



10 Million Patents

Media Kit
June 2018

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Follow us on social media:



USPTO.gov



@uspto



USPTOvideo



USPTO

Contents

10 Million Patents Campaign3

Key details3

Contact info3

Background. 4

Patents 1-9 million5

Key points 6

USPTO fact sheet7

Frequently asked questions 8

Resources for researchers and media 9

10 Million Patents Initiatives.10

The Real McCoy Activity 11

10 Million Patents Partnerships 12

10 Million Patents Campaign

The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) believes the issuance of U.S. patent number 10,000,000 in 2018 is a prime opportunity to celebrate the history of innovation in America, showcase the critical role inventors have played in the growth and development of our economy and society, and educate and inspire future generations of inventors. Our staff will assist the media with research and can pitch specific ideas about the patent system and patent history that appeal to particular demographics and readership.

Key details

Who: United States Patent and Trademark Office

What: [10 Million Patents Media Campaign](#)

When: Anticipated issuance mid-June 2018

Where: Multiple events in the Washington, D.C., area

Why: Reflect on the history represented by 10 million patents and inspire future generations of inventors

Contact info

[Paul Fucito](#), press secretary

Paul may speak on the record about 10 Million Patents and other agency programs and initiatives and arrange high-profile press interviews for USPTO principals.

[Julianne Metzger](#), public affairs specialist

Julianne can assist you with research, data from subject matter experts, and resources.

[Ryan Honick](#), public affairs specialist

Ryan can assist you with research, data from subject matter experts, and resources.

[Liz Chu](#), social media specialist

Do you want to feature #10MillionPatents content on your social media channels? Liz can help you align messaging. Additional suggested social media content is also in this document and the [10 Million Patents website](#).

[Linda Hosler](#), National Inventors Hall of Fame® (NIHF) deputy project manager

NIHF inductees have stories that explain and document the value of invention and innovation in the United States. Linda can connect you with these individuals.

Background

The USPTO will issue the 10 millionth U.S. utility patent during the summer of 2018. This is a tremendous milestone for both the USPTO and the history of American innovation.

To commemorate, we are coordinating “10 Million Patents,” a multi-faceted media campaign to demonstrate the ubiquity of patents and the extraordinary value of American intellectual property (IP).

By engaging with media outlets across a wide spectrum of demographics and topics, the 10 Million Patents campaign will emphasize how pervasive and important patents are to everyday life and to the nation’s technological and economic growth.

Ideally, media outlets will feature content relevant to their own target demographic to demonstrate the universality of patents and the impact of intellectual property, and to inspire the next generation of inventors and innovators. An easy and fun way for media to cover the issuance of the 10 millionth patent is the [Ten for 10M project](#).

Our staff can also assist media outlets covering the issuance of the 10 millionth patent by providing greater historical context of the patent system, and by coordinating interviews with USPTO subject matter experts.

Patents 1-9 million

- [The first U.S. patent](#) was issued on July 31, 1790, to Samuel Hopkins for a process of making potash, an ingredient used in fertilizer. President George Washington signed the first patent.
- [Patent no. 1](#): The U.S. government had issued 9,957 patents before starting a numbering system on July 13, 1836. On that occasion, U.S. patent no. 1 was issued to John Ruggles for a traction wheel for steam locomotives.
- [Patent no. 1 million](#) was issued on August 8, 1911, to Francis H. Holton, for a tubeless vehicle tire.
- [Patent no. 2 million](#) was issued on April 30, 1935, to Joseph Ledwinka for a vehicle wheel to increase the safety and longevity of pneumatic tires.
- [Patent no. 3 million](#) was issued September 12, 1961, to Kenneth Eldredge for an automated system that translated letters, numbers and symbols to data processing code.
- [Patent no. 4 million](#) was issued on December 28, 1976, to Robert Mendenhall for a process for recycling asphalt aggregate compositions.
- [Patent no. 5 million](#) was issued on March 19, 1991, to the University of Florida. Lonnie O. Ingram and others invented an innovative way to produce fuel ethanol.
- [Patent no. 6 million](#) was issued on December 7, 1999, to 3Com Corporation's Palm Computing. Jeffrey Hawkins and others invented an extendible method and apparatus for synchronizing multiple files on two different computer systems.
- [Patent no. 7 million](#) was issued on February 14, 2006, to E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Company. John O'Brien invented a process for producing polysaccharide fibers.
- [Patent no. 8 million](#) was issued on August 16, 2011, to Second Sight Medical Products, Inc. Robert Greenberg and others invented a visual prosthesis apparatus.
- [Patent no. 9 million](#) was issued on April 7, 2015, to WiperFill Holdings LLC. Matthew Carroll invented a system of collecting rainwater to replenish a windshield wiper reservoir and windshield washer conditioner.

Key points

- The issuance of patent 10 million is an exceptional milestone. It is a timely and relevant opportunity to promote the importance of innovation, the ubiquity of intellectual property, and the history of America's patent system.
- The USPTO will issue patent 10 million on June 19, 2018.
- Each patent represents trial and error, determination, and the persistence that one inventor or a team of inventors have invested into bringing an idea to fruition.
- The 10 Million Patents campaign focuses on the history of all 10 million patents rather than one specific patent.
- The U.S. is a world leader in innovation. Strong IP systems foster innovation, which in turn drives economic success. Ten million patents worth of innovation represents trillions of dollars added to our global economy.
- The rates of innovation and invention continue to accelerate. It took 121 years to issue the first million patents (1790-1911), but just four years to move from patent 8 million to patent 9 million (2011-2015) and three years to move from patent 9 million to patent 10 million.
- To commemorate the issuance of patent 10 million, the USPTO unveiled a [new patent cover design](#) during a [special ceremony](#) at South by Southwest (SXSW) on March 11, 2018. The new design will debut with patent 10 million.
- The United States has recognized the importance of granting limited monopolies for new inventions since the adoption of our Constitution in 1789. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8 charges Congress "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries."

USPTO fact sheet

- A patent for an invention grants the inventor “the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling” the invention in the United States or “importing” the invention into the United States. [Learn more here.](#)
- The USPTO’s budget is unique among federal agencies because it operates solely on fees collected by its users—not taxpayer dollars.
- On April 10, 1790, President George Washington signed the Patent Act of 1790 that laid the foundation of the modern American patent system.
- The 1790 law gave the first Patent Board members the power to grant a patent. The first board members included Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of War Henry Knox, and Attorney General Edmund Randolph.
- In 1810, Congress established the U.S. Patent Office in Blodget’s Hotel in Washington, D.C.
- Dr. William Thornton, architect of the U.S. Capitol Building, was the first leader of the U.S. Patent Office. In 1814, Thornton convinced British soldiers to spare the Patent Office during the burning of Washington, D.C.
- Patent records predating 1836 were unnumbered. People inquiring about patents could only access specific patent documents by name of patentee and date of patent.
- On July 11, 1836, patent numbers reset to zero as part of the Patent Act of 1836. The Patent Office granted U.S. patent no. 1 to Senator John Ruggles of Maine, who also wrote the Patent Act of 1836.
- On December 15, 1836, the U.S. Patent Office burned down in a fire. Almost all of the patent documents and drawings were lost in the fire.
- The USPTO calls the patents lost in the 1836 fire the “X patents.” The search to recover documents about the X patents continues to this day. Fewer than 3,000 of the X patents have been restored using privately held records.
- On January 2, 1975, the U.S. Patent Office was renamed the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).
- The most common type of patent is a utility patent. Patent no. 10 million will be a utility patent.
- Patent no. 10 million will be the first patent issued with the new patent cover design unveiled earlier in 2018. Design and plant patents issued the same day as patent no. 10 million will also receive the new patent cover design.
- Utility patents have a duration of 20 years from the date of filing, but they are not enforceable until the day of issuance. Design patents protect ornamental designs. Plant patents protect new varieties of asexually reproducing plants. Utility, design, and plant patents have separate numbering sequences.
- To obtain protection under U.S. law, the applicant must submit a patent application to the USPTO, where a patent examiner determines if the invention is patentable. U.S. law grants to patentees the right to exclude others from making, using, or selling the invention.

Frequently asked questions

- **Why is the 10 millionth patent important?**
 - The 10 millionth patent is an historic opportunity to acknowledge and promote the critical importance of intellectual property, and patents specifically, to our nation's technological progress and economic prosperity.
 - It is also an opportunity to celebrate the enduring spirit of American innovation.
- **What is [Ten for 10M](#)?**
 - Ten for 10M is a chance for print and digital media to display what they believe are the ten most important patents appealing to their demographics' interests.
- **Does the owner of the 10 millionth patent receive any special items?**
 - The recipient of patent 10 million will receive the first patent cover using a [new design](#) that was unveiled at SXSW on March 11, 2018.
- **How do I conduct a patent search?**
 - [This is a suggested Seven Step Strategy](#) for conducting preliminary searches of U.S. patents and published applications using the free online resources of the USPTO and its bilateral partner, the European Patent Office. [Patent and Trademark Resource Centers](#) (PTRCs) are available nationwide to provide training on this Seven Step Strategy.
- **What is a patent?**
 - A patent for an invention grants the inventor "the right to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, or selling" the invention in the United States or "importing" the invention into the United States. [Learn more here.](#)
 - Title 35 of the U.S. Code governs patents in the United States. The most common type of patent is a utility patent. Utility patents have a duration of 20 years from the date of filing, but are not enforceable until the day of issuance. Design patents protect ornamental designs. Plant patents protect new varieties of asexually reproduced plants.
 - To obtain protection under U.S. law, the applicant must submit a patent application to the USPTO, where an examiner reviews the application and determines if the proposed invention is patentable.

Resources for researchers and media

- **Research**

[This is a suggested Seven Step Strategy](#) for conducting preliminary searches of U.S. patents and published applications using the free online resources of the USPTO and its bilateral partner, the European Patent Office. Patent and Trademark Resource Centers (PTRCs) are available nationwide to provide training on this Seven Step Strategy.

- [USPTO Web Patent Database](#): Full text and images of all U.S. patents issued since Jan. 1, 1976, and PDFs of every patent issued since 1836 and many older than that.
- [General Information Concerning Patents](#): Answers some of the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) about the patent application process. This guide provides information in non-technical language concerning the application for and granting of patents.
- [National Inventors Hall of Fame® Inductee lookup](#): Meet the minds behind inventions that have changed our world, from the light bulb to the iPhone.
- [Library of Congress](#): The national library has 2,234 documents and images about patents available online, and more at the library itself.

- **Subject matter experts**

The USPTO's Office of the Chief Communications Officer can arrange interviews with USPTO subject matter experts on a case-by-case basis.

10 Million Patents Initiatives

Ten for 10M

Ten for 10M is a chance for print and digital media to display what they believe are the ten most important patents appealing to their demographics' interests. The USPTO will research and pitch two ideas, along with the resources for the media outlet to find eight of their own.

For example, a home magazine might feature ten inventions that changed homemaking, such as: the [Scrub Daddy](#),[®] the [Roomba](#),[®] an early [refrigeration device](#), the [automatic pet feeder](#), the [Foldimate](#).

For more information, please visit the [10 Million Patents website](#) or contact [Julianne Metzger](#).

Social Media

Help spread the word about 10 Million Patents to educate and inspire the next generation of inventors and celebrate the history of American innovation. Feel free to use the material below. For more information on #10MillionPatents, contact [Elizabeth Chu](#).

- **Links for inclusion in posts and tweets:**

- [#10MillionPatents](#) - patents throughout U.S. history and issuance of the 10 millionth U.S. patent
- [#NewPatentDesign](#) - newly redesigned patent cover
- [#Tenfor10M](#) - 10 important (or important-to-you) patents for a specific industry or technological field
- [#TheRealMcCoy](#) - patented inventions in your everyday life
- [#10MillionPatentsPosters](#)

- **Hashtags**

- [#10MillionPatents](#), [#NewPatentDesign](#), [#TheRealMcCoy](#), [#Patent10MillionPosterProject](#)

The Real McCoy Activity

The Real McCoy Activity is an initiative to help kids understand the concept of intellectual property through patents. Those who want to participate in the activity can download and print a “Real McCoy,” from the USPTO website. Adults and kids can search for patent numbers on common items. Once found, participants photograph the Real McCoy cutout next to the patented item and share it on social media.

Through social media, the activity participants can see others’ discoveries and possibly learn more about the patents they identify. Suggested user posts are on the 10 Million Patents website under social media.

For more information on the [Real McCoy Activity](#) for kids, including directions, visit the social media page of the 10 Million Patents website.

Background: [Elijah McCoy](#) received his first patent for an automatic lubricating device in 1872. Previously, train engineers stopped the train to apply necessary lubrication. McCoy’s invention allowed engines to be lubricated while they ran, saving precious time and money.

Long distance locomotives, ships, and factories began using McCoy’s lubricating invention. Legend has it that users of heavy equipment were wary of buying cheap substitutes. As a result, they often asked for “the real McCoy,” a phrase that still exists in today’s vocabulary.

10 Million Patents Partnerships

The USPTO and several organizations are collaborating to celebrate 10 Million Patents with special activities or events. Many of the museums listed below will feature historical patent models relevant to their museum's subject. For more information about these other organization's 10 million patents initiatives, please contact the specific organization directly.

If you represent an organization wishing to collaborate with the USPTO in a 10 Million Patents exhibit or activity, please contact [Linda Hosler](#).

- [National Inventors Hall of Fame®](#)
- [Alexandria Black History Museum](#)
- [Gadsby's Tavern Museum](#)
- [Fort Ward Museum and Historic Site](#)
- [Alexandria Archeology Museum](#)
- [The Lyceum](#)
- [Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum](#)
- [The City of Alexandria \(including Alexandria Economic Development Partnership\)](#)
- [Carlyle Council](#)
- [George Washington's Mount Vernon®](#)
- [James Madison's Mount Montpelier](#)
- [Office of Historic Alexandria](#)
- [Friendship Firehouse Museum](#)