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The After Final Consideration Pilot 2.0 program has been extended for another year. What is it and how could my patent application benefit from it? We will provide you with an overview.

## After Final Consideration Pilot 2.0 Extended for Another Year

Great news! The United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) just extended its After Final Consideration Pilot 2.0 (AFCP 2.0) for another year, until **September 30, 2019**.

AFCP 2.0 is a program that provides applicants with one additional opportunity to place finally rejected claims in condition for allowance without needing to file a Request for Continued Examination (RCE), which is expensive and is currently extremely backlogged at the USPTO.

In order to take advantage of the program, applicants must submit a response to a final office action which includes an amendment to at least one independent claim that does not broaden the scope of the independent claim in any aspect. Furthermore, the applicant must make a statement indicating that the applicant is willing and available for an examiner-initiated interview.

The pilot has been going on for several years now and seems to be successful in implementing its main goal of reducing the backlog of RCEs and streamlining the patent examination process through better applicant – examiner communication.

We at Eagle IP have been taking advantage of this program as often as possible, which has resulted in clients saving money from not having to file an RCE immediately after receiving a final rejection. We have had success receiving patent allowances after responding under this program. We are optimistic that the program will not go away anytime soon, and we have been recommending this strategy frequently to many of our clients.

We will keep you updated for further development. Stay tuned for more important updates on IP law.

Please contact us with any questions: [eip@eipgroup.asia](mailto:eip@eipgroup.asia).

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