

USPTO: JOINT-PROJECT AGREEMENT

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Since the Academy's inception, NAI and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) have worked together to enhance the innovation ecosystem. In 2022, the Academy and the USPTO deepened that partnership with a Joint-Project Agreement (JPA), which aims to broaden access in the invention and innovation ecosystems. With this five-year agreement, both parties are seeking to expand access of NAI and USPTO resources to historically under-served communities, which include minorities, women, veterans, and individuals with disabilities. The Academy has undertaken several initiatives already as part of this JPA, with many more on the horizon.

In the spring of 2023, the Academy launched its first Language Study developed to better understand how to best communicate IP programs and services to innovators, educators, and students, with the intent to drive diversity and inclusion within the academic innovation ecosystem. The study seeks to better understand what channels the target market is tuned into and what language will resonate with them to encourage their participation in IP resources. Participants included NAI Member Institutions, non-member academic institutions, and individuals from the innovation ecosystem to obtain a comprehensive view of what language and channels are the most effective and accessible to under-served communities.

The Academy is currently working on several initiatives that align with the JPA which include, but are not limited to, the creation of the Academy's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Board and expanding our IP curriculum and certification to provide more, accessible resources for underrepresented innovators and entrepreneurs, as well as expanding our GAIN mentoring program and platform.

In addition to the JPA, NAI became signatories on the Increasing Diversity in Innovation Pledge, spearheaded by the US IP Alliance (USIPA), in the fall of 2022. The Academy, as an organization, also serves as a member on the USIPA's Executive Strategic Committee and Board.

Learn more about the Increasing Diversity in Innovation Pledge, >