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The inventor community is concerned about:

- a. the unprecedented delays in receiving an initial USPTO Office Action (In most cases, cash-stretched inventors/entrepreneurs need an early decision on IP rights in order to gain further funding or to plan future directions.);
- b. the obvious lack of examiner training and adequate time allotted to perform a reasonable examination (competent, timely, thorough first actions) without forcing applicants to pursue continuing applications through RCE, Continuations-in-Part (This situation has become routine.);
- c. the examiners' lack of understanding of the (subject) technical field or industry and the pressing needs of independent inventors/entrepreneurs for low cost and timely process (perhaps special interface between inventors and examiners, for example in the Training Academy would broaden the new examiners' concept of where they influence society);
- d. the increasingly high costs of representation and USPTO fees...particularly where examiner actions almost always require unwarranted, extended prosecution;
- e. USPTO and Dept of Commerce global negotiations relative to sensitive issues such as First-Inventor-to-File and Grace Period without a greater effort to include the Independent inventor/entrepreneur in the process;
- f. the continued threat/possibility of fee diversion from USPTO's Users' Fees to unrelated programs...and on-going diversions to programs less significant than supporting inventor applicants, or those that could be supported elsewhere (For example, if fees are to be diverted, they should flow to such programs as an initiative to better prepare the public for use of the US patent system. Costs for the latter would be offset as better applications and more selective filing decisions result downstream.);
- g. the need for regional USPTO branches or help centers, or a concerted use by the USPTO of regional/local institutions such as libraries, SBDC's, incubators, etc. as innovation support network - - perhaps training/certifying local or regional contractors;
- h. the need for re-establishing a fully funded/staffed, high profile, dedicated and proactive inventor advocate program office with/in the USPTO DIRECTOR's OFFICE. (Under Bush #2, the *Office of Independent Inventor Programs* was downgraded from the Office of the Under Secretary to *ad hoc* "project status" with a single part time employee and occasional detailees...and assigned to the Office of the Commissioner for Patents).
- i. the need for more teeth in the anti-invention-marketing-scam efforts.

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