

STATUS REPORT

May, 2015

JAPAN PATENT OFFICE

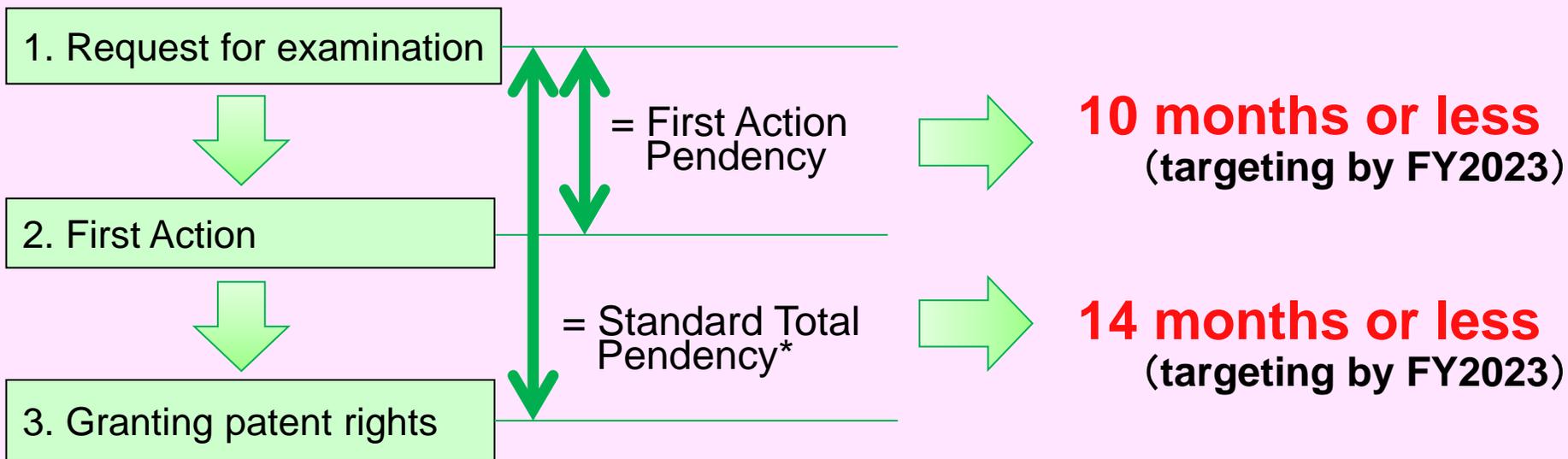
1. Accelerated Market Changes

→ **Achieving examination of the fastest and utmost quality in the world**

2. Globalized Economy

→ **International cooperation and harmonization among IP offices that address globalization**

1) Accelerating Examination

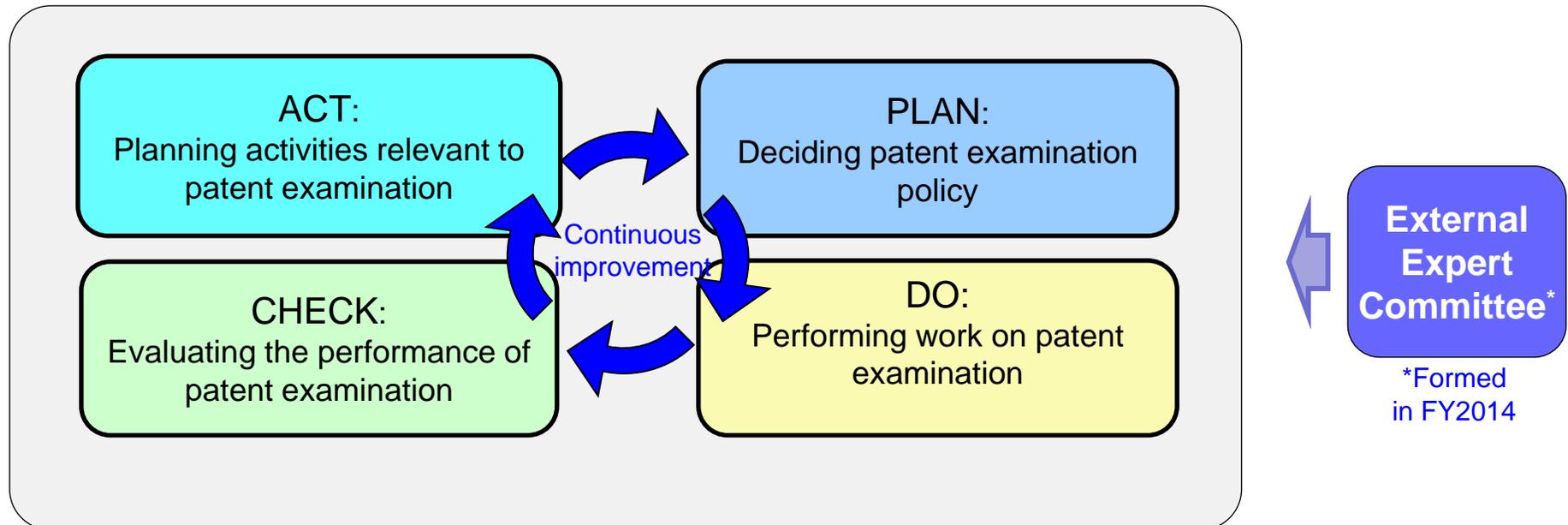


*“Standard Total Pendency” excludes such cases where the JPO requests an applicant to respond to the second notification of reasons for refusal and others.

2) Enhancing Quality

The JPO released its “Quality Policy on Patent Examination”

- The 3 main tenets of patent quality are:
We grant robust, broad and valuable patents.
 1. “robust”: so as not to be invalidated afterward,
 2. “broad”: to such an extent that they have coverage matching the extent of the technical levels of inventions and their disclosures,
 3. “valuable”: so as to be recognized around the world.



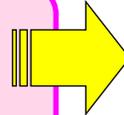
Quality Management Measures

Key component of quality management

↓ To provide higher quality examination results

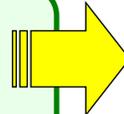
Quality assurance

Maintenance and enhancement of examination quality



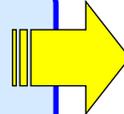
Quality verification

Understanding of examination quality



External evaluation

Objective evaluation on quality management system



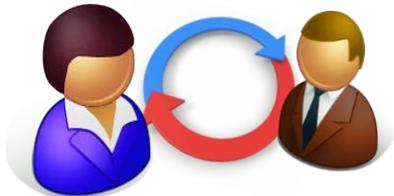
Examples of Main Measures

- *Director's Check (Approval)*
- *Consultation between examiners*
- *Quality Audit*
- *User Satisfaction Survey*
- *"Subcommittee on Examination Quality Management"*

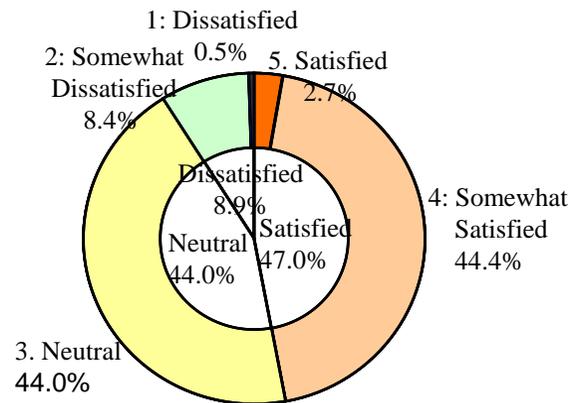
Around 83,000 cases per year (in FY2014)

Examiner in charge

Examiner in consulting



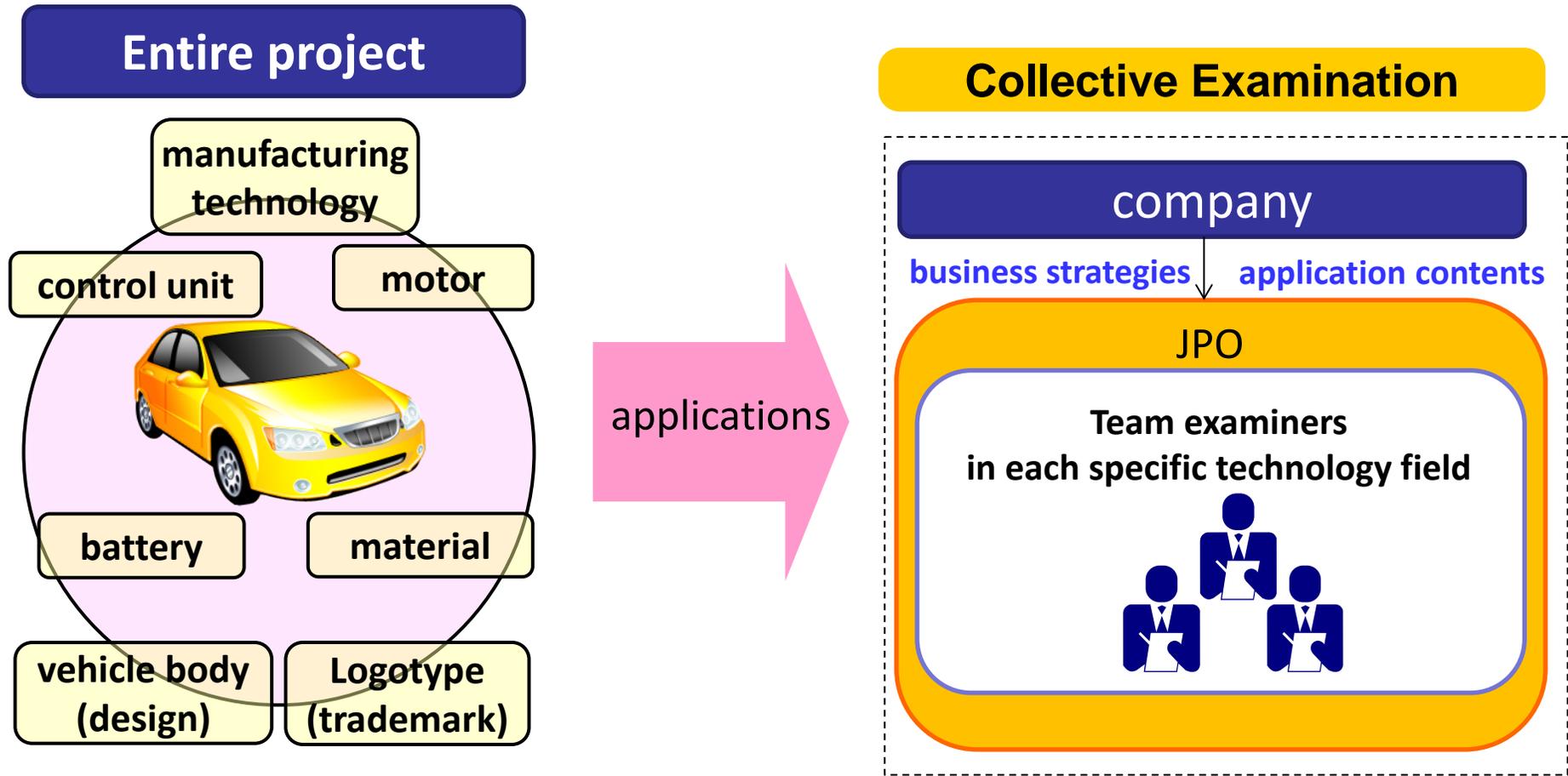
FY2014 Consultation



Evaluation on the examination quality for domestic patent applications (FY 2014 User Satisfaction Survey)

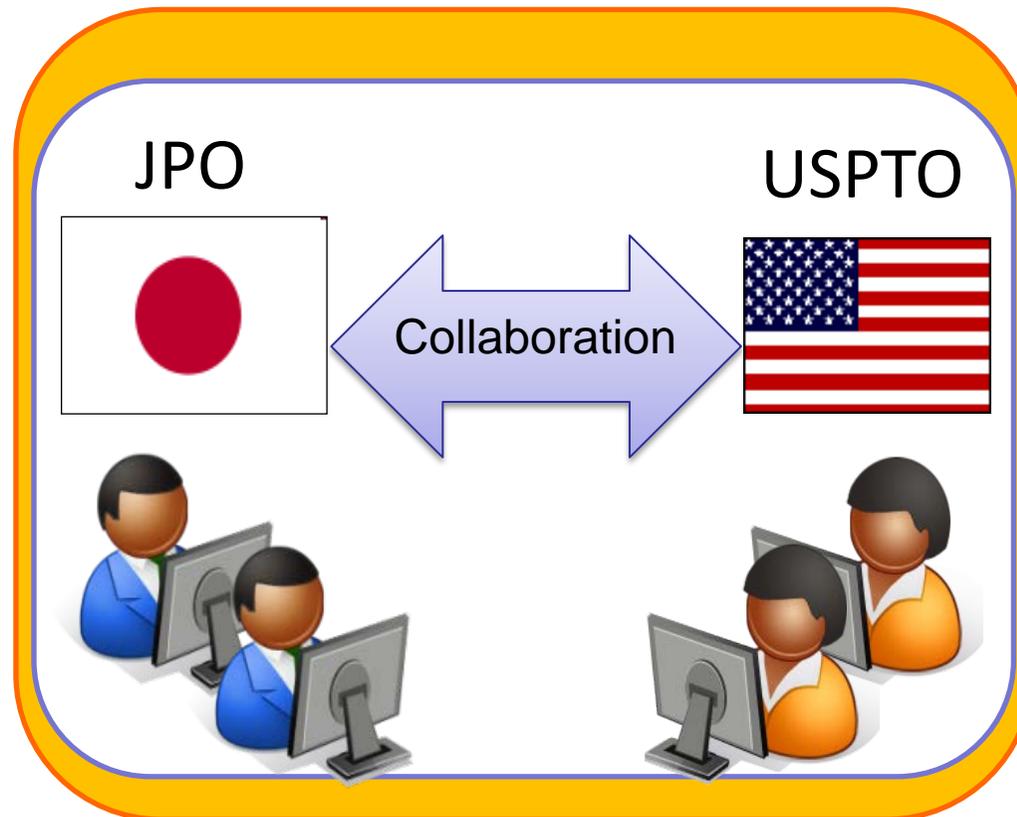


The 4th Subcommittee on Examination Quality Management



In line with corporate business activities, examiners will collaboratively conduct examinations.

- JPO and USPTO agreed to enhance cooperation in patent examination.
- US-JP Collaborative Search Pilot Program will be implemented on August 1st, 2015.
- The US-JP CSP is a joint work sharing pilot program, through which the Offices intend to conduct searches on corresponding counterpart patent applications in serial and share the search results.
- The collaboration may serve as a driving force to improve patent quality and facilitate examination of patent applications.



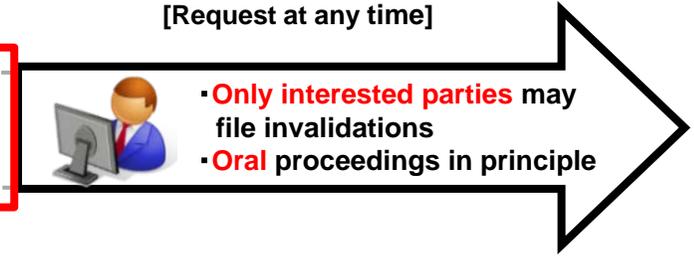
1. Revision to the Patent Act

- Establish a New Opposition System for Patent Rights

[Limited to within the first 6 months]

[Request at any time]

Opposition system for patent rights



2. Revision to the Design Act

- Develop and revising provisions necessary for Japan's accession to the Geneva Act of the Hague Agreement Concerning the International Registration of Industrial Designs



3. Revision to the Trademark Act

- Add protection of new types of trademarks such as “color” and “sound”

Color Trademark
7- Eleven
(Registered in Australia)



Sound trademark
Hisamitsu Pharmaceutical
(Registered in Europe)



Thank you!

