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## It's About Innovation:

## Fact of the Week

**U.S. GREEN CARD**  
THE HIGHLY EDUCATED WILL JUST HAVE TO WAIT

- **Demand Exceeds Supply:** U.S. employers do not have enough Green Cards to keep highly educated, foreign-born talent innovating here in America.
- **Outdated:** Annual Green Card allocations for highly educated professionals have been the same since 1990 -- before many innovative high-tech and biotech companies even existed.
- **Broken Process:** Tens of thousands of highly educated professionals are forced to wait 5-10 years for a Green Card.

## While Other Countries Step Up Efforts to Attract Highly Educated Professionals, Congress Fails to Act

*Did you know ...*

- **Australia** plans to increase its skilled talent pool by 30 percent next year, from 102,500 in 2007-08 to 133,500.
- **Canada** is making it easier for international students to remain in the country after graduation by no longer requiring that they have a job offer to apply for a work permit and allowing students to remain in Canada for up to three years. Previously, foreign students could only receive a one-year permit.
- **The European Union** has introduced a “Blue Card” plan that allows highly educated workers to apply for renewable two-year visas, with process times of only one – three months.
- **Meanwhile, America has not raised EB green card numbers since 1990 and highly educated employees must wait six – 10 years to get one. Many employees become frustrated and go to places that are taking steps to welcome them, like Australia, Canada and the EU.**

## Congress Must Enact Reforms This Year and Make the EB Green Card System Work for America!

For a fact sheet on the importance of EB green cards, click here. To learn more about highly educated immigration, visit [www.competeamerica.org](http://www.competeamerica.org).

*Compete America (www.competeamerica.org) is a coalition of corporations, educators, research institutions and trade associations concerned about legal, employment-based immigration and committed to ensuring that the United States has the highly educated workforce necessary to ensure continued innovation, job creation and leadership in a worldwide economy.*