



ARK-LA-TEX REGIONAL
Export & Technology Center

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January 30, 2012

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, Virginia 22313-1450

Re: Location of a USPTO Satellite Office in New Orleans, Louisiana

Dear Mr. Khan:

Through this letter, the Ark-La-Tex Regional Export and Technology Center (ARETC) is expressing our organization's support for a satellite office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office to be located in a central location in the Central Gulf Coast region of Southeast Louisiana / Southwest Mississippi.

ARETC understands that having a USPTO satellite office in the greater New Orleans, Louisiana region will provide greatly improved access to the USPTO for the clients we work with, as well as supporting DOC's departmental objectives including CommerceConnect, and increase collaborations among Commerce bureaus throughout the southern states of the Austin and Atlanta Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration regions. Additionally, the USPTO satellite office itself will provide a positive impact to the greater New Orleans region still recovering from the effects of Hurricane Katrina and the BP oil spill.

ARETC works with scores of start-up and existing small and mid sized businesses. Over the past several years, we have worked hard to encourage of our businesses to participate in the federal government's advanced technology research programs, most especially the SBIR and STTR programs. Working with the Louisiana Technology Transfer Office, we have been successful in increasing the number of applications submitted -- and several grants have been secured -- under these programs, especially the SBIR program. Having a USPTO satellite office in the New Orleans area would provide our technology-based companies with easier access to information and services from the USPTO than they currently have.

The establishment of a USPTO satellite office would not only aid our high tech companies in their efforts to secure new patents, but would build upon excellent existing resources in New Orleans, and the State of Louisiana, thus providing this region with a much needed USPTO presence in the coming years.

For the reasons cited above, ARETC asks that the USPTO please give serious consideration to the establishment of a USPTO satellite office in the New Orleans area. Thank you in advance for your consideration to this request.

Sincerely


Diana M. Simek
Vice President