

Press Release



USPTO ushers in new era with introduction of electronic patent grants

WASHINGTON—Beginning April 18, 2023, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) is shifting towards issuing paper waste-reducing [electronic patent grants \(eGrants\)](#) to patent recipients—a new process that delivers the official copy of patent grants in an electronic format. We will provide a bound paper version as a ceremonial copy throughout a limited transition period, and then for a nominal fee thereafter.

“By issuing eGrants, we’re making considerable strides toward more environmentally-conscious operations at the USPTO,” said Kathi Vidal, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO. “Providing 21st century service to our stakeholders means shifting our processes to reflect 21st century policies. The eGrant process not only minimizes paper waste, but it also benefits stakeholders by reducing pendency and streamlining the process. It’s a win-win for the agency and for our customers.”

The eGrant process significantly decreases USPTO’s printing and mailing needs, potentially reducing patent pendency, and saving the agency nearly \$2 million in annual printing and mailing costs. Further, under the new process, patent recipients will receive their electronic patent grant in PDF format on the day of issuance.

During the transition period, patent awardees will have access to the eGrant official copy in Patent Center and receive the bound paper version as a ceremonial copy. Patent recipients may still request USPTO certified copies and presentation copies from the [USPTO’s certified copy](#)

[center](#) for an additional fee. Unlimited free copies of eGrants can also be printed from USPTO's online Patent Center. The agency already provides electronic trademark registration certificates to trademark owners.

For more information, read the [full Federal Register Notice](#) or visit the [eGrant webpage](#) on the USPTO website, where you can find our [eGrant FAQ document](#) and additional information.

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