



Working for Consensus

THE COALITION FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY PATENT REFORM

*Protecting Innovation to Enhance American Competitiveness*

## The Coalition for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Patent Reform Statement on Executive Actions

February 20, 2014

The Coalition for 21st Century Patent Reform (21C) applauds the Administration and the USPTO for focusing attention on patent quality initiatives, including the three new actions announced today. 21C supports efforts to make the patent system more effective for innovators and the public, and will encourage its member companies to participate by providing technical training to USPTO examiners, sharing prior art with the Office and the public, and providing legal assistance to help low income inventors secure patent protection for their inventions.

21C also urges continued efforts to ensure that the USPTO retains full access to user fees, which is fundamental to improved patent quality. We remain concerned that without access to all of the user fees that inventors and inventive entities pay to the USPTO to have their patent applications examined and for other patent services, the Office will have difficulties meeting its existing responsibilities and implementing the quality enhancing initiatives discussed today. As an agency entirely funded by user fees, the USPTO needs guaranteed access to all of those fees to continue to reduce the job-stifling patent application backlog, and to plan and build the 21st century patent office needed for our innovation economy.

The Coalition has approximately 50 members from 18 diverse industry sectors and includes many of the nation's leading manufacturers and researchers. The Coalition's Steering Committee includes 3M, Caterpillar, General Electric, Johnson & Johnson, Eli Lilly and Procter & Gamble.

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