**OMB Control Number: 0690-0030**

**Expiration Date: April 30, 2017**

**Stakeholder Interview Survey**

**DEFINITIONS**

**In-person or Personal Interview:** An interview with the two parties in the same room.

**Face-to-face video conference interview:** An interview where the two parties can see and interact with each other using audio and video conference equipment. WebEx is the current software used by the USPTO for video conferences.

**Telephonic Interview:** An interview conducted using the telephone.

**Interview:** An interview is a discussion of patentability of a pending application between Examiner and Applicant.

1. **Have you conducted an interview with an Examiner within the last 12 months?**
2. Yes
3. No
4. **How effective do you feel an interview is in advancing prosecution?**
5. Very effective
6. Effective
7. Neutral
8. Not effective
9. **Do you find that your requests for an interview are normally granted?**
10. Always
11. Frequently
12. Sometimes
13. Rarely
14. Never
15. **How often do you get Examiner-initiated interview requests?**
16. Always
17. Frequently
18. Sometimes
19. Rarely
20. Never
21. **Approximately how many interviews do you typically have with Examiners in a month?**
22. 0
23. 1
24. 2-3
25. 4-5
26. 6 or more
27. **On average, what percentage of your interviews are Examiner-initiated?**
    1. Less than 25%
    2. Between 25% to 50%
    3. Between 50% to 75%
    4. Above 75%
28. **How many face-to-face video conference interviews have you held with examiners in the last 12 months?**
29. 0
30. 1
31. 2-4
32. 5-9
33. 10 or more
34. **How effective is a face-to-face video conference interview as compared to an in-person (personal) interview?**
35. More effective
36. As effective
37. Less effective
38. I have never had a face-to-face video conference interview
39. **How effective is a face-to-face video conference interview as compared to a telephonic interview?**
40. More effective
41. As effective
42. Less effective
43. I have never had a face-to-face video conference interview
44. **If you have never held a face-to-face video conference interview, what is the primary reason? Check all that applies.**
    1. I don’t know how to conduct a face-to-face video conference interview.
    2. I don’t think face-to-face video conference interview is an effective tool.
    3. I didn’t know that we are able use face-to-face video conference to conduct interviews.
    4. I have never offered or been requested to conduct a face-to-face video conference interview.
    5. Other\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
45. **How often do you provide an agenda for an Applicant-initiated interview?**
    1. Less than 25%
    2. Between 25% to 50%
    3. Between 50% to 75%
    4. Between 75% to 100%
46. **Where do you get most of your information regarding interview practice?**
47. Official USPTO publication and website
48. Colleague
49. Patent Blog
50. Examiner
51. MPEP
52. Other
53. **How useful do you find the** [**Interview Practice**](http://www.uspto.gov/patents/law/ipractice/index.jsp) **website on USPTO.gov? (Only ask if 12 A is selected)**
54. Very Useful
55. Useful
56. Somewhat useful
57. Not useful
58. I have never visited the microsite
59. **In your experience, how often do the following apply when you conduct an interview? (includes both Applicant-initiated and Examiner-initiated)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Very often** | **often** | **Somewhat often** | **Not often** |
| a) Explanation of the invention. |  |  |  |  |
| b) Discussion of prior art. |  |  |  |  |
| c) Clarification or better understanding of positions. |  |  |  |  |
| d) Reaching an agreement or advancing prosecution which promotes compact prosecution. |  |  |  |  |
| e) Discuss proposed amendments. |  |  |  |  |

1. **What is your preferred method of communication?**
   1. Email
   2. Telephone
   3. In person
   4. Face-to-face video conference
2. **How often are you contacted by an Examiner via e-mail?**
3. Frequently
4. Sometimes
5. Rarely
6. Never
7. **How often do you provide the office written authorization to communicate via email?**
   1. Always
   2. Sometimes
   3. Rarely
   4. Never
8. **In your opinion, how many of your past in-person interviews could have been equally as effective when conducted via face-to-face video conference?**
   1. Less than 25%
   2. Between 25% to 50%
   3. Between 50% to 75%
   4. Between 75% to 100%
9. **Based on your experiences with interviews, is there a need to increase awareness and/or training among examiners about interviews?**
10. Yes
11. No

1. **Do you think there are aspects of the interview process that can be improved?**
   1. Yes
   2. No
2. **Do you have any additional comments concerning interviews?**