



GE
Global Research

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To: satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

From: GE Global Research

Re: Nationwide Workforce Program

United States Patent and Trademark Office
Attn: Azam Khan, Deputy Chief of Staff
Mail Stop - Office of Undersecretary and Director
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**Re: Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices for the
Nationwide Workforce Program (Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066)**

Dear Mr. Kahn:

GE Global Research is the R&D arm of the General Electric Company and wishes to offer comments to the request for comments regarding the selection of sites for satellite offices (USPTO Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066 "Request for Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program").

In summary, GE Global Research supports the selection of **New York State Capital Region** as a USPTO satellite office since it offers an ideal combination of benefits. The geographic location provides convenient access to all the New England states with a robust road infrastructure and easily accessible airport. It is a high-tech region with highly skilled engineering workforce and inventive companies. The area offers an exceptional quality of life with top ranked schools and proximate to the NY State Capital and powerful political allies.

GE Global Research is the hub of technology development for all of GE's businesses. Our scientists and engineers redefine what's possible, drive growth for our businesses, and find answers to some of the world's toughest problems.

Our team of 3,000 researchers represents a diverse set of technology expertise ranging from electronics to chemistry, biosciences to computing, metallurgy to fluid mechanics, materials to imaging– and everything in between. We have research partnerships with customers, industry leaders, governments, and educational institutions. Our ability to develop strong business relationships and robust tools and processes, ensure that we continue to offer cutting-edge products and services for customers.

We are proud of our rich heritage. GE Global Research was founded as the first U.S. industrial research lab in 1900. Esteemed researchers included Charles Steinmetz; William Coolidge, who revolutionized lighting and medicine; Irving Langmuir, the first U.S. industrial scientist to win the Nobel Prize; Albert Hull, a prolific inventor of electronic devices; and Saul Dushman, a world leader in vacuum science and technology. Major technology contributions during the first half century included the ductile tungsten filament and gas-filled lamps for lighting; the modern medical x-ray tube; the process for making silicones; Calrod® heating elements for electric stoves; and the magnetron tube, the basis of the microwave oven.

Achievements continued in the second half of the 20th century with Lexan® and PPO/Noryl® plastics; the world's first reproducible process for making diamonds; a translucent ceramic making possible the Lucalox® lamp for outdoor illumination; and development of computed tomography (CT) scanners and magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) systems for healthcare. Scientific achievements of this era included the discovery of superconductive tunneling for which Ivar Giaever won the Nobel Prize, and the invention of the solid-state laser by Robert Hall.

Today, GE Global Research continues to be at the forefront of technology. We are creating diagnostic tools that will enable us to see a detailed map of disease biomarkers at the molecular level. These biomarkers will give researchers and clinicians better information about a patient's disease, enabling more effective treatment options. We are using new material capabilities from our nanotechnology research to improve gas and steam turbines, aircraft engines, and healthcare MR imaging. We are creating sodium battery storage that enables energy to be saved and used at a later time. Our Remote Monitoring & Diagnostics capabilities allow us to drive peak performance in GE's fleets of gas turbines, wind turbines, aircraft engines, locomotives, and medical imaging systems. "GE Pulse Detonation" technologies will be used to develop the next generation of aircraft engines and gas turbines. Production-ready, advanced manufacturing technologies will serve our Energy, Aviation, and Oil & Gas businesses.

From 1990 to 2010, GE Global Research has issued over 5,000 U.S. Patents spanning every spectrum of technology. During this same time period, the Research Center has filed almost 10,000 patent applications in the U.S. Patent Office. In 2011 alone, GE Global Research filed approximately 572 U.S patent applications.

In addition to GE Global Research, a business unit of GE Energy is also located in Schenectady, NY. There are over 4,000 employees at the energy division involved in many different

technologies. President Obama visited the Schenectady plant and marveled at the power plant components that are sold throughout the world.

GE is also bringing more manufacturing technology into the region with the the new high-density battery plant as well as the digital X-ray mammography facility.

1. A satellite office in the New York State Capital Region would increase outreach activities to better connect patent filers and innovators with the USPTO.

Upstate NY and in particular, the Capital Region, would enhance the connectivity between the USPTO and the patent community as the location is a central location with convenient airport access, high capacity traffic infrastructure and a geographic hub that is driveable by a large number of New England patent filers. As the State Capital of New York, the USPTO satellite office would be prominently visible to the NY State government and benefit from easy access to the decision makers in the legislature. The area has numerous locations for large seminars and symposiums as well as large hotel capacity and a fully built out technology infrastructure.

2. A satellite office in the New York State Capital Region would enhance patent examiner retention.

The region offers affordable housing with little traffic and an exceptional quality of life. The school system that is highly ranked and would allow for experienced patent examiners with families to live comfortably and to stay with the USPTO.

3. A satellite office in the New York State Capital Region would improve recruitment of patent examiners.

The Capital Region provides an ideal location for patent examiner recruitment as the cost of living is relatively low as compared to other urban areas, housing is reasonable, and there are several engineering schools such as Union College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering University at Albany.

4. A satellite office in the New York State Capital Region would decrease the number of patent applications awaiting examination.

The satellite office in the NY State Capital Region should decrease the backlog in the US Patent Office by allowing for improved availability of personal interviews that are known to expedite prosecution. In addition, there may be a greater retention of experienced patent examiner talent by allowing the examiner corp a place to live with a different quality of life that presently available.

5. A satellite office in the New York State Capital Region would improve the quality of patent examination.

Work product quality has a direct relationship to the quality of the employees performing the work. By enabling the hiring of high quality patent examiners and for retaining experienced examiners, the quality of the examination processes would improve. In addition, the convenient access to the New England region provides a mechanism to increase the personal examiner

interviews. Furthermore, the high bandwidth infrastructure permits telecommunications such as video conferencing that allows for real time and interactive examiner interviews.

In summary, the Capital Region is an excellent site for high tech businesses and research, and provides a vibrant and actively engaged intellectual property community. In addition, it offers proximity to major geographic markets, a highly qualified technical workforce, outstanding educational opportunities, a stable business environment, and excellent quality of life at an affordable cost of living.

GE looks forward to the opportunity to provide further comment and, if appropriate, to participate in discussions regarding the USPTO satellite office location in New York's Capital Region. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or feedback.

Sincerely,

/Scott J. Asmus/

Scott J. Asmus

Supervisory Patent Counsel

GE Global Research