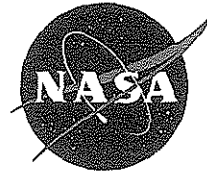


National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Kennedy Space Center  
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899



January 25, 2012

Reply to Attn of:

AA-D

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

Dear Mr. Khan:

The NASA John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC) is pleased to support the proposal by the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast to establish a satellite office of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) in Brevard County, Florida.

With the end of the Space Shuttle program, KSC is transitioning from a Government-only launch Center to a multiuser, Government and commercial spaceport. We are working with the state of Florida to attract a broad diversity of new space vehicle developers, as well as in-space researchers, to the area, establishing KSC as the Nation's premier gateway to space for research and exploration. KSC has a long history of developing new technologies. We expect this activity to grow significantly as we expand our collaborations with the commercial space industry, and we believe that the presence of a USPTO satellite office in the Central Florida area will enable closer collaboration between NASA, the commercial space industry, and the USPTO.

In addition, over the past 50 years, KSC has been a primary driver in the growth and retention of a highly skilled and technical workforce in the Space Coast area, and we understand the value such a stable pool of talented professionals can bring to the USPTO. Our geography and climate, our proximity to major transportation and tourism hubs, our access to universities with strong engineering programs, and access to exciting technical work in space and other regional technical innovation industries all contribute to a highly desirable environment in which to live and work. Our average employee has been with KSC for 15 years, and it is not unusual to find several generations within the same family working at KSC.

Since well before the retirement of the Space Shuttle program last year, we have been working very closely with the Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast and Brevard Workforce to retain this workforce locally, which we believe will provide NASA workforce flexibility to support our future missions. We believe that the establishment of a

USTPO satellite office in Brevard County can mitigate some of the regional impacts of the end of the Shuttle program and provide new opportunities to apply the Shuttle workforce's unmatched engineering, scientific, and technical skills.

We are excited about this opportunity to partner with the USPTO and community organizations to support a successful satellite office in our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert D. Cabana", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert D. Cabana  
Director

cc:

AA-D/J. Riquelme

AA-D/V. Johnston

CC/R. Heald