

COLLABORATIVE SEARCH PROGRAM (CSP)

Meeting of IP5 Heads of Office and IP5 Industry
Suzhou, 21 May 2015

Korean Intellectual Property Office



▪ **BASIC CONCEPT**

- Sharing relevant information on patent applications filed in multiple countries

▪ **INCREASING DEMAND**

- The increase in the number of applications filed in multiple countries require closer cooperation among patent offices

▪ **PURPOSE**

- **Reduce duplicate work**
- **Improve quality and consistency** in examination results

▪ **WORK SHARING PROGRAM**

- PPH, PCT, *etc.*

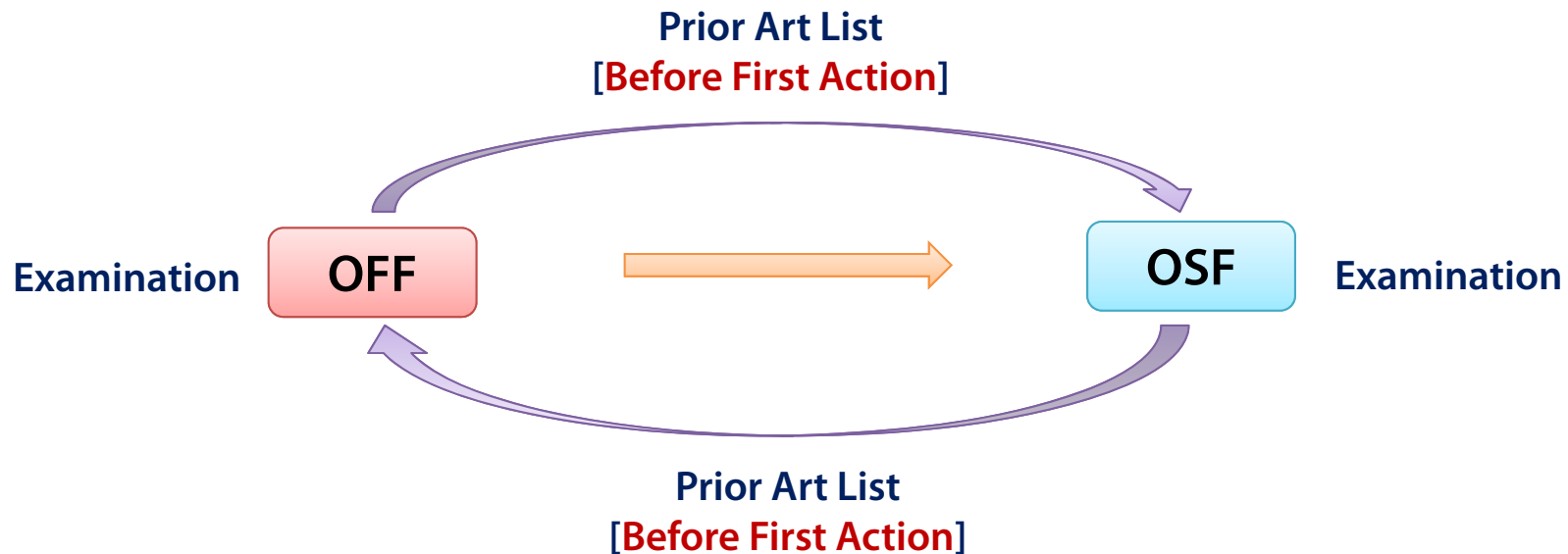
- **Need to devise measures to improve limitations in existing PPH & other work-sharing programs**
 - **One-way-street collaboration system:** only the office of later examination benefits from the work products already in place;
 - **Quality and consistency of examination results not necessarily guaranteed**

- **New program development being underway**
 - (e.g.) Collaborative Search Pilot Program by KIPO & USPTO, Timeliness strategy by EPO, PCT Collaborative Search & Examination among KR, US, EP

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Concept of CSP

- **Exchange prior art lists before the first office action** of cross-filed offices
 - Aimed at enhancing consistency and examination quality
 - Should be done upon the applicant's request
- ☞ OFF and OSF may **expedite examination** under their agreement



- **It is expected to overcome the limitations of the current work sharing programs, while the period for granting a patent may be in a similar range in the OFF and the OSF**
 - ***Improving the quality & consistency***
By sharing prior art search results before the first office Action
 - ***Reducing duplication***
By reducing the burden of additional prior art searches in the OLE
(in case of expedited process adopted)
 - ***Reducing examination pendency***
By shortening the pendency under the process of acceleration examination
 - ***Synchronizing a period for granting a patent in the OFF and OSF***
By being granted a patent in a similar range in the OFF and OSF

■ **KIPO-USPTO**

- **Nov. 2014**, agreement made to proceed with pilot program
- **Feb. 2015**, discussion made to associate CSP with the USPTO's First Action Interview Pilot Program
- **May. 2015**, MOU signed
- **Sep. 2015**, the program to be in full swing

Thank You!