

Response to the USPTO Request for Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices for the
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Preliminary Remarks

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A USPTO Florida Satellite Office site would provide a Southeastern US regional hub around which to coalesce various regional innovation, entrepreneurial, commercialization, and manufacturing resources currently in operation or envisioned.

Patent Journeymen

The Patent Guild's comments below specifically address the topics of the RFC by presenting solutions for integrating a USPTO Florida site directly into the current and future innovative activities of entities across the region via training and deploying a new class of techno-administrative Intellectual Property industry workers (referred to herein as **Patent Journeymen**) whose core role is to increase user access to patent and innovation resources while bringing down the respective costs and simultaneously raising the quality of patents and associated intellectual property.

Conceptually it is hoped the USPTO will embrace this somewhat innovative solution to the very old problem of how to increase user access and usage of intellectual property and innovation resources in a manner which self-sustainably improves the regional and national economy.

Patent Journeyman Apprenticeship Program

Specifically the Patent Guild is working to implement a Patent Journeyman Apprenticeship Program which can be closely integrated with the intellectual property related activities of independent inventors, small businesses, regional universities, K-12 schools, trade schools, and other regional Intellectual Property users. These Patent Journeymen will serve as an intermediary point of contact connecting the Florida USPTO site with regional innovators to assist them in using intellectual property related innovation resources. These Patent Journeymen provide workers who have specialized IP related training and provide the ground support for a heightened regional emphasis on patents, product development, product commercialization, and manufacturing. Basically the key function of the Patent Journeymen worker is to connect innovators to the optimum patent, intellectual property, and commercialization resource by directly engaging the innovator in his/her usage environment. A USPTO Florida Satellite Office location will greatly facilitate the regional training and deployment of these Patent Journeymen.

Its worth noting that the historical basis for the time period of the grant of a patent right was established as twice the period of a trade apprenticeship. Basically, the apprenticeship model is the foundation upon which patent rights were established.

Just as the USPTO indispensably uses Legal Instrument Examiners (LIE's) to increase administrative efficiency, law firms use Patent Paralegals to lower clients costs, and medium to large Corporations use Patent Liaisons, Patent Specialists, and Patent Engineers to integrate innovation within business units, the Patent Journeymen will provide cost efficient patent and innovation focused techno-admin support across the region to educational institutions (K-12, trade schools, community colleges, and universities), independent inventors, small companies, and start-up businesses - which is especially necessary as a result of the new First-To-File rules.

Across the patent industry it has been recognized the First-To-File rule most clearly benefits well organized innovators, however due to the specialized nature of patents and other IP, finding cost effective and reliable support is often challenging to IP users and developers who are not familiar with IP terminology, the patenting process, and regional/national IP related resources.

The Patent Journeymen Apprenticeship Program would provide core training for career paths of Patent Examiners, Patent Agents, Patent Attorneys, and other IP field workers thereby increasing the number of patent professionals of all types, which will lower costs and increase patent support access. For example, when these Patent Apprentices become Patent Journeymen, they would be prime candidates for an Accelerated Patent Examiner Training Program because it can leverage the skills, knowledge, and hands-on mentoring students received during their apprenticeship.

Further, since no USPTO Patent Academy like entity exists for private practitioners, the vast majority of Patent Attorneys and Patent Agents who were not trained at the USPTO Patent Academy are self taught and/or semi-formally trained, often based on a random and narrow set of task specific experiences. The Patent Journeymen Apprenticeship Program will provide a pool of potential Patent Attorneys and Patent Agents who have a foundation developed via formal hands-on mentored structured training. The focused patent related training would teach Patent Apprentices to provide techno-admin support for a wide range of IP and innovation practices thereby expanding their understanding of how patents and IP are used across various industries and fields, with an emphasis on manufacturing and commercialization.

Additionally, since patents and other intellectual property are used in a variety of ways, the Patent Journeymen can work with IP users to fashion a custom solution which interconnects specific relevant IP data and information to a variety of uses. For example, a Patent Journeymen could facilitate circulating key patent data (such as relevant patents and prior art) across geographically dispersed service providers and regional resources such as among the Inventor, Patent Attorney/Agent, the USPTO Florida Satellite Office site, University Business Development Programs, and other designated personnel.

The Patent Journeymen will also conduct live and virtual Intellectual Property workshops and facilitate video conferences between innovators and remotely connected Patent Attorneys, Patent Agents, Patent Draftsmen, etc.

The Patent Journeymen will routinely visit K-12 schools and facilitate integrating Patents and IP into the student projects and course curriculum as well as assist in sharing those solutions across the region. In the Science Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields the Patent Journeymen will help students and teachers identify new and old patented technology as it relates to solving STEM related challenges.

Here in Florida, the "Sunshine Connections" is an education data exchange network project developed by the Florida Department of Education in partnership with Microsoft. The Sunshine Connections project has already deployed a collaborative state-wide learning and teaching data exchange network and a USPTO Florida Satellite Office site can easily be integrated into this existing network so that teachers and students have desktop as well as should-to-shoulder access to IP education, innovation related resources, and Patent Journeymen.

For example, for students interested in robotics competitions the Patent Journeymen (live or remotely) can help the students create a custom Patent Database Search Template which finds various robotic systems and subsystems, such as vehicles with a 6 wheel drive system. Students learn not only how to find specific robotic systems but also how to use the USPTO databases for exploring virtually any concept they conceive. This has been extremely successful in self-motivating students to explore the uniqueness and novelty of their own ideas.

The Florida Space Coast is uniquely poised to immediately leverage a USPTO Satellite Office site. The Florida Space Coast has approximately 6,000- 8,000 unemployed highly experienced engineers, technicians, and support personnel who have directly and indirectly supported America's Space Program at NASA. Many of these workers are former Federal employees and have a range of recently active security clearances. These Florida Space Coast workers are ideal candidates for the Patent Journeymen Apprenticeship Program. Overall, the Florida Space Coast region provides a uniquely deep pool of potential Patent Journeymen, Patent Examiners, Patent Agents, and Patent Attorneys, as well as other potential patent field workers.

The Florida Space Coast workers are especially adept at developing solutions which extend the boundaries of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) related fields. Their STEM field expertise provides workers who have decades of high-tech problem solving. This is particularly important in the patent field because with their historical knowledge of existing technical solutions as Patent Examiners or Patent Journey these Florida Space Coast workers already have a deep knowledge of existing prior art across a wide variety of areas.

The well of knowledge uniquely available along the Florida Space Coast is an unmatched and globally respected source of collective human intellect that can provide America a competitive advantage against global competition – if appropriately tapped – such as via the strategic retraining of these Space Coast workers to become Patent Examiners and Patent Journeymen.

For example, in addition to a USPTO Florida Space Coast site facilitating the training and employment of 100 (or more) Patent Examiners, the site could provide facilitates to retrain and deploy a portion of the unemployed Space Coast workers to become Patent Journeymen. These Patent Journeymen in turn can assist the other unemployed Space Coast workers in capturing and commercializing their own innovative ideas. This concept of using regional talent and innovations to create and grow regional jobs has been strongly embrace across America as “Economic Gardening” and Patent Journeymen provide specialized skills to help identify and harvest the most fruitful regional innovations for further processing.

For example, if 50 Space Coast workers are trained to become Patent Journeymen and each Patent Journeyman assists in capturing 3 innovative concepts a week, 600 innovative ideas per month would be captured and documented for commercialization consideration. Within 6 months 3,600 new problem solutions would be captured and documented and then passed along for further processing and consideration such as by a Patent Attorney, Patent Agent, and/or regional technical and business development organizations. The most technically and economically viable ideas can then be selected to enter the pre-incubation phase of product and business development with the end objective of creating regional jobs and re-vitalizing the regional economy.

The Technology Research and Development Agency (TRDA) along Florida's Space Coast currently conducts a range of programs (Incubation Programs, Acceleration Programs, Commercialization Programs, Educational Programs, etc) that provide a path for former Space Coast workers to further develop and commercialize innovative concepts which could be captured and documented with the aid of the Patent Journeymen.

Currently a wealth of product and business commercialization and manufacturing resources are already in place across the region. Florida overall has a robust network of resources

currently structured to take nascent innovators through a Business/Technology development process which takes over after the innovative concept is clearly captured and documented.

Specifically pre-incubation Business/Technology assistance provided by the Patent Journeymen operating live or remotely from of the USPTO Space Coast Satellite Office site would easily integrate with entities such as the TRDA and the University of Central Florida's Business Incubation Program - which has about 7 incubator sites (as well as a virtual incubator program) extending across Central Florida.

Space Coast workers trained to become Patent Journeymen would deploy as needed across the region (such as to Gainesville, Jacksonville, Miami, Naples, Orlando, Panama City, Tallahassee Tampa/St. Petersburg, and possibly even as far away as Atlanta). Note – Florida overall has a comprehensive network of renowned technology and business incubation organizations. For brevity only the TRDA and UCF Incubation programs were mentioned above.

The Patent Journeymen would help connect start-up innovators to regional world class high precision prototyping and manufacturing vendors (many having provided decades of support to NASA programs) on a case by case basis with an emphasis on product, patent, and IP data exchange so that any changes of discoveries which occur during prototyping or manufacturing can be quickly and efficiently captured and documented, such as by revising the inventions operating parameters and/or filing a Continuation-In-Part patent application.

The Patent Apprentices learn to conduct basic Patent and IP education workshops and to craft specific solutions which connect IP users with the appropriate USPTO or product development resource. The Patent Apprentices will receive blended (classroom and electronic) learning including face-to-face (live or via teleconference) mentoring and interaction with Patent Attorneys and Patent Agents. The Apprentices can be deployed to work on-site with the IP user while simultaneously having a licensed patent professional connected remotely to guide and oversee the Apprentice as he/she helps the innovator properly capture and document their ideas for further consideration.

Patent Support Management Portal

A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen across the region by hosting a Patent Support Management Portal (PSM Portal) as shown in the attached "Training and Deployment Flow Chart for Patent Journeymen". As shown in the chart, the PSM Portal coordinates the deployment of Patent Journeymen to meet patent support needs and other intellectual property service needs of a wide variety of users and would integrate with the USPTO Outreach Programs. As envisioned, the USPTO Outreach Programs would supplement local, state, and regional IP related Outreach efforts.

For example Patent Journeymen would be hired as needed (ranging from full-time in-house employment to hourly or by project) by users. Patent Journeymen would use the Patent Support Management Portal to coordinate their work assignments, exchange documents, communicate with other IP service providers, and securely communicate with clients and the USPTO when appropriate.

The PSM Portal would provide Patent Journeymen a range of multimedia communication modes (audio, video, chat, internet, etc) to eliminate the problem of arriving on-site and finding out the client's network is inadequate or unsuitable for connecting the client to other IP related resources. A Patent Journeyman would arrive at a client site fully capable of establishing a videoconference connection with a Patent Agent, Patent Attorney, Patent Draftsman, Patent Examiner, etc. or any combination needed. This allows patent professionals (Patent Agents, Patent Attorneys, Patent Searchers, Patent Draftsmen, etc) to more closely support a larger base of clients by simply logging into the teleconference hosted by the Patent Journeyman. The patent professional would instruct the Patent Journeyman to collect and transmit the appropriate

documents with the confidence that Patent Journeyman has been thoroughly trained to provide the proper support.

For example a patent support client/user can indicate via the web based portal that the client/user is seeking assistance integrating IP education into an internal employee workshop on the best practices for protecting company intellectual property. The Patent Journeymen (with the aid of a licensed patent professional where appropriate) would help determine and coordinate the optimum level of assistance ranging from setting up the company to use USPTO educational material (such as presentations provided by the USPTO Intellectual Property Awareness Campaign, USPTO web based seminars, USPTO pod casts, and the USPTO Public Training Portal) to coordinating a virtual presentation conducted by a Trademark Attorney, Patent Attorney, Patent Agent, or USPTO representative.

Further, the PSM Portal can provide information on regional innovation resources, such as prototyping professionals or Patent Draftsmen and facilitate the secure exchange of documents among patent and IP professionals.

The PSM Portal would provide technology transfer services to independent inventors and small companies similar to the technology transfer capabilities available at some universities and Federal entities.

Use of Patent Journeymen to effectuate virtual or live use of USPTO Satellite Office site

Question (1). How will a Florida Regional site increase outreach activities to better connect patent filers and innovators with the USPTO, including the number of patent filings and grants by the city/region as well as other information that provides insight into the region's innovation activity?

ACTIVITY(1A): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen across the region to assist in outreach to independent inventors and small businesses. Each Patent Journeymen would listen to the needs of the users and connect the users with the most appropriate USPTO and innovation resource. Patent Journeymen can provide basic intellectual property training to innovators to help them grasp the basics of protecting their ideas as a prelude to connecting regional innovators to regional licensed services vendors (such as Patent Agents and Patent Attorneys). Further the Patent Journeymen would collect relevant invention documents and data and help the innovator work with regional innovation services vendors (such as software developers, prototype developers, and manufacturers).

ACTIVITY(1B): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen across the region to assist in outreach to job training programs (such as Professional, Trades, and Service worker job training programs conducted by State/County Workforce Agencies, private training companies, etc) so that graduates and workers in those programs learn how to utilize USPTO resources and regional innovation resources to capture and commercialize novel problem solutions they develop. These Professional, Trades, and Service workers (such as electricians, plumbers, carpenters, automotive technicians, health care workers, IT workers, agriculture workers, engineering and manufacturing workers, services workers, etc) who are trained in identifying and capturing innovative problem solutions unique to their field would be highly desirable to employers seeking to capture and leverage the innovations of their workforce. Overall these IP trained employees would add value to their organizations via capturing industry specific problem solutions.

ACTIVITY(1C): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen across the region to assist in outreach to STEM programs at K-12 institutions, Community Colleges, and Universities. Each Patent Journeyman would be assigned a group of schools and directly or remotely work with teachers and students to integrate patents and IP into school or extra-curricular projects and competitions (such as creating a search template for music teachers to use in guiding music students through the evolution of musical instruments). Additionally Patent Examiners can be teleconferenced into a discussion of the features which made one version of a musical unique over a seemingly similar music instrument.

Other activities facilitated by the Patent Journeymen include events such as technology based competitions which revolve around patents – for example a competition where students use Legos kits to construct patented inventions and present a corresponding model business plan.

Further students can speak directly to Patent Examiners, Trademark Attorneys, and USPTO Representatives during a classroom discussion of topics such as counterfeiting, and intellectual property theft.

Question (2). How will a Florida Regional USPTO site enhance patent examiner retention, including quality of life indicators such as average household income, cost of living factors, and other factors related to employee retention ?

ACTIVITY(2A): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen across the region to assist in interconnecting Patent Examiners with innovation related projects within the community. Where appropriate, the Patent Journeymen would take care of the logistics needed for remote interaction between Patent Examiners and community projects. The Patent Journeymen would function pro-actively, such as by notifying the Examiners of projects and programs which may fit the interest of the Patent Examiner. Further, with the Patent Journeymen addressing logistical issues (such as establishing the teleconference setup), the Patent Examiner can focus primarily on his/her role in assisting the project or program of interest to the Patent Examiner and even participate remotely. The Patent Journeymen can help the Patent Examiner get involved with regional innovation activities without the Patent Examiner becoming over burdened.

ACTIVITY(2B): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen across the region to assist in interconnecting Patent Examiners with professional organizations across the region. Where appropriate, for example, the Patent Journeymen would take care of the logistics needed for remote interaction between Patent Examiners and professional organizations across the region. The Patent Journeymen would monitor activities of regional professional organizations and notify Patent Examiners of up coming events which the Patent Examiners have expressed an interest. With the Patent Journeymen keeping the Patent Examiner's informed of regional events, the Patent Examiners can more easily choose events in which to participate or simply attend as a spectator (live or remotely).

ACTIVITY(2C): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen across the region to assist in interconnecting Patent Examiners to regional Inventor Organizations. The Patent Journeymen would monitor activities of regional Inventor Organizations and notify the Patent Examiners of up coming events. With the Patent Journeymen keeping the Patent Examiners informed of regional events, the Patent Examiners can more easily choose events in which to participate or simply attend as a spectator (live or remotely).

Question (3). How will a Florida Regional USPTO site improve recruitment of patent examiners, including data on employment rates and other economic factors in the area, science and technology professionals, as well as legal professionals in the workforce and other related information?

ACTIVITY(3A): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the training of Patent Apprentices to become Patent Journeymen. The pool of Patent Journeymen would be prime candidates for an Accelerated Patent Examiner Training Program which leverages the skills, knowledge, and hands-on mentoring students obtained during their apprenticeship. This allows the selection of Patent Examiner candidates that are more likely to reliably make the USPTO a lifelong career based on their first hand experiences within the patent field.

ACTIVITY(3B): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen across the region to assist in explaining and showing potential Patent Examiner candidates the variety of roles patents and Intellectual Property plays in our lives and our economy. The underlying concept is that by highlighting the roles of Intellectual Property, and in conjunction, discussing the broad range of patent related career options, individuals will become more interested in becoming Patent Examiners and other Intellectual property field professionals.

ACTIVITY(3C): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen to facilitate information sessions interconnecting current Patent Examiners and USPTO representatives with various groups (such as professional organization and inventor organizations) of potential Patent Examiner candidates in the regional community to provide question and answer sessions which discuss USPTO employment and patent career issues.

ACTIVITY(3D): The Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live usage by Patent Examiners living in the region and provide the Patent Examiner secure office resources on an as needed basis.

Question (4). How will a Florida Regional site decrease the number of patent applications awaiting examination?

ACTIVITY(4A): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen across the region to help users leverage the various USPTO programs which target reducing the number of patent applications. For example, the USPTO has initiated Fast Track and Acceleration programs and the Patent Journeymen (in conjunction with a licensed patent professional) would help inventors and businesses apply the most appropriate programs consistent with their needs.

ACTIVITY(4B): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen to assist inventors in having existing pending patent applications reviewed by licensed patent professionals (such as Patent Agents and Patent Attorneys) to help determine whether the pending patent application remains viable in light of new USPTO rules and procedures.

ACTIVITY(4C): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen to align inventors with regional product development and businesses resources (such as a Business Development Professional) to assess the business/economic and technical viability of continuing with the prosecution of a pending patent application. For example, if an application has become obsolete due to major advances in an industry, a patent applicant may find it more economical to withdraw the application and avoid the unnecessary time and expense of continued prosecution so that the time and money can be more strategically used by the inventor for other uses.

Question (5). How will a Florida Regional site improve the quality of patent examination?

ACTIVITY(5A): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen to assist inventors in efficiently compiling the components of the patent application while ensuring the documents are of the highest possible quality consistent with USPTO requirements to minimize document based errors. For example, the Patent Journeymen would connect inventors to draftsmen who can produce USPTO acceptable drawings.

ACTIVITY(5B): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live deployment of Patent Journeymen to align the inventors with testing and analysis resources whose work products accurately substantiate assertions made in the patent application consistent with USPTO rules and regulations. This helps the Patent Examiner give more appropriate weight to the assertions if the testing and analysis is conducted under acceptable standards.

ACTIVITY(5C): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate the virtual and live opportunities for inventors to demonstrate and display their innovations. Patent Examiners can review an invention in use to observe functionality not clearly articulated in the written patent application. Further the Patent Examiner can better determine the novelty (or lack thereof) of invention features and make distinguishable arguments (for or against patentability) based in part on the Patent Examiner having observed real world usage of the invention.

ACTIVITY(5D): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate virtual and live opportunities for inventors to demonstrate and display their innovations so that Patent Examiners more easily remain abreast of the current state of the art.

ACTIVITY(5E): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate virtual and live opportunities for inventors to demonstrate and display their innovations based on a request by a USPTO Art Unit so that Supervisory Patent Examiners can selectively and strategically manage the state-of-the art awareness of the art unit. This is most helpful where more and more Patent Examiners are working from home and may have difficulty attending live presentations.

ACTIVITY(5F): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate virtual and live opportunities for Supervisory Patent Examiners to selectively and strategically conduct Art Unit discussions of the quality (poor or excellent) of patent examination actions taken by Patent Examiners to minimize bad practices and emphasize good practices. This is most helpful where more and more Patent Examiners are working from home and may have difficulty attending live presentations.

ACTIVITY(5G): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate virtual and live opportunities for Supervisory Patent Examiners to selectively and strategically conduct group discussions with inventors, Patent Agents, and Patent Attorneys of the quality (poor or excellent) of patent prosecution actions taken by inventors, Patent Agents, and Patent Attorneys to minimize bad practices and emphasize good practices.

ACTIVITY(5H): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate virtual and live opportunities for inventors, Patent Agents, and Patent Attorneys to utilize live or online USPTO Patent Academy training materials (including selected Patent Examiner Training courses provided to the public at the USPTO Public Training Portal) and receive instruction and/or feedback from USPTO Patent Academy instructors. Further licensed Patent Professionals (Patent Agents and Patent Attorneys) can participate in a workshop or mock demonstration of the process of examining a patent application to learn first hand the challenges presented to a Patent Examiner in making patentability decisions and supporting arguments.

ACTIVITY(5I): A Regional USPTO Satellite Office site could facilitate virtual and live opportunities for the expansion of USPTO Clinical Programs in law schools across the region by serving as a centralized source of Patent/IP related information and resources to ensure the law students are learning the same patent prosecution procedures and the courses are based on the most relevant and up-to-date information. This reduces disparate interpretation of USPTO rules and procedures and thereby minimizes miscommunication in the patent prosecution process. This also allows law schools that have a small number of licensed patent instructors to access resources not available at the law school and therefore enhances the quality of the patent prosecution training provided to law students (which would increase the quality of the work products they send to the USPTO when they become Patent Attorneys).

Other additional information.

Detailed discussions of the logistical resources and statistical patent data for the region are being provided by entities better suited to provide that information. The Patent Guild has endeavored to present comments primarily focused on activities within the purview of the Patent Guild.

Conclusion

Due to the specialized nature of patents and other intellectual property, many creative and highly motivated entrepreneurs, independent inventors, STEM related college graduates, and small businesses have trouble extracting value from USPTO resources. For the average citizen patents and other intellectual property remain unrealized hortatory concepts rather than tools for capturing their innovative prowess. As a result economic and employment opportunities go unrealized.

Putting USPTO sites in various regions is commendable, but unfortunately it may not spur regional innovation, economic development, and employment much without boots on the ground to integrate the USPTO site into the regional innovation activities at the grass roots level.

Additionally, as we endeavor to upgrade America by expanding “green” technology and renewable energy innovation, increasing energy efficiency, expand bio-tech R&D, and improve local and national infrastructure, we need to capture and protect American developed intellectual property which is generated as a natural by-product of these projects. We need to provide our Professional, Trades, and Service workers shoulder-to-shoulder (or virtual) assistance in protecting their “Conceived in America” creative solutions as a counterbalance to the ever

increasing percentage of US patents held by Foreign entities. Note - it has been reported that in 2009 51% of US Patents were awarded to foreign companies or entities.

Further, many many companies that traditionally strategically leveraged the intellectual capital of their workers to the benefit of all have undertaken substantial lay-offs. Nationwide America's brightest minds have been un-tethered and set adrift to randomly meander as the wind blows. Unfortunately these innovative thinkers are often ill prepared to fully leverage USPTO resources even if these innovators alight at the front door of a regional USPTO Satellite Office.

If simply building a USPTO Office and hiring Patent Examiners and support staff would automatically invigorate innovation in a region and create jobs, the Metro-DC would be the most innovative region in the nation - but it isn't.

Therefore to truly "promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts" intermediary IP workers (the Patent Journeymen) are needed to bridge the gap between America's IP protection system and America's innovators.

In partnership with the ever increasing efforts of the USPTO's Global IP Academy (GIPA) to provide a variety of US and International IP educational programs, States/Regions need to develop and implement local programs (such as training and deploying Patent Journeymen) to go the last mile in ensuring independent inventors, small businesses, regional universities, K-12 schools, trade schools, and other regional Intellectual Property users extract value from America's innovation protection system.

Without intermediary IP workers such as Patent Journeymen to demystify the innovation protection process, putting a USPTO Satellite Office in a region may simply just shorten the ride into the US IP system maze. When inventors get there they need a guide, a champion ... a Patent Journeyman to help craft them the path to cost effective IP system usage.

Just as Patent Examiners examine patents, Patent Journeymen journey across the region serving as the boots on the ground that connect innovators to commercialization and IP resources such as regional USPTO Satellite Offices.

Finally, a USPTO Florida Space Coast Satellite Office site presents an opportunity to repurpose 50 years of unprecedented public and private investments in building a vast and diverse community of highly skilled highly trained Federal and private industry workers. From Agriculture to Life Sciences, Information Technology, Advanced Materials, and more, Florida's Space Coast simultaneously provides one of the deepest pools and broadest range of experts in America. Since the US Patent system is most efficient when Patent Examiners have above average depth of knowledge in how a wide range of problems have already been solved, the Florida Space Coast workers would immediately inject decades of technical expertise into the USPTO's world class knowledge base.

In seeking Patent Examiner candidates to staff a regional USPTO Satellite Office this assemblage of workers presents one-stop recruiting to meet the needs nearly every USPTO Technology Center. Florida's Space Coast readily has the talent base to accomplish the USPTO's mission and goals.

Thank you for taking the time to read these comments. The Patent Guild looks forward to helping optimize the efforts to extend the USPTO deeper into local and regional communities.

Respectively Submitted



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Training and Deployment Flow Chart for Patent Journeymen

