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From: Sandi Andi [e-mail address redacted]
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 8:24 AM
To: SatelliteOffices
Subject: Satellite Offices Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066

January 30, 2012

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Attn: Azam Khan, Deputy Chief of Staff
Mail Stop - Office of Undersecretary and Director
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sent via email: satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

Re: Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices for the
Nationwide Workforce Program (Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066)

Dear Mr. Kahn:

I am pleased to submit this response to the USPTO's request for public comments on "Additional USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program", in which the USPTO is requesting information on potential cities and regions for future locations of satellite offices.

This response provides information on the Albany/Capital Region of New York State, which is an ideal location for a future USPTO satellite office as measured against all identified criteria.

In summary, the Capital Region is a premiere site for high tech business and research, and hosts a vibrant and actively engaged intellectual property community. In addition, it offers proximity to major geographic markets, a highly qualified technical workforce, outstanding educational opportunities, a stable business environment, and excellent quality of life at an affordable cost of living.

Background on the Capital Region of New York State

- The Capital Region is located upstate New York, and encompasses the counties immediately surrounding Albany, the capital of the State, including Albany County, Schenectady County, Rensselaer County, and Saratoga County. The Capital District is home to more than 1 million residents across more than 400,000 households.

- The Capital District is part of the larger Tech Valley of New York State, which stretches from the Canadian border south to Westchester County and contains more than 1,000 technology companies providing more than 50,000 jobs. The companies of Tech Valley have an economic impact of \$5 billion and an annual payroll of \$2 billion. These include IBM, General Electric, Global Foundries, Sematech, and many others well known for innovation and high levels of intellectual property output.

- The region has five primary high-tech sectors: Nanotechnology, Biotechnology/Life Sciences, Energy, Information Technology, and Advanced Materials.

- Twenty-one (21) colleges and universities are located in the region, with 77,000 students, including the State University of New York at Albany, the College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Union College, Sage, and many others offering cutting-edge engineering and science-oriented curricula. There are 73 school districts in the area, with 90% rate of high school graduation, many with advanced science and technology programs, including the region's Tech Valley High School where 48% of the students are studying for STEM-related careers.

- At our area colleges and universities, there are 17 business incubators

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providing support for a strong culture of entrepreneurship in the region.

- Albany International Airport has 71 daily departures, and the Albany-Rensselaer Amtrak station is the ninth busiest in the nation.
- There are numerous efficient and affordable means of transportation between Albany, NY and the USPTO headquarters in Alexandria, VA, by plane, train or automobile. Likewise, the Capital Region is only a few short hours away by car or train from several major cities in the Northeast and Canada, including New York City, Boston, Philadelphia, and Montreal.

Patent Activity in New York State

New York is second only to California in patent volume. As an example, the table below shows the rankings of the top states in U.S. patents issued cumulatively from 1999 to 2009.

	State	U. S. Patents Issued FY1999 - FY2009
1	California	218,168
2	New York	65,260
3	Texas	64,043
4	Michigan	39,879
5	Massachusetts	39,304
6	Illinois	38,999
7	New Jersey	36,647
8	Ohio	34,886
9	Pennsylvania	33,325
10	Florida	30,147
11	Minnesota	29,870
12	Washington (State)	29,864

The Capital Region and larger Tech Valley Region of New York State, both enjoy higher than average rates of patent productivity when patent activity is normalized against population density.

In addition, with nearly 4,000 registered attorneys and agents, New York State is also second only to California in its number of licensed patent professionals. Moreover, six of the top 10 states in number of patent practitioners are located in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions of the U.S. The Capital Region of New York represents a geographically desirable location for tapping into this network of professionals, and provides a reasonable cost of living alternative while retaining good proximity to northern Virginia.

Conclusion

In summary, the Albany, NY/Capital Region area is an outstanding location for a USPTO satellite office, which will fully support the USPTO's objectives of (1) increasing outreach activities to better connect with patent filers and innovators; (2) enhancing patent examiner retention; (3) improving recruitment of examiners; (4) decreasing patent applications in the queue; and (5) improving the quality of patent examination.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. I welcome you to contact me for any questions or further information about Albany, NY and the Capital Region as a future USPTO satellite office site.

Respectfully Submitted,

David M. Bui cko

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Chief Operating Officer

DMB: sa

David M. Buicko
Galesi Group
695 Rotterdam Industrial Park
Schenectady, NY 12306
[phone redacted]
[e-mail address redacted]