

Measures to reduce backlogs in JPO

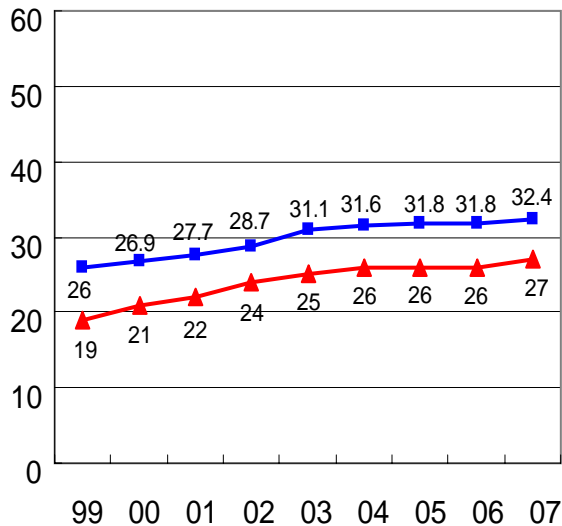
Administrative Affairs Division
First Patent Examination Department

Backlog problem

Pendency is prolonged in Trilateral Offices.

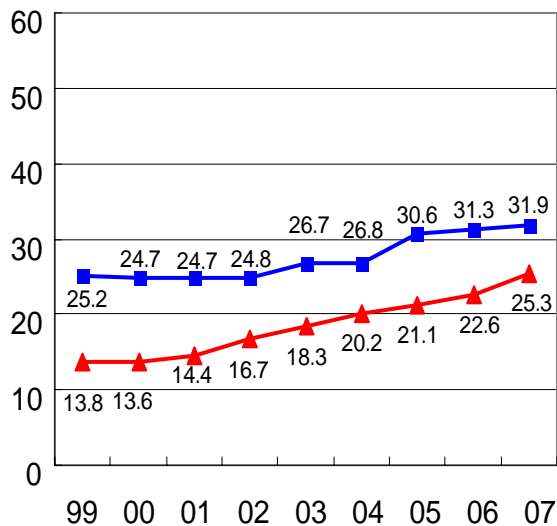
JPO

(Months)



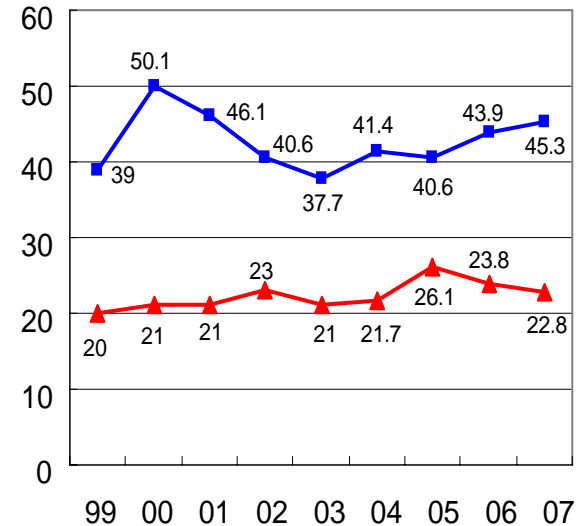
USPTO

(Months)



EPO

(Months)



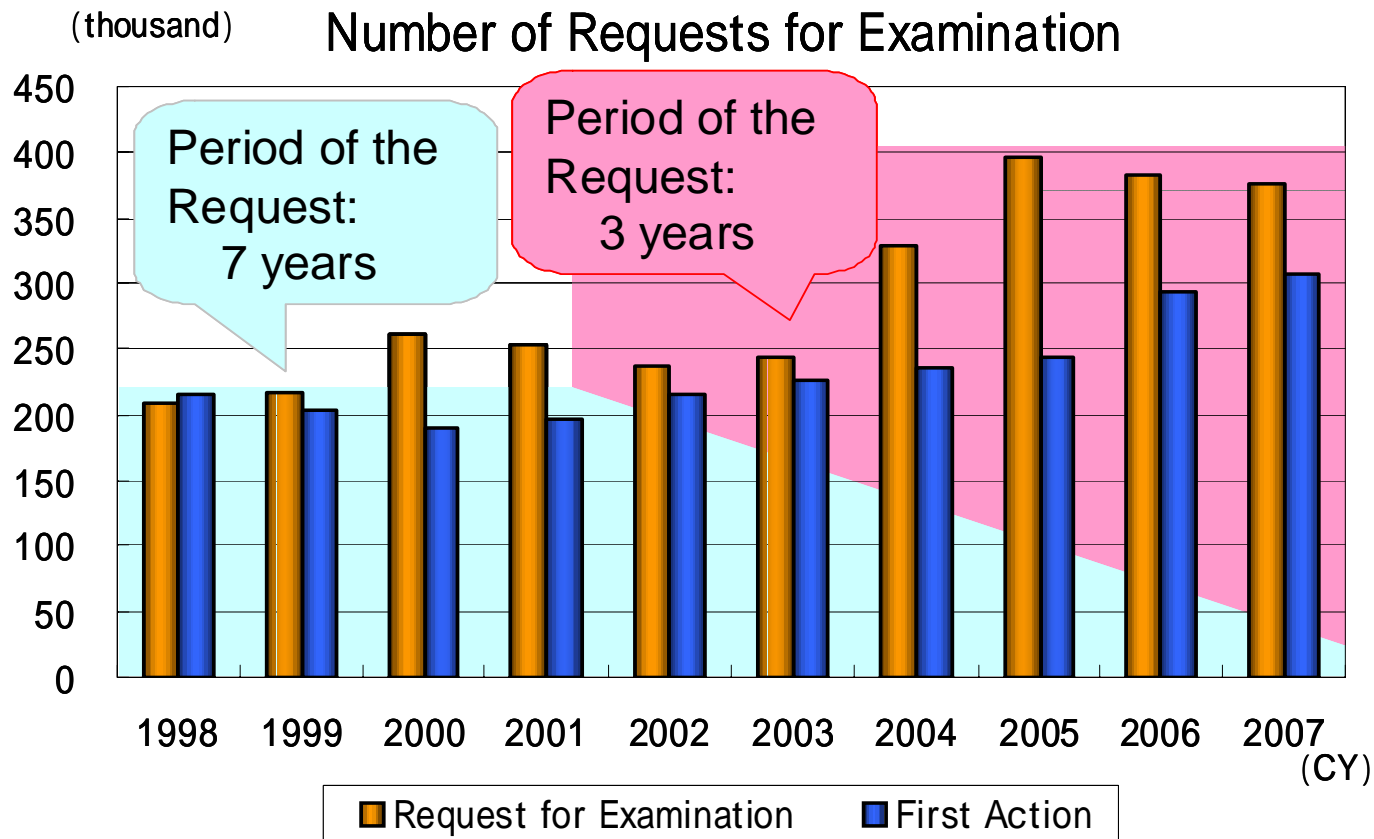
▲ First Action Pendency ■ Total Pendency

(Ref.) JPO: JPO Annual Reports
EPO: Trilateral Statistical Reports
USPTO: USPTO Annual Reports

Backlog problem

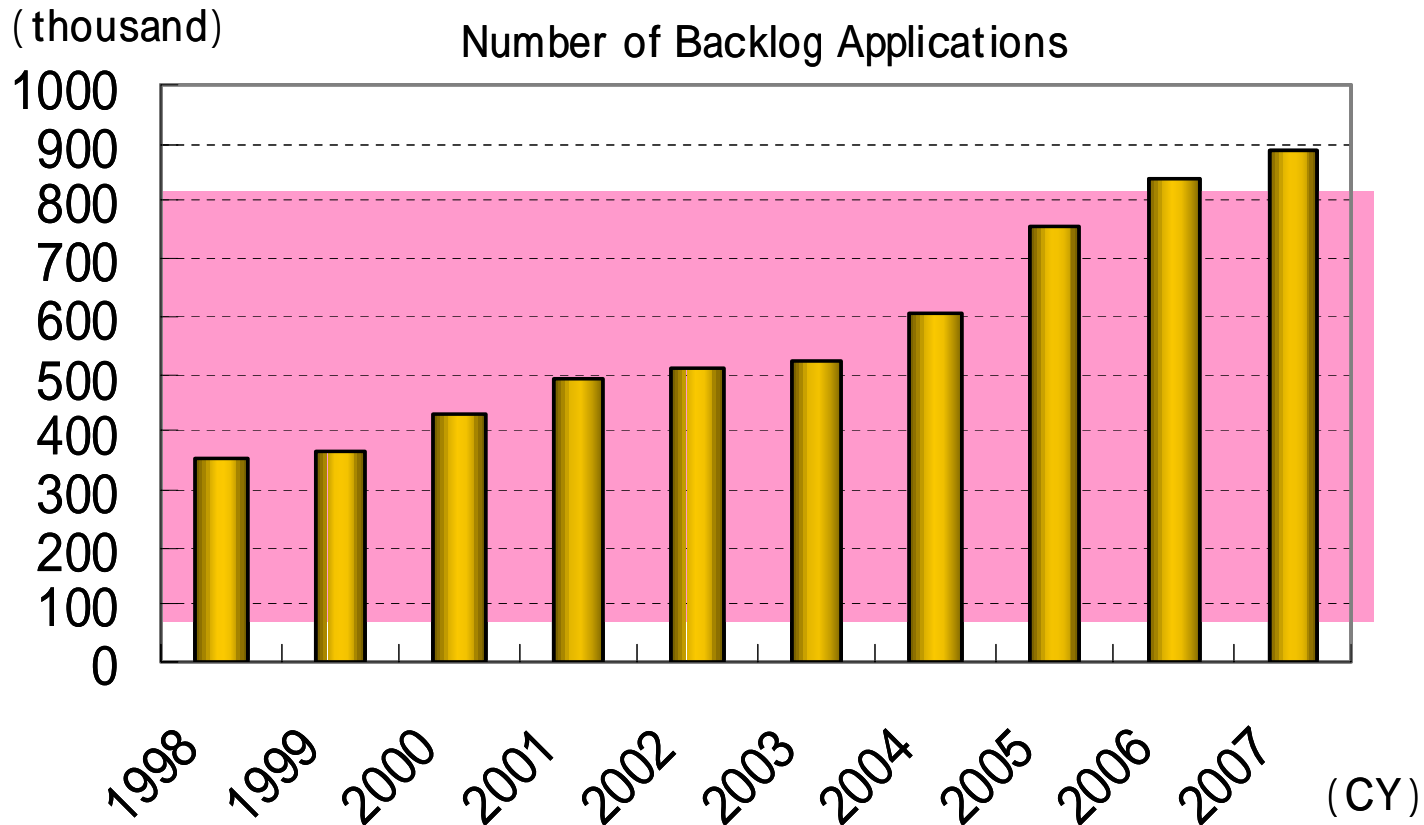
Period of Requests for Examination: 7 years 3 years (Oct. 2001)

- {
- “Bump” in the number of Requests for Examination
 - Examination rate: 57.4%(CY2000) 66.2%(CY2007)



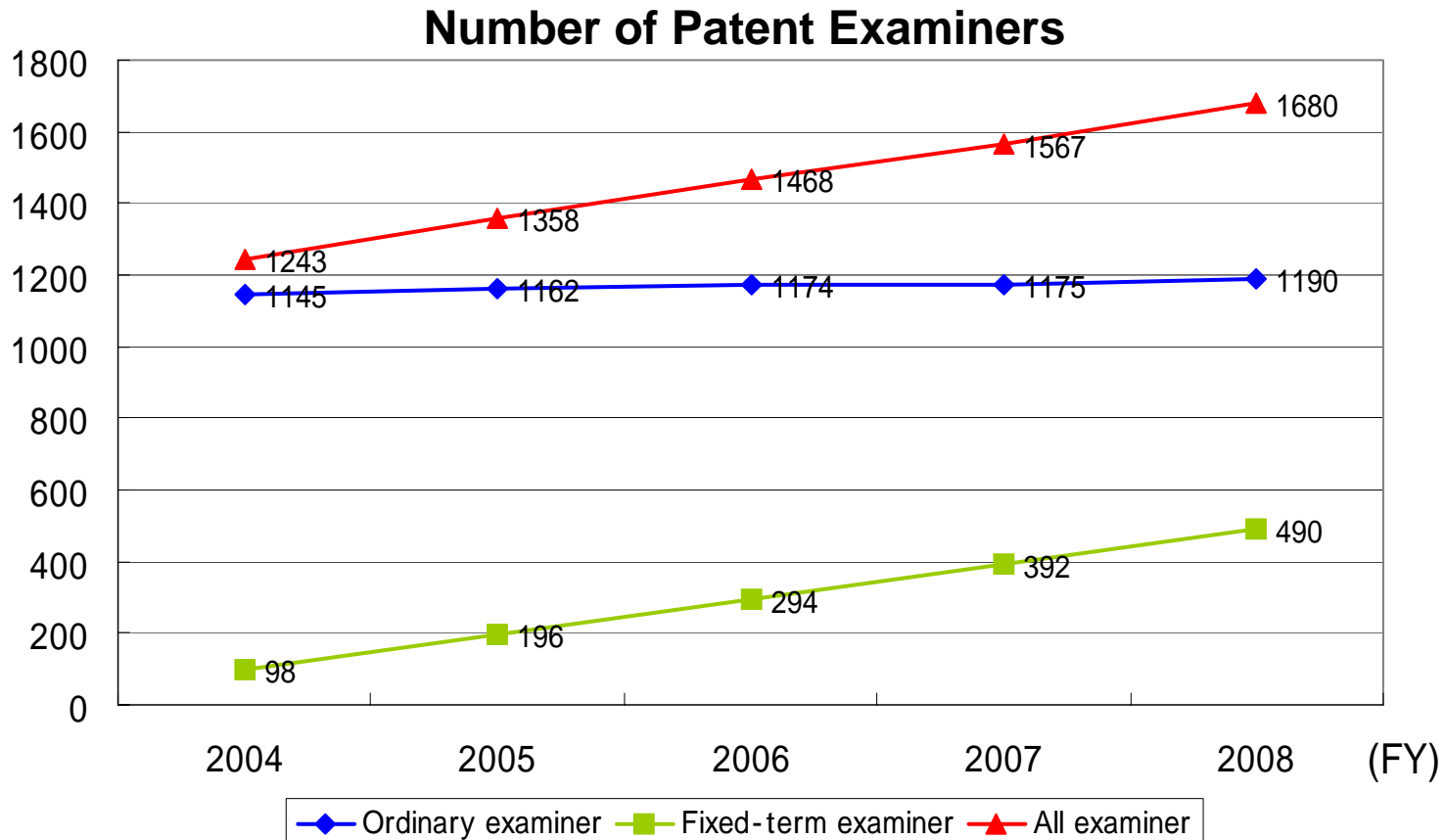
Backlog problem

Number of backlog applications is drastically increasing.



Securing the necessary number of examiners

JPO will continue its efforts to strengthen its human resources by increasing the number of examiners.



Two methods of outsourcing prior art searches

- JPO outsources prior art searches.
- Two types of outsourcing { Report by paper
Report by dialog

(1) Report by paper

(efficiency increase: 20%)

Search reports (paper) drafted by searchers can reduce workload of examiners.



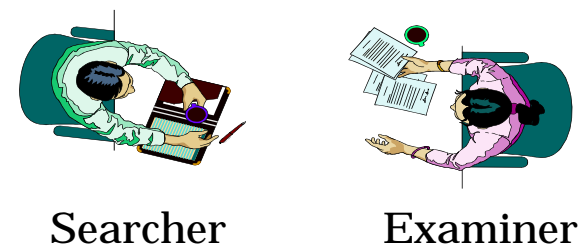
Report by paper

(2) Report by dialog

(efficiency increase: 50%)

Dialog between searchers and examiners using search reports helps examiners quickly and efficiently understand applications and prior art.

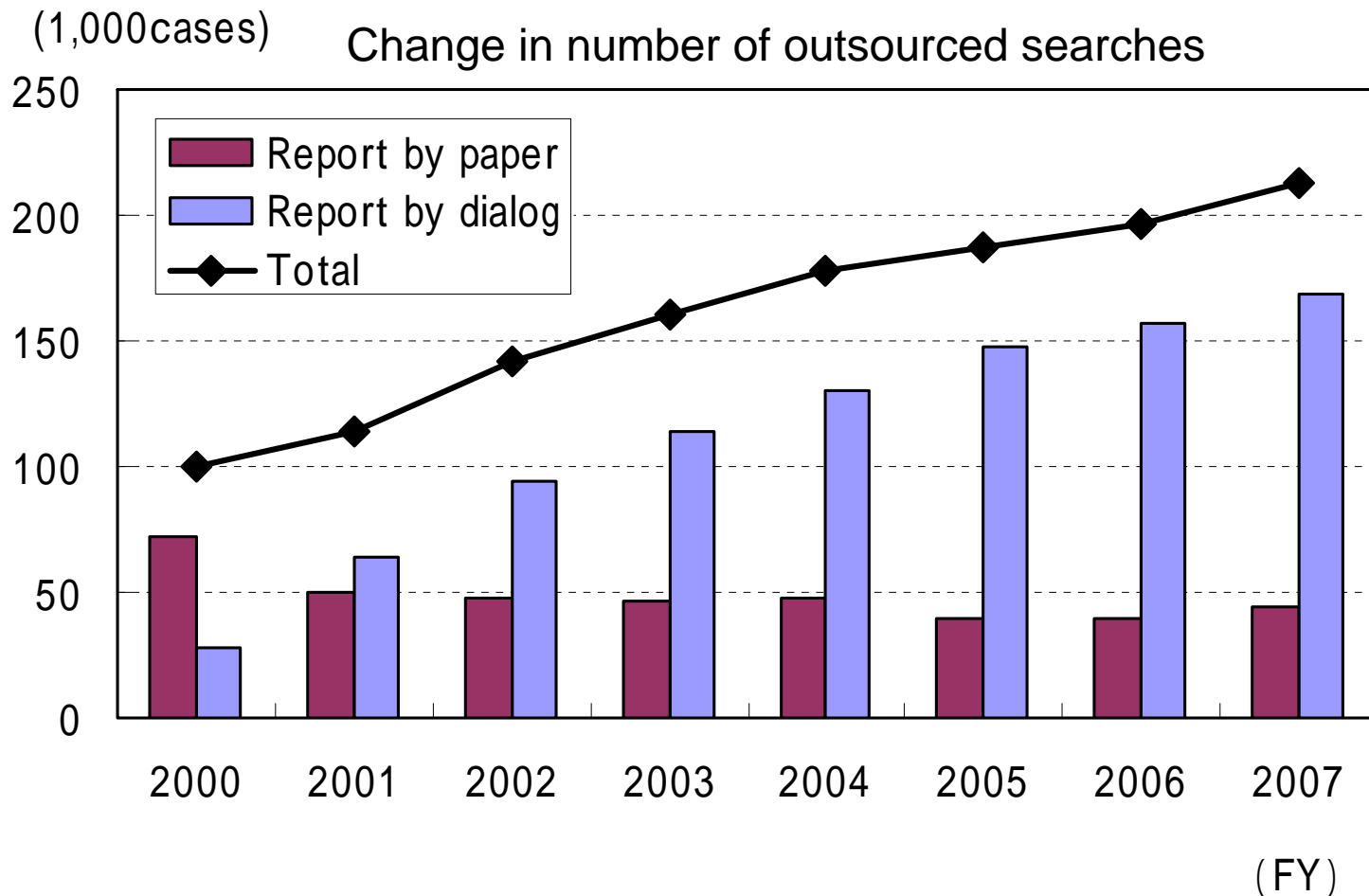
Examiners instruct searchers to conduct additional searches as needed.



Report by dialog

Increase in outsourcing of prior art searches

- The number of outsourced searches is increasing.
- Most of the outsourced searches are “Report by dialog” type.

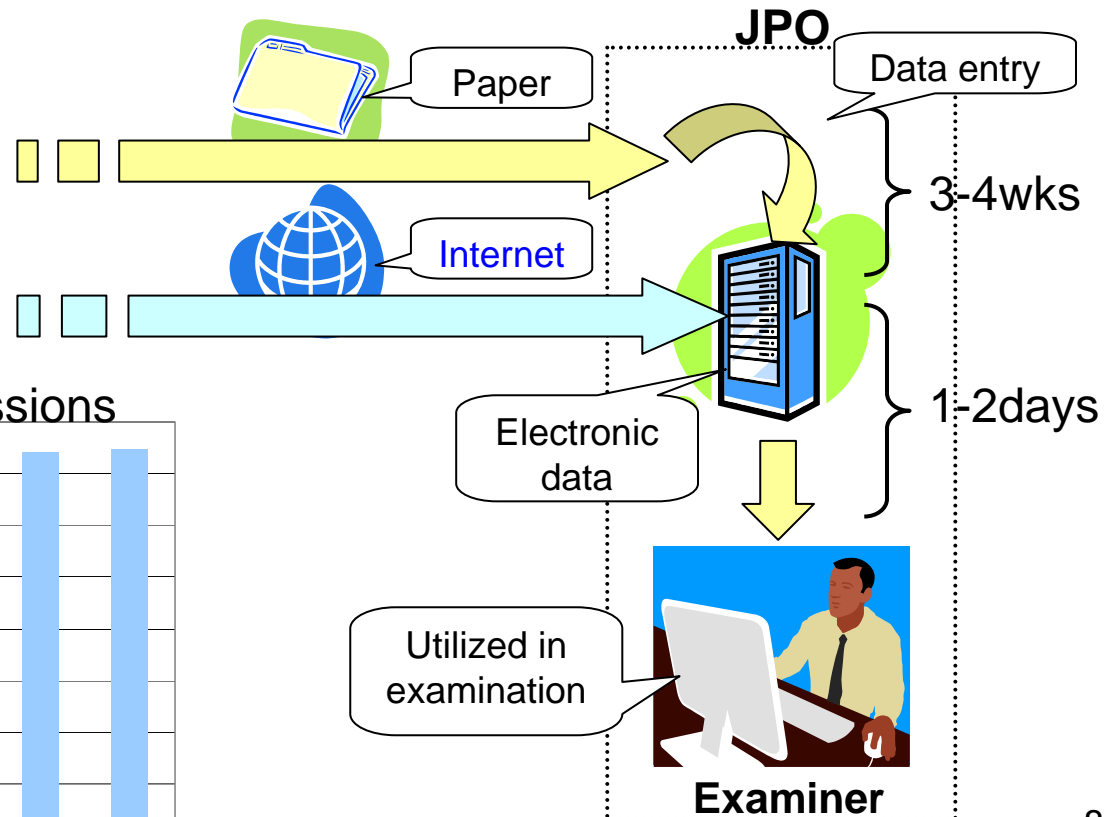


Submission of information by third parties

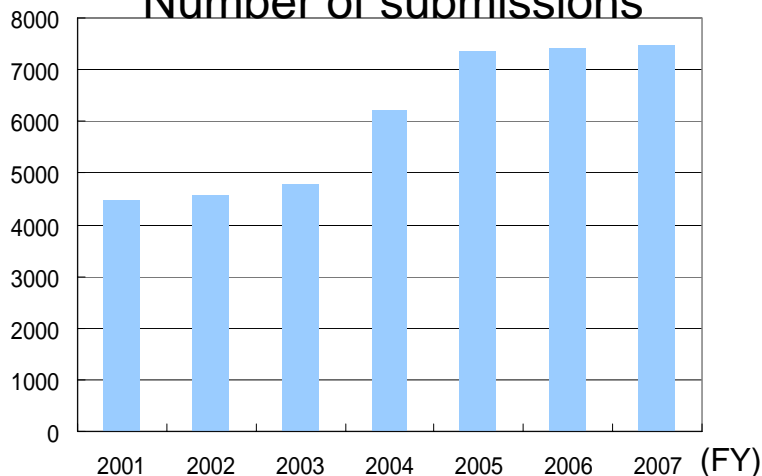
- Third parties may submit supportive information, such as, *prior arts, Information regarding description requirements.*
- Rate of information utilization: **76%** (on an application basis)
- **Internet** submission is also available. (since Jan. 2009)

Third parties

onymous / anonymous

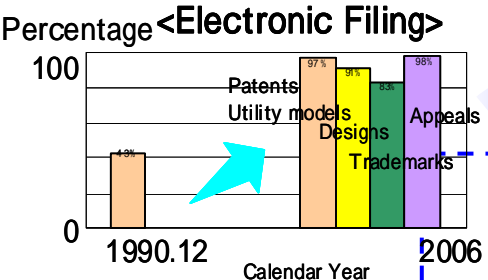


Number of submissions

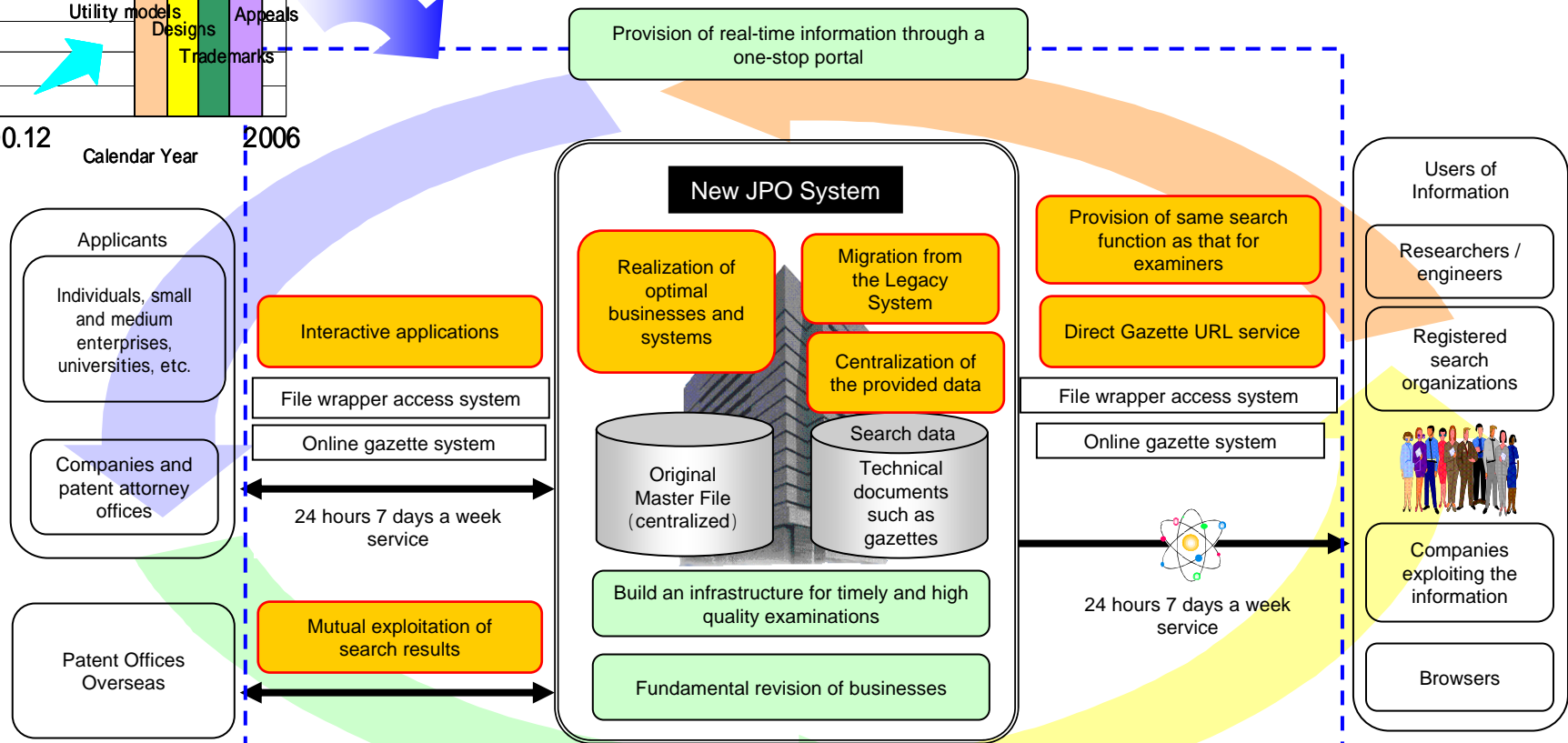


Plan for Optimization of JPO Operations and Systems

Optimization of { Operations Systems } → Efficient examination

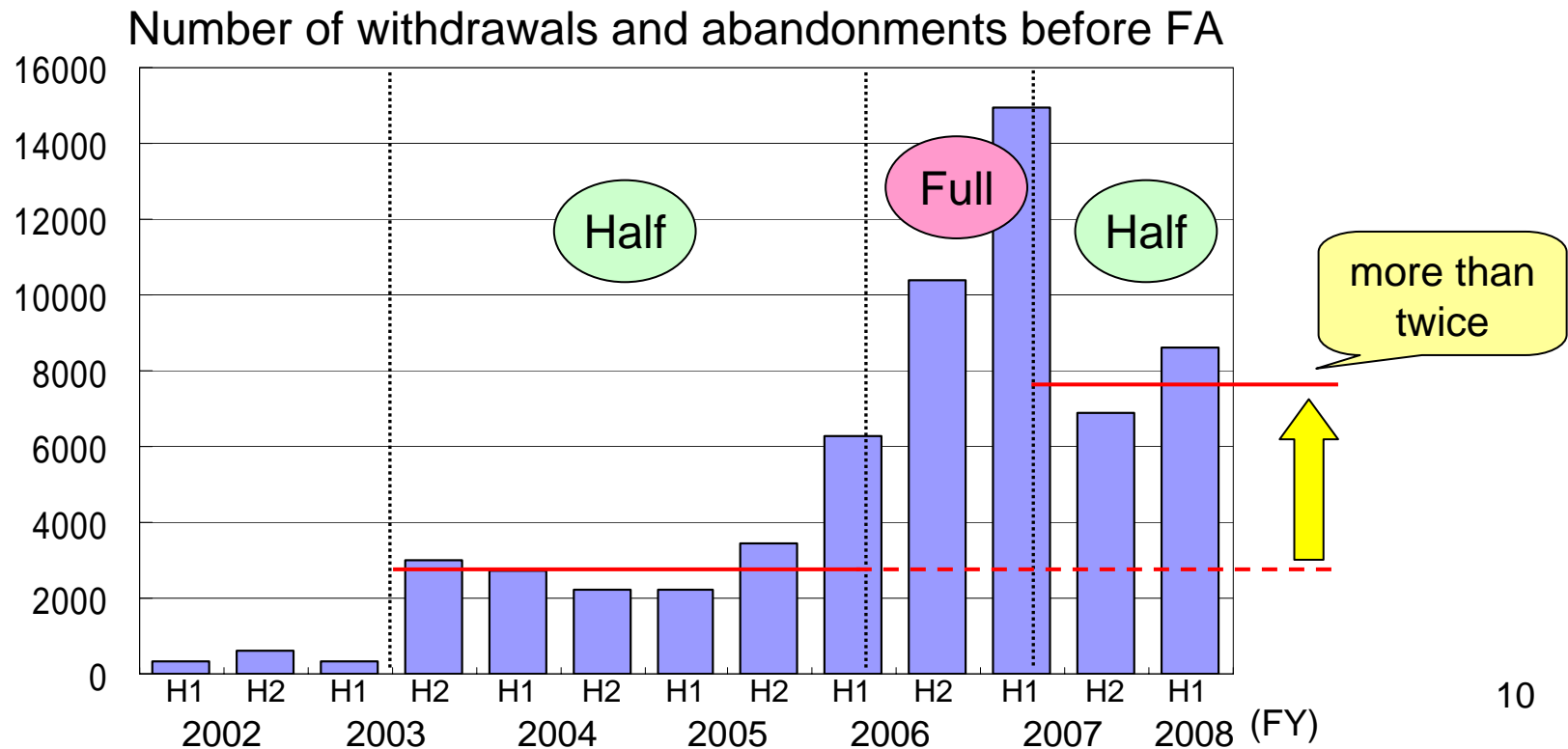


< Optimization of JPO Operations and Systems >



Refund system on examination request fee

- Half amount of the examination request fee is refunded to an applicant when
 - Withdrawal or abandonment is submitted before FA, and
 - Request for refund is made within 6 months
- Full amount of the examination request fee was refunded from Aug. 9, 2006 to Aug. 8, 2007



Future prospect

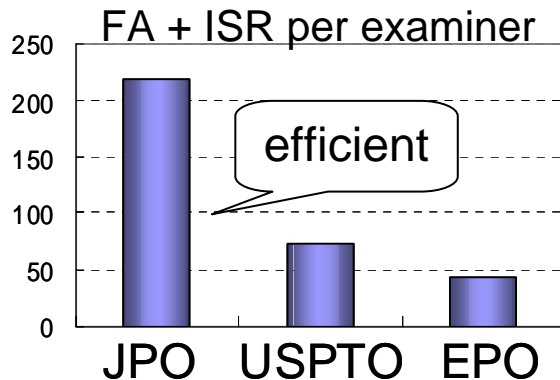
- JPO continues to promote examination efficiency and encourage applicants to review their applications.
- FA > Request for Examination (since May. 2008)

Increase of number of FA

- Increase of human resources
- Promotion of examination efficiency (eg. Outsourcing, System, Work Sharing)

Rationalization of number of applications to examine

- Termination of the “Bump” period
- Encouragement of applicants’ review (eg. Refund system)



Backlog has begun to decrease.