



January 30, 2012

VIA E-MAIL (satelliteoffices@uspto.gov)

Mr. Azan Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Mail Stop Office of Undersecretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RE: Nationwide Workforce Program PTO-C-2011-0066

Dear Mr. Khan:

I understand that the America Invents Act calls for the establishment of three satellite offices for the United States Patent and Trademark Office: one in Detroit and two in areas to be selected. As someone who is profoundly interested in the success of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, I offer the following comments regarding the selection of southern New Hampshire, specifically Manchester, New Hampshire, as a location for one of the satellite offices.

In the 1970s, when I was considering relocating a medical device company that I had founded, AutoSyringe Inc., from Long Island, New York, I investigated a variety of locations throughout the northeastern United States. Many of my then-clients were the major research hospitals in the Boston area, so I considered relocating my company to Massachusetts to be closer to my clients and to have access to highly educated and skilled employees. As I was making this decision, I had the opportunity to visit southern New Hampshire and it occurred to me that southern New Hampshire, less than an hour drive from Boston, had all of the advantages of Massachusetts, but offered a lower cost of living and higher quality of life by my standards than Boston and the surrounding areas of Massachusetts.

In the early 1980s, after I sold AutoSyringe Inc. and was looking for a location for my current research and development company, DEKA Research & Development Corp., I once again looked to southern New Hampshire, specifically Manchester. Manchester had been home to one of the largest textile mills in the world, as well as a historically significant iron foundry. Those picturesque brick mills along the Merrimack River had gone abandoned when factory jobs moved first to the southern United States and then overseas. I bought one of these iconic mills and renovated it. Others followed. The result, over time, is a high-tech office park on the site of the old millyard with tenants such as Texas Instruments, AutoDesk, and F.I.R.S.T. (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). For many of the same reasons that I selected Manchester, New Hampshire for my company, I encourage the United States Patent and

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Trademark Office to consider southern New Hampshire, particularly Manchester, as the site of a satellite office.

New England is a significant area for intellectual property. It is my understanding that New England generates more patents than any other area of the country, except California. New England, particularly eastern Massachusetts and southern New Hampshire, has a high concentration of technology-related companies, as well as a significant number of start-up companies and venture-capital firms. New England is also home to a large number of colleges, universities, and hospitals that yield highly trained technologists. Thus, it would make sense to locate a satellite office in the New England area.

Manchester offers all of the advantages of the greater-Boston high technology community, but with a lower cost of living and an increased quality of life to my way of thinking that would enable the United States Patent and Trademark Office to attract and retain high-quality professionals for its Examiner Corp. For example:

Manchester is located about 5 miles from the Manchester Boston Regional Airport. Having undergone significant expansion in recent years, the airport offers easy access, competitive airfares, ample affordable parking, and a comprehensive schedule of flights, including daily non-stop flights to airports in the Washington, D.C. area. Manchester is located less than fifty miles north of Boston Logan Airport, with available ground transportation between the two airports.

Manchester is less than an hour's drive from downtown Boston and Cambridge and even closer to the high technology corridor along I-95. This closely ties Manchester to the highly-skilled technology work force of potential examiners and patent applicants in these areas, while offering reasonably-priced office space, available parking, and a comparatively easy commute that is opposite of the traditional commuter pattern (those people living in New Hampshire but working in and around Boston).

Manchester's location also places it in the midst of a cluster of world-renowned colleges and universities, including: more than a dozen academic institutions for science and engineering in the Greater Boston area, such as Harvard University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI), located to the south; the University of New Hampshire located to the east (with a satellite campus in the Manchester millyard); and Dartmouth College, the University of Vermont, and the colleges and universities of upper-state New York, including the SUNY schools, Rensselaer Polytechnic University and Colgate, located to the north.

Manchester also has access to law schools that could provide a source of potential examiners and continuing legal education for those examiners. Most significantly, Manchester is a short drive from the University of New Hampshire School of Law (formerly Franklin Pierce Law School prior to its affiliation with the University of New Hampshire in 2010). The UNH School of Law has an international reputation for its concentration on intellectual property and practical, hands-



on patent prosecution training. There are an additional eleven law schools in the Boston area and a number of other law schools throughout the New England and upper-state New York area.

Finally, while I understand that my views of Manchester may be subjective, publications routinely name southern New Hampshire as a top location. For example, Forbes Magazine named the Manchester-Nashua metropolitan area as the 7th Most Livable City in the United States in 2010, citing its low crime rate, low cost of living, and high access to arts and leisure.

I would be happy to provide any additional details to facilitate your review of Manchester, New Hampshire as a location of a United States Patent and Trademark Office satellite location.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean Kamen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dean Kamen