUMMARY: The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) published a request for comments on the preparation of patent applications, seeking input on potential practices that applicants can employ at the drafting stage of a patent application in order to facilitate examination and bring more certainty to the scope of issued patents. The USPTO has received several requests for additional time to submit comments on the preparation of patent applications. Accordingly, the USPTO is extending the comment period to provide interested members of the public with additional time to submit comments to the USPTO.

DATES: *Comment Deadline Date:* To be assured of consideration, written comments must be received on or before April 15, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent by electronic mail addressed to *QualityApplications_Comments@uspto.gov*. Comments may also be submitted by mail addressed to: Mail Stop Comments—Patents, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, marked to the attention of Nicole D. Haines. Although comments may be submitted by postal mail, the USPTO prefers to receive comments via electronic mail because sharing comments with the public is more easily accomplished.

The comments will be available for public inspection on the USPTO's Web

site at <http://www.uspto.gov>, and will also be available at the Office of the Commissioner for Patents, currently located in Madison East, Tenth Floor, 600 Dulany Street, Alexandria, Virginia. Because comments will be made available for public inspection, information that the submitter does not desire to make public, such as an address or phone number, should not be included in the comments. Parties who would like to rely on confidential information to illustrate a point are requested to summarize or otherwise submit the information in a way that will permit its public disclosure.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Nicole D. Haines, Legal Advisor, at (571) 272-7717; Kathleen Kahler Fonda, Senior Legal Advisor, at (571) 272-7754; or Matthew J. Sked, Legal Advisor, at (571) 272-7627, of the Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy. General patent practice inquiries may be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration, by telephone at (571) 272-7701, or by electronic mail at PatentPractice@uspto.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On January 15, 2013, the USPTO published a notice requesting comments from the public on potential practices that applicants can employ at the drafting stage of a patent application in order to facilitate examination and bring more certainty to the scope of issued patents. See *Request for Comments on Preparation of Patent Applications*, 78 FR 2960 (January 15, 2013). Specifically, the USPTO requested input on whether adoption of a variety of potential practices by applicants early in the patent preparation process would assist the public in determining the scope of claims as well as the meaning of claim terms in the specification after a patent is granted. The notice invited the public to submit written comments on the potential practices on or before March 15, 2013. The USPTO has received several requests for additional time to submit comments, and is now extending the period for submission of public comments until April 15, 2013.

Dated: March 11, 2013.

Teresa Stanek Rea,

Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Acting Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

[FR Doc. 2013-06013 Filed 3-14-13; 8:45 am]

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COMMITTEE FOR PURCHASE FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE BLIND OR SEVERELY DISABLED

Procurement List; Proposed Additions and Deletion

AGENCY: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled.

ACTION: Proposed additions to and deletion from the Procurement List.

SUMMARY: The Committee is proposing to add products and services to the Procurement List that will be furnished by nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities, and deletes a service previously provided by such an agency. **DATES:** *Comments Must Be Received on or Before:* April 15, 2013.

ADDRESSES: Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, 1401 S. Clark Street, Suite 10800, Arlington, Virginia 22202.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barry S. Lineback, Telephone: (703) 603-7740, Fax: (703) 603-0655, or email CMTEFedReg@AbilityOne.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 8503(a)(2) and 41 CFR 51-2.3. Its purpose is to provide interested persons an opportunity to submit comments on the proposed actions.

Additions

If the Committee approves the proposed additions, the entities of the Federal Government identified in this notice will be required to procure the products and services listed below from nonprofit agencies employing persons who are blind or have other severe disabilities.

The following products and services are proposed for addition to the Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Products

NSN: MR 1147—Christmas Novelty Flag, Decorative, 28" x 40"

NPA: Winston-Salem Industries for the Blind, Inc., Winston-Salem, NC

Contracting Activity: Military Resale-Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), Fort Lee, VA

Coverage: C-List for the requirements of military commissaries and exchanges as aggregated by the Defense Commissary Agency.

NSN: 7510-01-389-2262—Self Stick Rectangular Flag, "Sign Here", 1.0" X 1.75", Yellow Flags

NPA: Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired—Goodwill Industries of Greater Rochester, Rochester, NY

Contracting Activity: General Services Administration, New York, NY

Coverage: A-List for the Total Government Requirement as aggregated by the General Services Administration.

Ice Melt/De-Icer

NSN: 6850-01-598-1946—10 lbs.

NSN: 6850-01-598-1926—20 lbs.

NSN: 6850-01-598-1933—40 lbs.

NPA: Bosma Industries for the Blind, Inc., Indianapolis, IN

Contracting Activity: Defense Logistics Agency Aviation, Richmond, VA

Coverage: B-List for the Total Government Requirement as aggregated by the Defense Logistics Agency Aviation, Richmond, VA.

Services

Service Type/Location: Landscaping Maintenance Service, Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), 3901 A Avenue, Buildings 10500, 10501, 10201 and 1024, Fort Lee, VA.

NPA: Richmond Area Association for Retarded Citizens, Richmond, VA

Contracting Activity: Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA), Fort Lee, VA

Service Type/Location: Tactical Vehicle Wash Facility Service, Yano Tactical Vehicle Wash Facility, Directorate of Training Sustainment, Harmony Church, Building 5525, Fort Benning, GA.

NPA: Power Works Industries, Inc., Columbus, GA

Contracting Activity: Dept of the Army, W6QM MICC-Ft Benning, Fort Benning, GA

Service Type/Location: Grounds Maintenance and Snow Removal Service, Army Corps of Engineers District Headquarters Bldg., 201 North Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA

NPA: Lillie Rice Center, Walla Walla, WA

Contracting Activity: Dept of the Army, W071 ENDIST Walla Walla, Walla Walla, WA

Service Type/Locations: Facilities Support Service

NPA: Work, Incorporated, Dorchester, MA (Prime Contractor)

Contracting Activity: Dept of the Navy, NAVAL FAC Engineering CMD MID LANT, Norfolk, VA.

Navy Operational Support Center Fort Schuyler-Bronx, 4 Pennyfield Avenue, Bronx, NY. NPA: (Subcontractor) The Corporate Source, Inc., New York, NY.

Navy Operational Support Center Plainville, 1 Linsley Drive, Plainville, CT. NPA: (Subcontractor) Easter Seals Capital Region & Eastern Connecticut, Inc., Windsor, CT.

Navy Operational Support Center Quincy, 85 Sea Street, Quincy, MA. NPA: (Subcontractor) Community Workshops, Inc., Boston, MA.

Navy Operational Support Center White River Junction, 207 Holiday Drive, White River Junction, VT. NPA: (Subcontractor) Northern New England Employment Services, Portland, ME.

USS Constitution, Boston Navy Yard, Building 5, Charlestown, MA. NPA: (Subcontractor) Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries, Boston, MA.