



January 23, 2012

To: USPTO at satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

Mr. Azam Khan, Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Under Secretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm writing to urge the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to select the central New Mexico region as the location of the next Regional Patent Office.

This region, centered around Albuquerque, possesses a highly-educated workforce in the backgrounds pertinent for successful patent development and processing, which makes the area a strong choice for a Regional Patent Office. According to the Department of Labor and Statistics, this region's workforce demographics demonstrate a high density of patent attorneys and employees with science and engineering Ph.D.'s. More specifically, as compared to Detroit, the city most recently selected for a Regional Patent Office, central New Mexico's workforce has a higher density of employed science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) subject Ph.D.'s and over double the number of licensed patent attorneys. In addition, the region's inexpensive office space and low cost-of-living provides an affordable choice for the USPTO while also providing a comfortable living environment for employees.

Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos National Laboratory and the Air Force Research Lab, along with New Mexico Tech, New Mexico State University and the University of New Mexico, generate a vibrant local R&D ecosystem that is unique in the southwest. Not only would this ecosystem provide a stimulating environment for a Regional Patent Office, it would also provide a resource of technical professionals from which to draw in hiring new patent examiners. The important relationship between patents and our national labs is demonstrated by a new initiative from the Department of Energy which will reduce barriers for start-up companies to obtain "option agreements" to license some of the 15,000 patents and patent applications held by the national labs.



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All of these features of the central New Mexico region would contribute toward attaining the goals of the satellite offices, which include:

- (1) increasing outreach activities to better connect patent filers and innovators with the Office;
- (2) enhancing patent examiner retention;
- (3) improving recruitment of patent examiners.

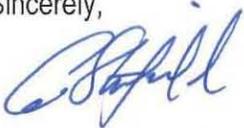
Furthermore, this region would more than satisfy the criteria required for choosing a location of a Regional Patent Office, namely:

- (a) the availability of scientific and technically knowledgeable personnel in the region from which to draw new patent examiners at minimal recruitment cost; and
- (b) the economic impact to the region.

With so many federal labs and research universities in the area, there is a wealth of technically knowledgeable personnel in central New Mexico. In addition, because of New Mexico's tough economic challenges, a Regional Patent Office in central New Mexico would have a much larger positive economic impact in this region than almost any other region that would offer a similar abundance of technical personnel.

I urge you to consider the central New Mexico region for the location of the next Regional Patent Office.

Sincerely,



George Stanfield, Executive Vice President

Copy to: Albuquerque Economic Development via info@abq.org

GCS/sgm