

immunotherapy to be advanced out of turn for examination. To date, over 880 petitions requesting participation in the pilot program have been filed, and over 650 patents have been granted under the program. In view of the continued interest in the Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program, as well as the White House's reignition of the National Cancer Moonshot initiative, the USPTO is extending the program, with all parameters remaining the same, until January 31, 2023. The USPTO will also continue to evaluate whether to expand the scope of the pilot program and to what extent during this extension period.

**DATES:** *Pilot duration:* The Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program will continue to run until January 31, 2023. Therefore, petitions to make special under the Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program must be filed on or before January 31, 2023.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For questions regarding this pilot program in general, please contact Susy Tsang-Foster, Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Patent Legal Administration, Office of the Deputy Commissioner for Patent Examination Policy, at 571-272-7711 or [susy.tsang-foster@uspto.gov](mailto:susy.tsang-foster@uspto.gov). For questions related to a particular petition, please contact Gary B. Nickol, Supervisory Patent Examiner, at 571-272-0835 or [gary.nickol@uspto.gov](mailto:gary.nickol@uspto.gov); or Brandon J. Fetterolf, Supervisory Patent Examiner, at 571-272-2919 or [brandon.fetterolf@uspto.gov](mailto:brandon.fetterolf@uspto.gov), both of Technology Center 1600.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On June 29, 2016, the USPTO published a notice for the implementation of the Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program. See *Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program*, 81 FR 42328 (Cancer Immunotherapy Notice). The pilot program was designed to support the global fight against cancer. The Cancer Immunotherapy Notice indicated that an applicant could have an application advanced out of turn (accorded special status) for examination without meeting all the current requirements of the accelerated examination program set forth in item VIII of section 708.02(a) of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (9th ed., rev. 10.2019, June 2020), if the application contained at least one claim to a method of treating a cancer using immunotherapy and the applicant met other requirements specified in the Cancer Immunotherapy Notice.

The Cancer Immunotherapy Notice established that the pilot program would run for 12 months, beginning on June 29, 2016. Over the course of the pilot program, the USPTO has extended

it four times through notices published in the **Federal Register**. The most recent notice extended the program until September 30, 2022 and requested public comments on whether to expand the scope of pilot program and whether to extend it. See *Extension of the Cancer Immunotherapy Pilot Program and Request for Comments*, 87 FR 38714 (June 29, 2022) (Extension Notice). The Office received one written submission containing three comments from a law firm in response to the request for public comments in the Extension Notice. The Office appreciates the thoughtful comments. The submission is posted at <https://www.regulations.gov/document/PTO-P-2022-0019-0001/comment>. The USPTO is continuing to evaluate whether to expand the program and to what extent.

Various stakeholders from around the world—including independent inventors, universities, research institutions, hospitals, medical centers, government agencies, and large and small companies—have filed petitions to participate in the pilot program. To date, over 880 petitions requesting participation have been filed, and over 650 patents have been granted under the pilot program. In view of the continued interest in the pilot program, the USPTO is hereby extending it through January 31, 2023. The extension will enable the program to continue without lapse as the USPTO continues its ongoing evaluation of whether to expand the program and to what extent. The requirements of the pilot program will not be modified at this time.

**Katherine K. Vidal,**

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

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**BILLING CODE 3510-16-P**

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Air Force

#### Acceptance of Group Application Under Public Law 95-202 and Department of Defense Directive (DODD) 1000.20

**AGENCY:** Department of the Air Force, DoD Civilian/Military Service Review Board.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** Under the provisions of Section 401, Public Law 95-202 and DoD Directive 100.20, the Department of Defense Civilian/Military Service Review Board has accepted an application on behalf of a group known

as “Former Members of the Free Iraq Forces and Free Iraq Civil Affairs Program Who Served Under Direct Command of U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps Units During Operation Iraqi Freedom Across the Iraqi Freedom Theater of Operations During the Period 2002 Through 2018.” Persons with information or documentation pertinent to the determination of whether service of this group should be considered active military service to the Armed Forces of the United States are encouraged to submit such information or documentation within 60 days to the DoD Civilian/Military Service Review Board (DoD C/MSRB), 1500 West Perimeter Road, Suite 3700, Joint Base Andrews, MD 20762.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. John K. Vallario, President, DoD C/MSRB, at 240-612-5380, [john.vallario.1@us.af.mil](mailto:john.vallario.1@us.af.mil). Copies of documents or other materials submitted cannot be returned.

**Adriane Paris,**

*Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Department of the Navy

#### Certificate of Alternate Compliance for USS AUGUSTA (LCS 34)

**AGENCY:** Department of the Navy (DoN), Department of Defense (DoD).

**ACTION:** Notice of issuance of certificate of alternate compliance.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Navy hereby announces that a Certificate of Alternate Compliance has been issued for USS AUGUSTA (LCS 34). Due to the special construction and purpose of this vessel, the Admiralty Counsel of the Navy has determined it is a vessel of the Navy which, due to its special construction and purpose, cannot comply fully with the navigation lights provisions of the International Regulations for Preventing Collisions at Sea, 1972 (72 COLREGS) without interfering with its special function as a naval ship. The intended effect of this notice is to warn mariners in waters where 72 COLREGS apply.

**DATES:** This Certificate of Alternate Compliance is effective September 28, 2022 and is applicable beginning September 21, 2022.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Lieutenant Commander Andrea Liou, JAGC, U.S. Navy, Admiralty Attorney, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Admiralty and Claims Division (Code