

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

uspto

Patent Public Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

Interview Practice

Tim Callahan

Director, Technology Center 3700

Tariq Hafiz

Director, Technology Center 3600

August 3, 2017

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Interview Practice @ USPTO

- Interview Trends
- Automated Interview Requests (AIR)
- Resources
- Looking Ahead



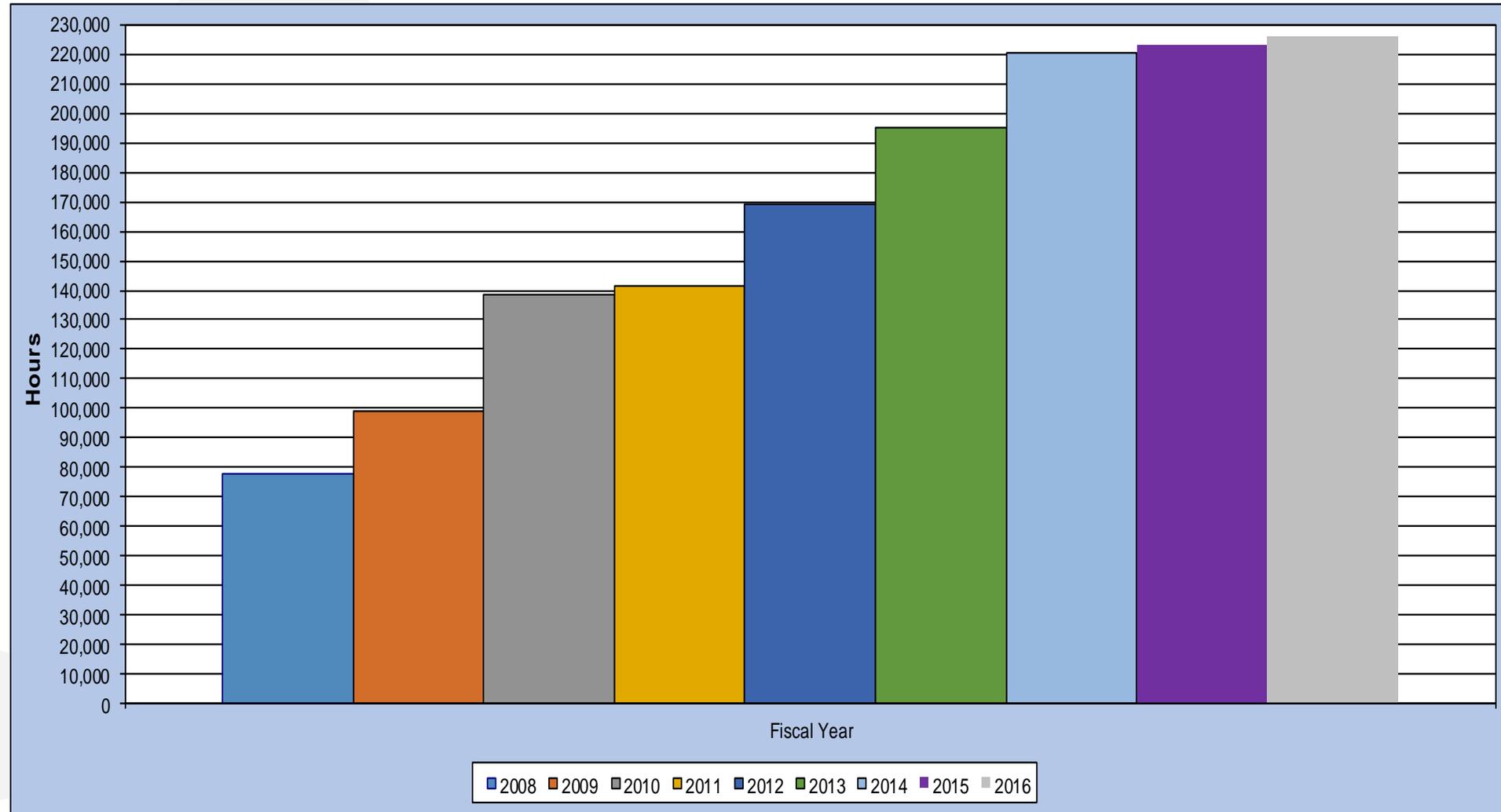
Interview Practice

TRENDS

uspto

Interview Time

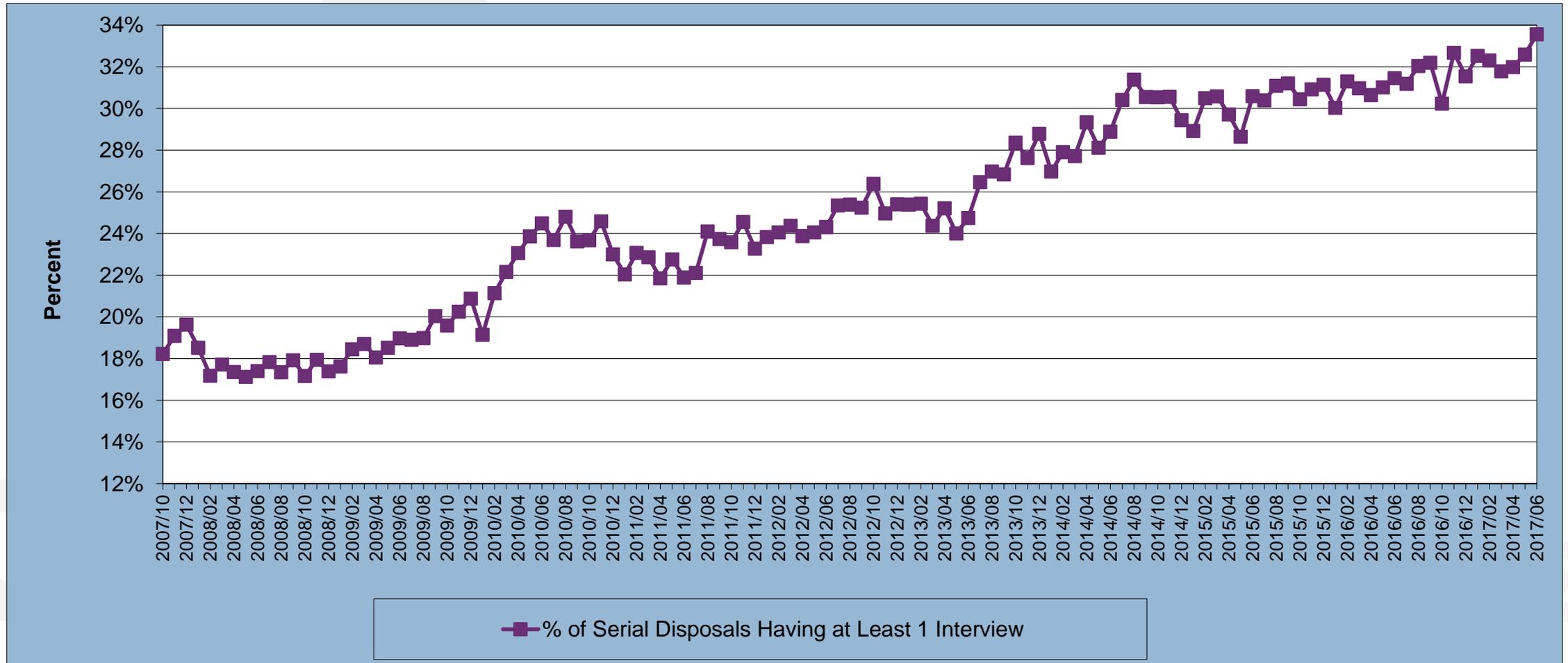
FY 2008 – FY 2016



oto

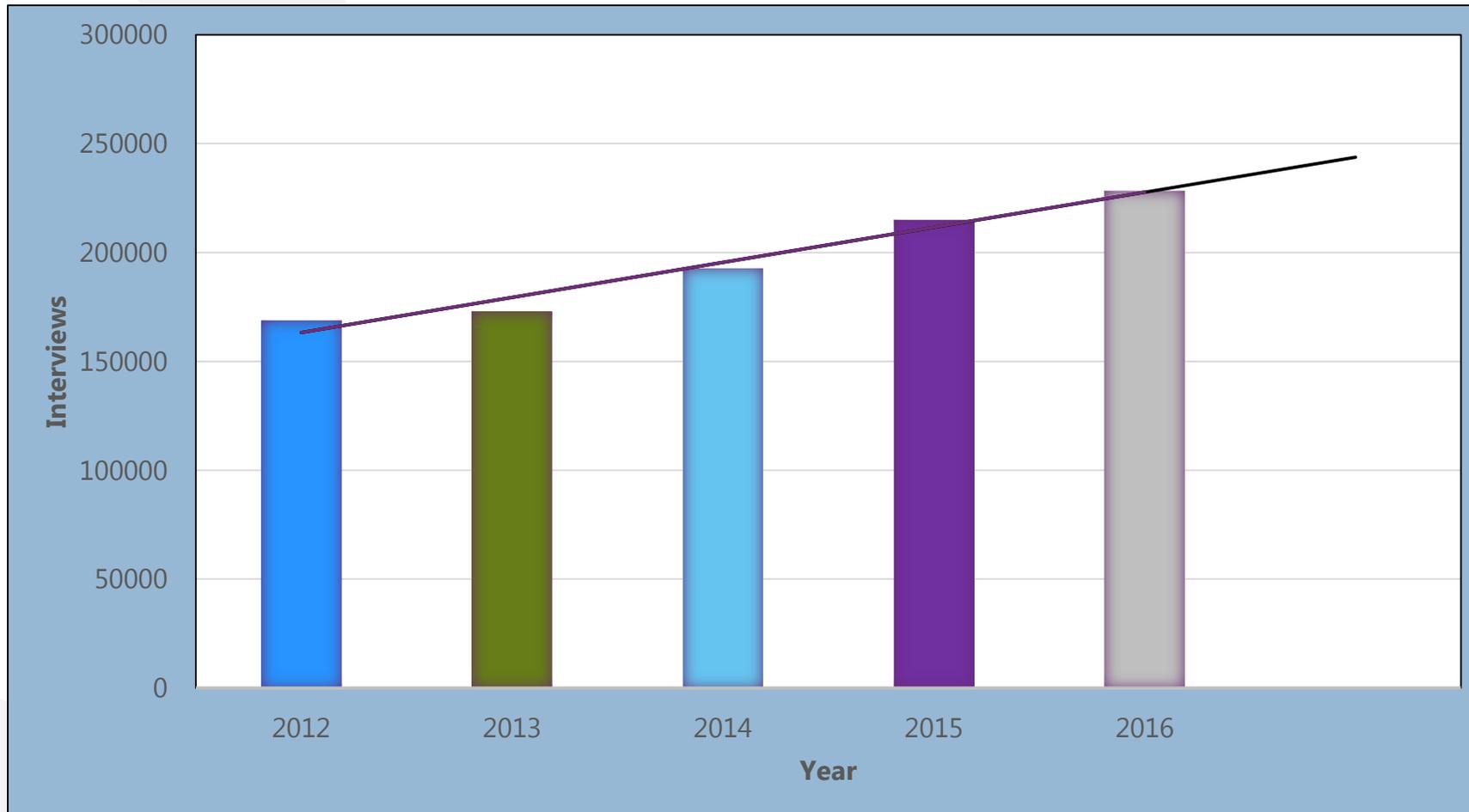
Percent of Serial Disposals Having at Least One Interview - by Month

FY 2008 – FY 2016

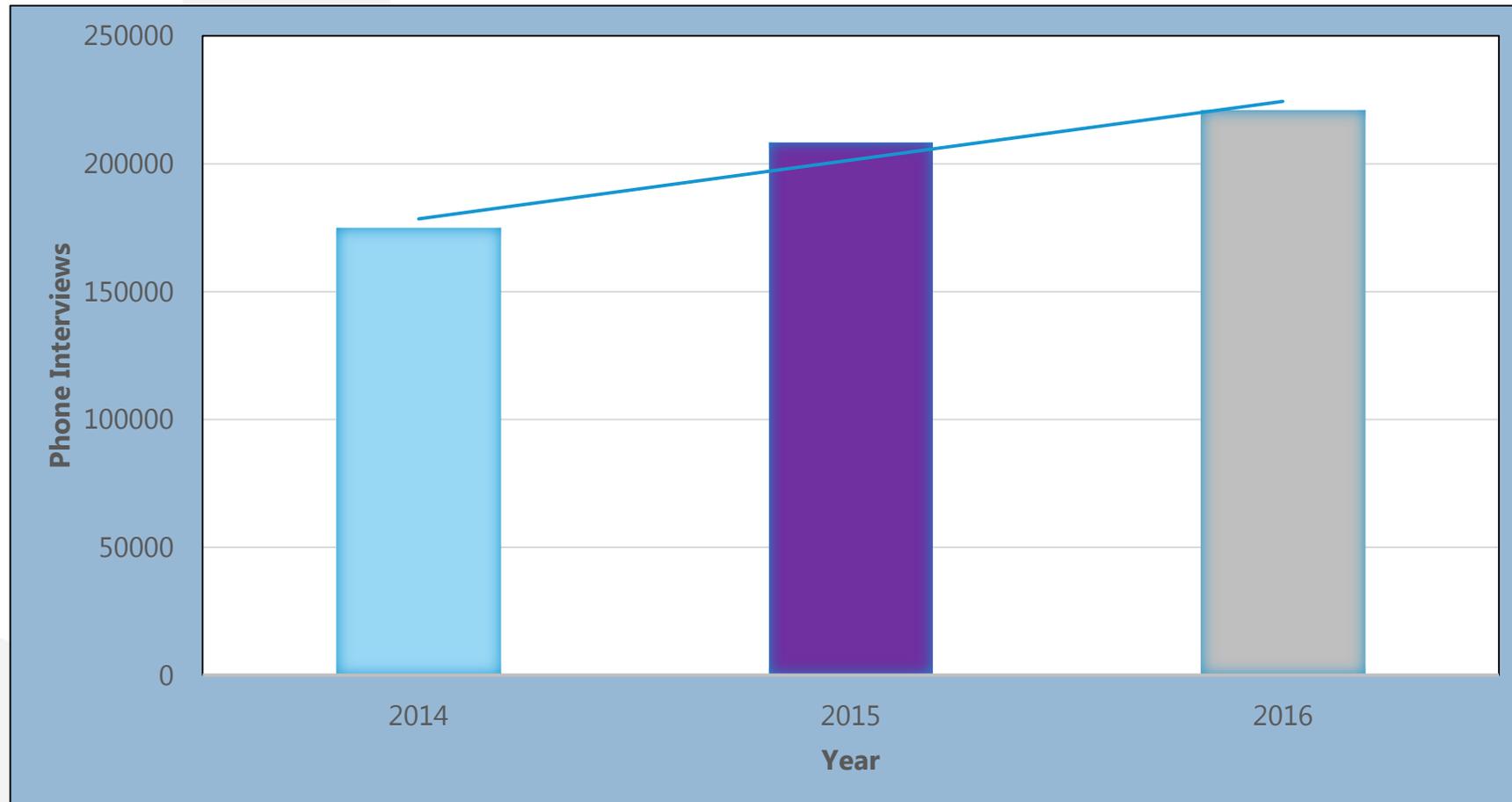


Total Interviews

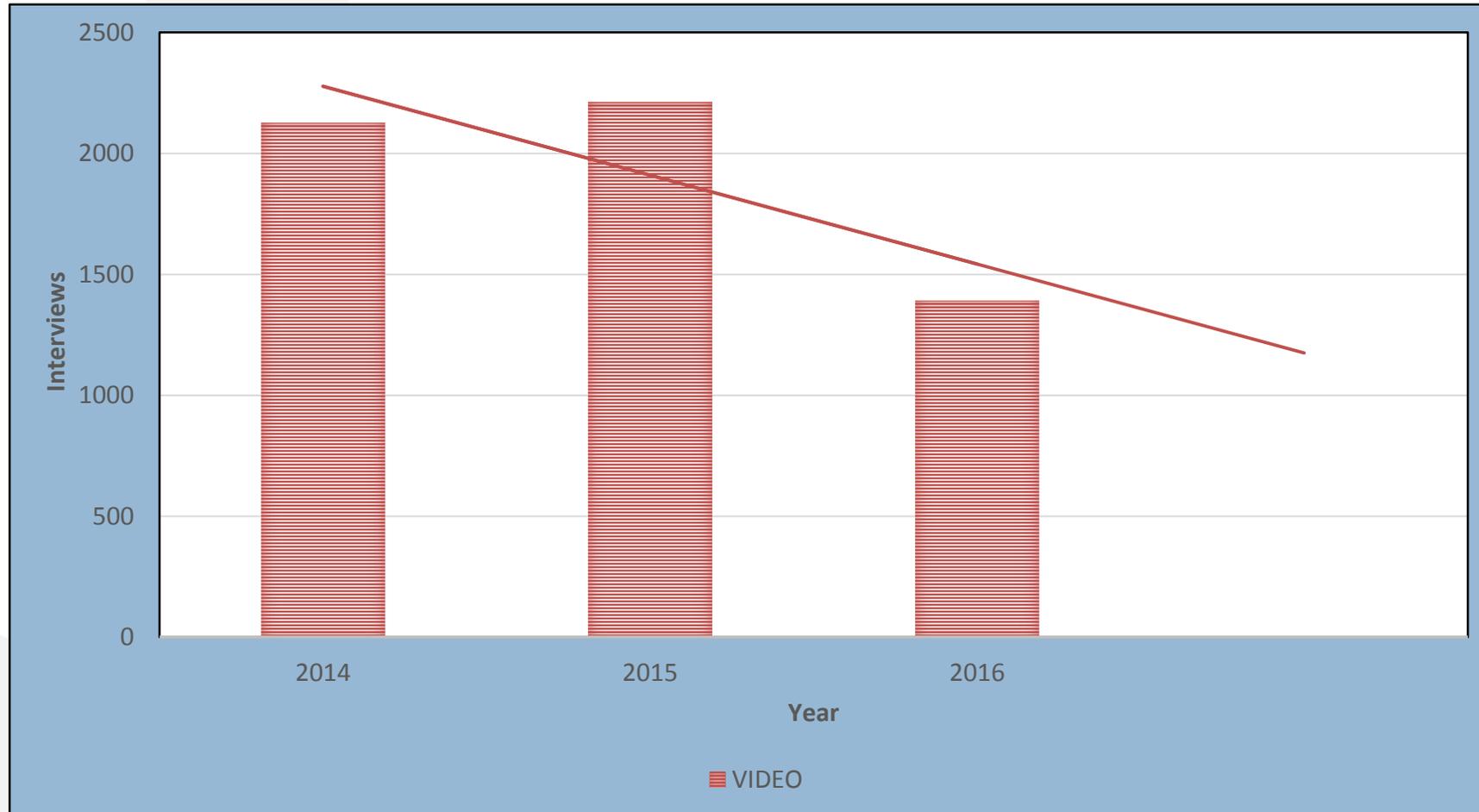
FY2012 – FY 2016



Phone Interviews 2014-2016



Video Conference Interviews FY2014 – FY2016



Interview Practice

AUTOMATED INTERVIEW REQUESTS (AIR)

uspto

Automated Interview Requests

Interview Practice

Interviews enable Applicants and Examiners to discuss and resolve issues and are an effective tool to advance the prosecution of an application. The USPTO encourages Examiners to take a proactive approach to examination by reaching out and engaging our stakeholders in order to shorten prosecution.

1 USPTO AIR

2 TC Interview Specialist

3 Video Conference

4 Policy and Guidance

5 Training and FAQs

6 Federal Register Notice

7 Contact Us

USPTO AIR



A new web-based tool that allows Applicants to schedule an interview with an Examiner for their pending patent application.

Complete the form.

Watch USPTO's Interview Practice short video below for a brief introduction to the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) tool and other available USPTO interview resources. AIR is a convenient online form for submitting requests for interviews. After the form is submitted, an examiner will email you to confirm your request within two business days.



<https://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>

uspto

AIR Form

- New web-based tool
- Permits Applicants to schedule an interview with an examiner



USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) Form

Automated Interview Request Form (SB-15)
Approved for use through 7/31/2016, OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

- * This paper requesting to schedule and/or conduct an interview is appropriate because:
- I have previously submitted an authorization for internet communications in a patent application. See form SB/0439.
 - I am concurrently submitting an authorization to communicate via the internet. See form SB/0439.
 - This submission is requested to be accepted as an authorization for this interview to communicate via the internet. Recognizing that Internet communications are not secure, I hereby authorize the USPTO to communicate with the undersigned concerning scheduling of the interview via video conference, instant messaging, or electronic mail, and to conduct the interview in accordance with office practice including video conferencing.

* I understand that a copy of this communication will be made of record in the application file.

*Name(s):

*S-signature: (See 37 CFR 1.4(d)(2) (/Name/))

Registration Number: (5 Digit Numeric Only: 12345)

*U.S. Application Number: (8 Digit Numeric Only: 12345678)

*Confirmation Number: (4 Digit Numeric Only: 1234)

*E-mail Address:

*Phone Number: (10 Digit Numeric Only: 0123456789)

*Proposed Date and Time of Requested Interview must be more than one (1) week after today:
(Note: Confirmation of actual interview date and time will be arranged between examiner and requester)

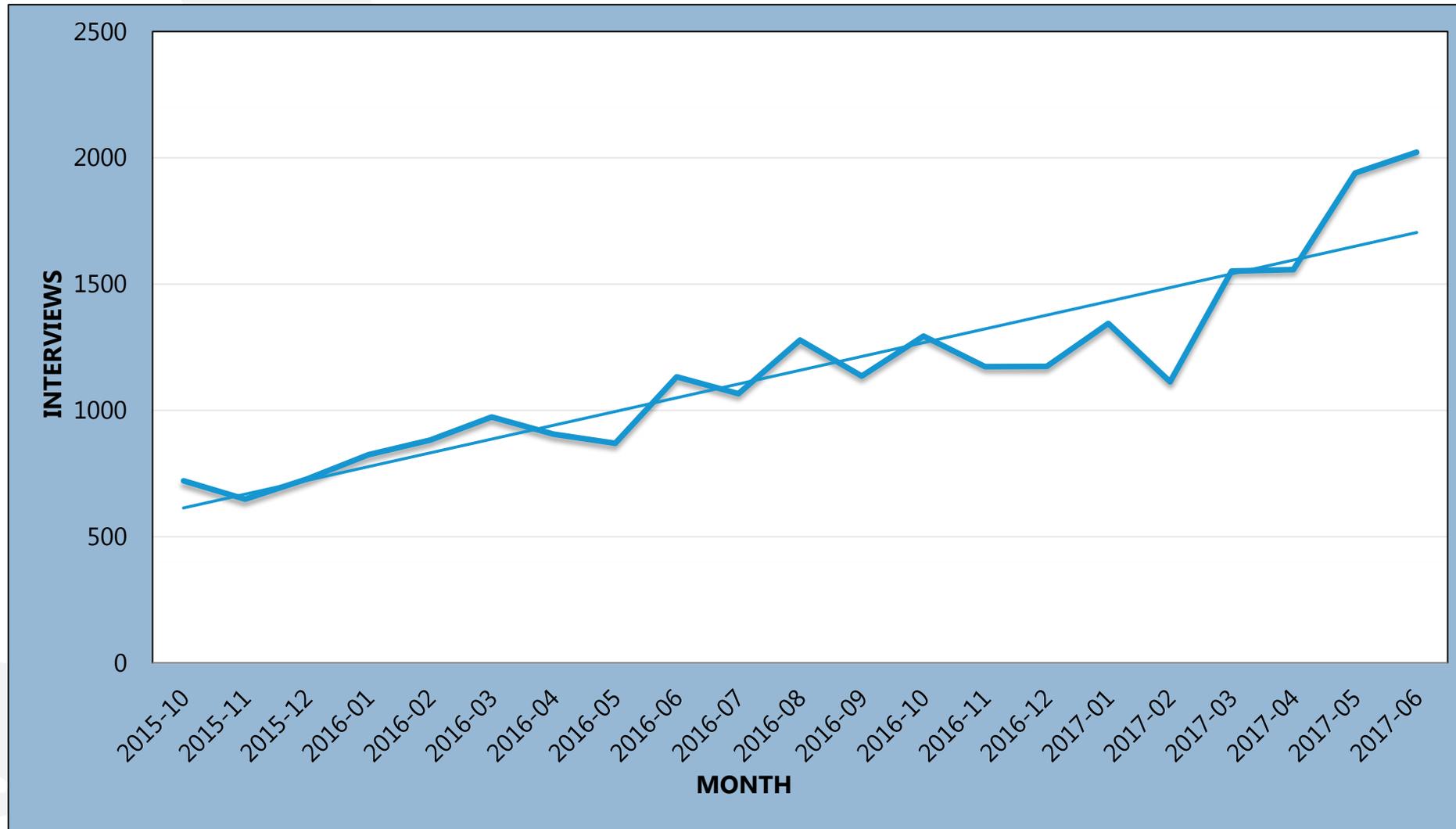
MM DD YYYY Time Eastern Time

*Proposed Type of Interview: (Examiners working remotely will offer Video Conference or Telephonic interviews)

* I am the applicant or applicant's representative for this application.

* Indicates fields that are required
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to prosecute (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 24 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.

Automated Interview Requests



New Form Paragraph

Starting January 2017 – New paragraph in Office Actions:

Examiner interviews are available via telephone, in-person, and video conferencing using a USPTO supplied web-based collaboration tool. To schedule an interview, applicant is encouraged to use the USPTO Automated Interview Request (AIR) at <http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>.



Interview Practice

RESOURCES

uspto

Interview Practice Website

- **Visit our website to find out more about:**
 - USPTO Air form
 - Video Conferencing
 - TC Interview Specialist
 - Policy and Guidance
 - Training and FAQs

<http://www.uspto.gov/interviewpractice>

Video Conferencing Interviews

- Internet Usage Policy has been updated to permit oral authorization for video conferencing interviews
- MPEP § 502.03 now allows a oral request to authorize a video conferencing interview, instead of submitting a written request.
- **USPTO also has a new form PTO/SB/439 which makes it easier to give internet authorization and is available via EFS-WEB.**
- One-on-one WebEx training with an interview specialist is available by request to ExaminerInterviewPractice@uspto.gov

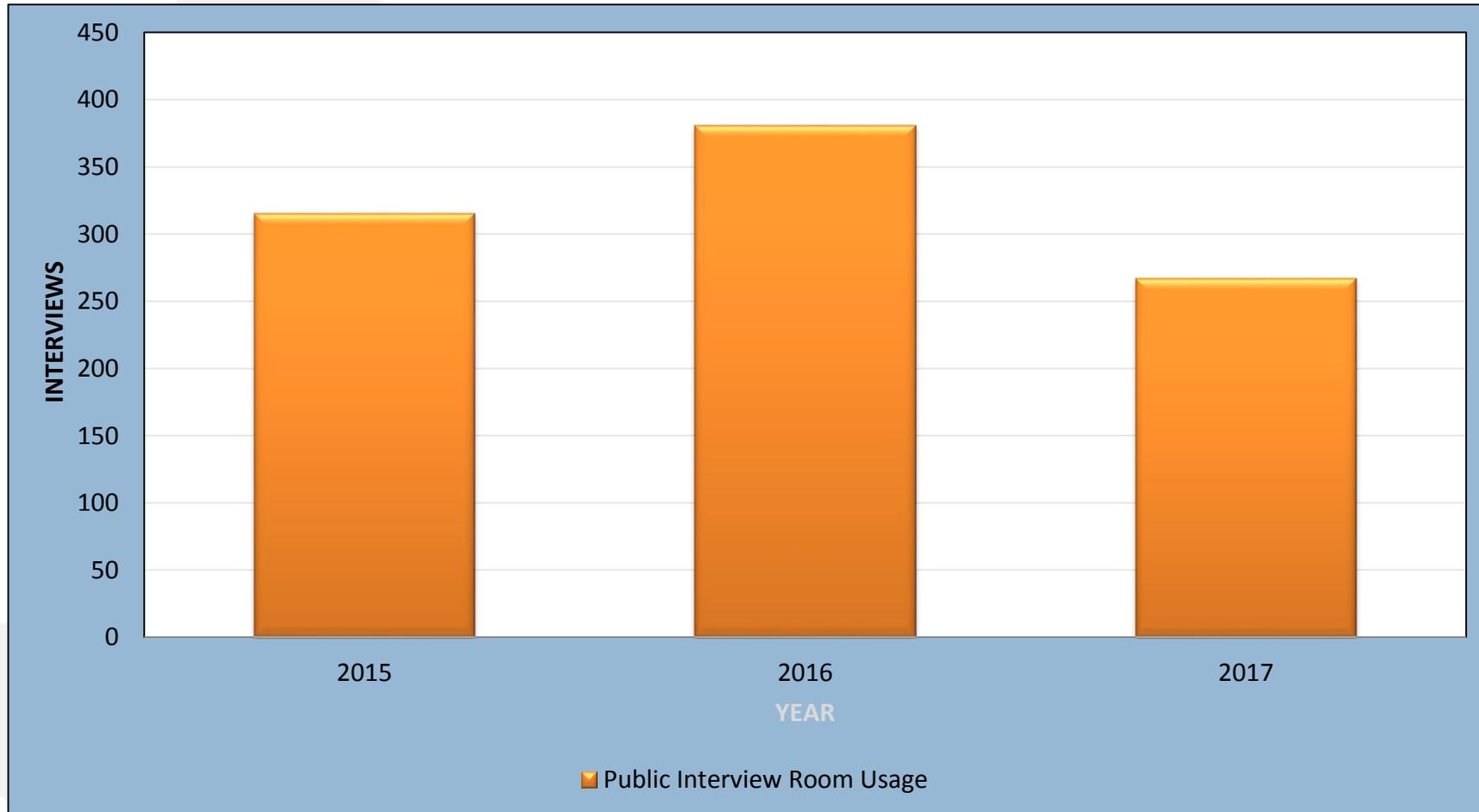
TC Interview Specialists

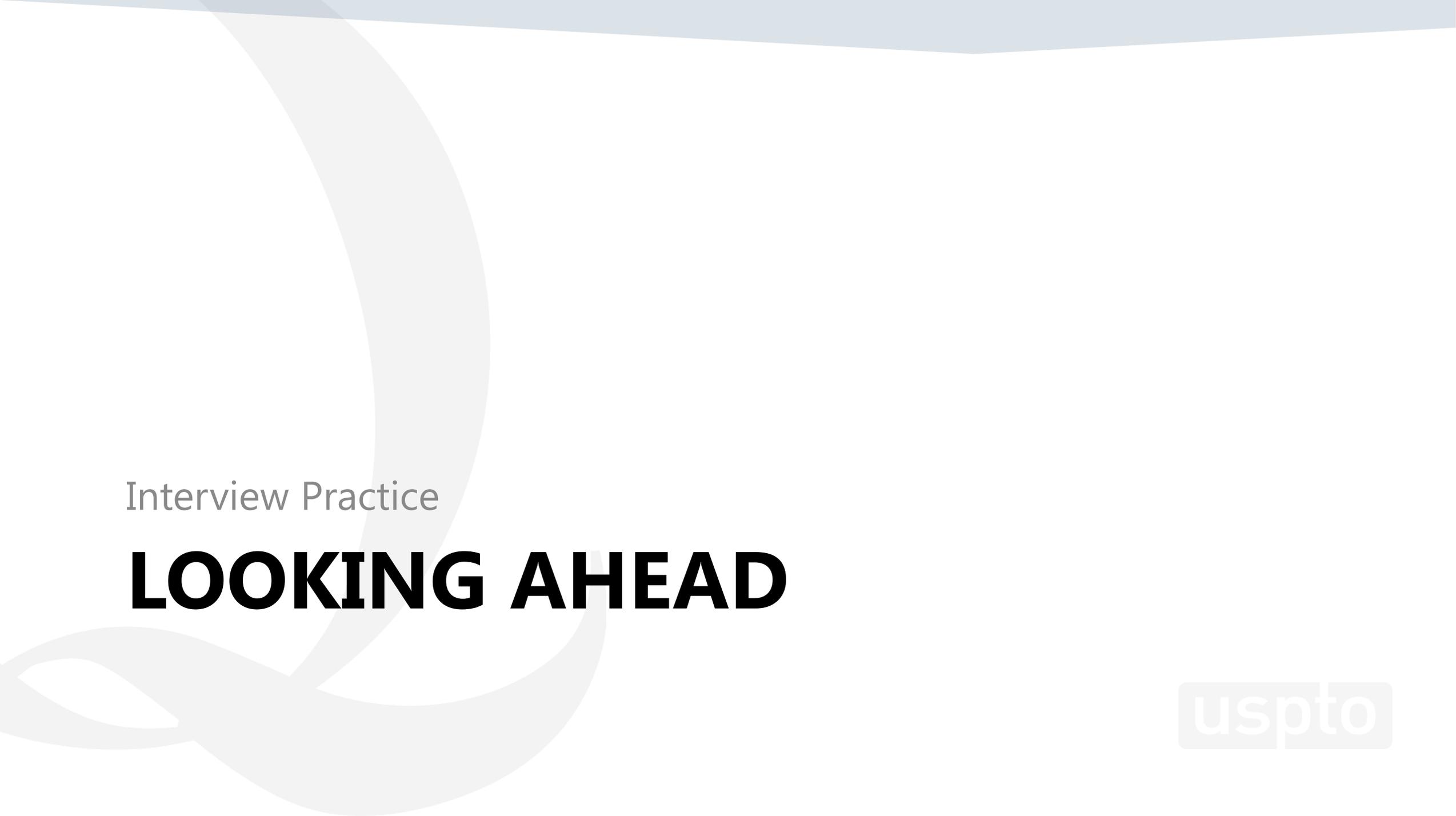
- Subject matter expert on interview practice and policy in each Technology Center
- To assist Examiners and Applicants in facilitating effective interviews
- The list of TC Specialists can be found here:
<http://www.uspto.gov/patent/laws-and-regulations/interview-practice/interview-specialist>

Public Interview Rooms

- When an Applicant is visiting a USPTO campus, Video conference rooms are available to facilitate meetings with remote examiners.
- Video conferencing is also available anytime anywhere from your own office.
- There is a Public Interview Room at every USPTO campus.

Public Interview Room Usage FY2015 – FY2017





Interview Practice

LOOKING AHEAD

uspto

Interview Experience Survey

- USPTO is launching an Interview Experience Survey soon in response to Applicants desire to share feedback on the interview experience
- The survey will be given to Applicants who use the AIR form to schedule their interview and to the Examiner of record
- Feedback from both Applicants and Examiners will be evaluated to determine future improvements

Coming Soon

- Developing new video for the Interview Practice website
- Updating a tool that the examiners use to fill out an interview summary form
- Beginning discussions for FY18 interview training



Thank You!

ExaminerInterviewPractice@uspto.gov

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

uspto

**UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

uspto

Patent Public Advisory Committee Quarterly Meeting

Interview Practice

Tim Callahan

Director, Technology Center 3700

Tariq Hafiz

Director, Technology Center 3600

August 3, 2017

UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Questions and Comments

Tim Callahan

Director, Technology Center 3700

(571) 272-2975

Timothy.Callahan@USPTO.GOV

Tariq Hafiz

Director, Technology Center 3600

(571) 272-5350

Tariq.Hafiz@USPTO.GOV

