

Document Retrieval (TSDR) system in the spring of 2022. By doing so, the USPTO is continuing with its efforts to move to full electronic processing of trademark applications and registrations. This change also updates USPTO practice to conform to customer requests and public comments the USPTO has received that indicated a strong preference to receive trademark registration certificates in a digital format rather than as a paper certificate. The change will make the certificates more accessible for trademark owners and decrease the time it takes for trademark owners to receive them.

After implementation, trademark registration certificates will no longer be issued by printing the registration certificate on paper and mailing it to the correspondence address of record. Instead, the USPTO will issue the registration electronically under the electronic signature of the Director and with a digital seal, which will serve to authenticate the registration. The USPTO will upload the official registration certificate to the TSDR database, and an electronic notice will be emailed to the trademark owner with a link to provide access to the certificate upon issue. Posted with the electronic registration certificate will be information regarding registration maintenance requirements pursuant to sections 8(d) and 71(c) of the Trademark Act of 1946. Trademark owners will be able to use the emailed link to view, download, and print a complete copy of the registration certificate at no charge at any time.

While the USPTO will no longer send a paper registration certificate upon issue, trademark owners will be able to obtain a printed copy of the first page of the issued registration that is suitable for framing. This document, known as a "presentation" copy, will be printed on heavy paper; feature a gold foil seal; identify the owner(s); and display bibliographic data, the trademark, and the classes of goods and/or services. Trademark owners who file an initial application on or after the implementation date will be able to order presentation copies for \$25 per copy through the Trademark Electronic Application System (TEAS). Trademark owners who filed an initial application before the implementation date will be able to order presentation copies for free using a TEAS form. Trademark owners will continue to be able to order certified copies of the trademark registration for a fee. The certified copy certifies the status and title of the registration and includes the signature of an authorized certifying officer.

Background

The USPTO has made significant efforts to implement end-to-end electronic processing of trademark applications and related submissions. End-to-end electronic processing means that an application and all application- and registration-related submissions are filed and processed electronically, and any related correspondence between the USPTO and the relevant party is conducted electronically. TEAS was established to provide applicants the capability of filing their trademark applications electronically, and TSDR provides real-time access to the electronic file wrappers of U.S. trademark applications and registrations, and displays information contained in USPTO records regarding documents filed under the Madrid system through the United States.

In December 2019, the USPTO added a quick-response code to the paper registration certificate that opens a digital version of the registration certificate in TSDR. This was a step toward providing an official digital registration certificate to replace the printed version. In February 2020, the USPTO began requiring, with limited exceptions, all filers to submit trademark application- and registration-related documents using TEAS. *See* Changes to the Trademark Rules of Practice To Mandate Electronic Filing (84 FR 69330, December 18, 2019). By mandating electronic filing of trademark applications and submissions concerning applications or registrations through TEAS, the final rule reduced paper processing to an absolute minimum. As part of the rule, and to prepare for the transition to electronic registration certificates, 37 CFR 2.151 was amended to delete the wording regarding sending the certificate of registration.

In an effort to further streamline the trademark application process, the USPTO is now planning to issue trademark registration certificates electronically. The USPTO currently issues approximately 6,000 to 9,000 printed trademark registration certificates per week. The printing process is costly and time-consuming. Each registration certificate must be reviewed by a team of in-house contractors, printed on special paper, and then mailed to customers. Once a paper trademark registration certificate is issued, a copy of the registration certificate is available for viewing and printing by the public in TSDR.

The electronic trademark issuance process would permit the USPTO to issue trademark registrations

approximately one to two weeks faster than the current paper process by discontinuing the printing, assembling, and mailing of a paper trademark registration certificate upon issuance. The trademark owner and the public would benefit from this time saved. For example, owners would be able to view and print their electronically issued trademark registrations through TSDR sooner, rather than waiting for their paper trademark registration certificate to be sent by mail.

The USPTO will review any comments received and will publish a notice reminding the public of the transition to electronic registration certificates approximately 30 days before the implementation date, once it is determined.

Andrew Hirshfeld,

Commissioner for Patents, Performing the Functions and Duties of the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Department of the Air Force

Notice of Intent To Grant a Partially-Exclusive Patent License in the Field of Wearables

AGENCY: Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Bayh-Dole Act and implementing regulations, the Department of the Air Force hereby gives notice of its intent to grant a Partially-Exclusive Patent License in the field of wearables to FlexEnergy LLC, a small business, limited liability corporation having a place of business at 6969 Worthington Galena Blvd., Suite D, Worthington, Ohio 43085.

DATES: Written objections must be filed no later than fifteen (15) calendar days after the date of publication of this Notice.

ADDRESSES: Submit written objections to Jeremy Gratsch, AFRL/RXOP, 2977 Hobson Way, WPAFB, OH 45433; Telephone: 937-255-0010; or email: jeremy.gratsch@us.af.mil. Include Docket No. ARX-211019B-PLA in the subject line of the message.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeremy Gratsch, AFRL/RXOP, 2977 Hobson Way, WPAFB, OH 45433; Telephone: 937-255-0010; or email: jeremy.gratsch@us.af.mil.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Department of the Air Force may grant the prospective license unless a timely objection is received that sufficiently shows the grant of the license would be inconsistent with the Bayh-Dole Act or implementing regulations. A competing application for a patent license agreement, completed in compliance with 37 CFR 404.8 and received by the Air Force within the period for timely objections, will be treated as an objection and may be considered as an alternative to the proposed license.

Abstract of Patent Application(s)

- A composite electrode. The composite electrode including an active material, a conductive additive, a binder, and a solvent. The composite electrode may be cast or printed.
- A method of applying a separator ink onto a dried electrode of a lithium ion battery. The method includes preparing a separator ink suspension, applying the separator ink suspension onto the dried electrode, and drying the applied separator ink suspension. The separator ink suspension includes a binder comprising 20 wt % to 50 wt % of a total weight of the separator ink suspension, the binder being selected from the group consisting of PVDF, PVDF-HFP, PTFE, PEO, PMMA, PAN, CNC, SBR, and combinations thereof; a solvent selected from the group consisting of NMP, DMF, acetone, DMAc, DMSO, trimethyl urea, triethyl phosphate, and combinations thereof; a non-solvent selected from the group consisting of glycerol, water, ethanol, methanol, ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol, hexane, heptane, and combinations thereof; and a ceramic filler comprising 50 wt % to 80 wt % of the total weight of the composite electrolyte the ceramic filler being selected from the group consisting of Al₂O₃, SiO₂, TiO₂, MgO, Li₂O, LiAlO₂, BaTiO₃, LAGP, LATP, LLTO, and combinations thereof.

Intellectual Property

- U.S. Application Publication No. 2020/0313182 and entitled “Bendable, Creasable, and Printable Batteries with Enhanced Safety and High Temperature Stability—Methods of Fabrication, and Methods of Using the Same,” published on 1 October 2020.
- U.S. Application Publication No. 2020/0313184 and entitled “Bendable, Creasable, and Printable Batteries with Enhanced Safety and High Temperature Stability—Methods of Fabrication, and Methods of Using

the Same,” published on 1 October 2020.

Tommy Lee,

Air Force Federal Register Liaison Officer.

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BILLING CODE 5001–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Accrediting Agencies Currently Undergoing Review for the Purposes of Recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education

AGENCY: U.S. Department of Education, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education.

ACTION: Call for written third-party comments.

SUMMARY: This notice provides information to members of the public on submitting written comments for accrediting agencies currently undergoing review for purposes of recognition by the U.S. Secretary of Education.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Herman Bounds, Director, Accreditation Group, Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 270–01, Washington, DC 20202, telephone: (202) 453–7615, or email: herman.bounds@ed.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This request for written third-party comments concerning the performance of accrediting agencies under review by the Secretary of Education is required by § 496(n)(1)(A) of the Higher Education Act (HEA) of 1965, as amended, and pertains to the winter 2023 meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI). The meeting date and location have not been determined but will be announced in a later **Federal Register** notice. In addition, a later **Federal Register** notice will describe how to register to provide oral comments at the meeting.

Agencies Under Review and Evaluation: The Department requests written comments from the public on the following accrediting agencies, which are currently undergoing review and evaluation by the Accreditation Group, and which will be reviewed at the winter 2023 NACIQI meeting.

The agencies are listed by the type of application each agency has submitted. Please note, each agency’s current scope of recognition is indicated below. If any agency requests a change to its scope of recognition, identified are both the

current scope of recognition and the requested scope of recognition.

Applications for Renewal of Recognition:

1. Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. Scope of recognition: Accreditation of nursing education programs and schools, both postsecondary and higher degree, which offer a certificate, diploma, or a recognized professional degree, including clinical doctorate, masters, baccalaureate, associate, diploma, and practical nursing programs in the United States and its territories, including those offered via distance education.

2. Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education. Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation of basic certificate, basic graduate nurse-midwifery, direct entry midwifery, and pre-certification nurse-midwifery education programs, including those programs that offer distance education.

3. American Physical Therapy Association, Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education. Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidate for Accreditation”) in the United States of physical therapist education programs leading to the first professional degree at the master’s or doctoral level and physical therapist assistant education programs at the associate degree level and for its accreditation of such programs offered via distance education.

4. Higher Learning Commission. Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidate for Accreditation”) of degree-granting institutions of higher education in the United States, including the tribal institutions, and the accreditation of programs offered via distance education and correspondence education within these institutions. This recognition extends to the Institutional Actions Council jointly with the Board of Trustees of the Commission for decisions on cases for continued accreditation or reaffirmation, and continued candidacy, and to the Appeals Body jointly with the Board of Trustees of the Commission for decisions related to initial candidacy or accreditation or reaffirmation of accreditation.

5. Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Scope of recognition: The accreditation and preaccreditation (“Candidacy status”) of institutions of higher education in Delaware, the District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and