



January 26, 2012

Via Email to satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

The Honorable David J. Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Undersecretary and Director
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: PTO-C-2011-0066; Nationwide Workforce Program; **Boston Satellite Office**

Dear Under Secretary Kappos:

I am writing on behalf of Velcro Group Corporation ('VGC') to urge the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) to select the Boston area as the site for a satellite office and to provide the USPTO with information in response to the *Request for Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program*, 76 Fed. Reg. 73601 (Nov. 29, 2011).

We are well-located and aptly knowledgeable and experienced to provide you with information about the Boston area in support of the purposes of establishing satellite offices specified in the request. From our offices here in southern New Hampshire, VGC manages a worldwide patent portfolio that has evolved from the earliest patents on the pioneering inventions of hook and loop fasteners and the machines and methods for manufacture of fasteners, including US Patent no. 2,717,437, issued Sept. 13, 1955, "VELVET TYPE FABRIC AND METHOD OF PRODUCING SAME," through generations of innovation and patenting, to a robust current patent portfolio spanning 13 countries, including 170 outstanding active issued patents in the United States and 40 applications pending before the USPTO. We engage a Boston based patent law firm to provide assistance on applications pending in the USPTO.

You should also note that VGC is just one of the many, many companies in this area that understand, use and value patents and that would be well-served by a Boston area satellite office. USPTO data shows that New England is a leader nationally, with over 32,000 patents and 420,000 patent applications. As the regional hub of New England, a Boston satellite office will more easily and efficiently serve these and other future patentees and applicants throughout the nearby surrounding New England states. In particular, a Boston area satellite office would allow



VGC and the full range of individual inventors, SMEs and global enterprises throughout New England and our patent attorneys to better and more efficiently communicate with US patent examiners and to provide us all with a more convenient and compelling opportunity to participate in USPTO outreach activities.

Furthermore, based on our experience and familiarity with the hiring pool in this area – which is fed by both recent graduates of the many prestigious Massachusetts and New England academic institutions and experienced scientific, technical and legal professionals -- we believe that we will all benefit by the USPTO's enhanced ability to hire and retain examiners, and to thereby improve patent quality, as a consequence of locating one of its satellite offices in the Boston area.

In short, based on our decades of experience as an innovative and patent-focused enterprise and our knowledge of this region, we enthusiastically support a Boston area location as best serving the New England patent community and the USPTO's purposes for establishing a satellite office. We urge you to select the Boston area as the site for one of the next two USPTO satellite offices.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark A. Clarner', written in a cursive style.

Mark A. Clarner - USPTO Reg. No. 68,105

Intellectual Property Manager, Velcro Group Corporation

cc: Robert E. Jauron – General Counsel, VGC