



Museum of Science®

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January 11, 2012

Mr. Azam Khan
Deputy Chief of Staff
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

Dear Mr. Khan:

The Museum of Science (“the Museum”), located in Boston and Cambridge, Massachusetts, recommends that the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) establish a satellite office in the Cambridge-Boston area.

The Museum of Science is a hub of research and invention that is New England's most visited cultural institution. The Museum has always moved visitors to think like scientists through hands-on, minds-on experiences. Today, with 1.5 million visitors a year, we are redefining the way people think about, learn about, and interact with science and technology.

The Museum has long been a regional and national leader among science museums. Now, the Museum is poised to play a significant role in building technological literacy and an understanding of the human-made world. For example, the Museum's National Center for Technological Literacy harnesses the Museum's spirit of fun education to inspire children, educators, and the public to learn how things work.

The Museum serves as the venue for a program for patents, known as the *Invented Here!* program. The *Invented Here!* program allows the public to nominate New England inventors and their recently issued patents for consideration by the Museum. From among the many inventor/invention nominees, the Museum selects top honorees to showcase their inventions to visitors in a fun, interactive manner. The *Invented Here!* program demonstrates to visitors how patented technology can have positive impacts on the human experience.

The Museum is an example of the culture of science and engineering education that is prominent in New England and supports the Museum in its staffing. Moreover, as a former university dean and professor, I can attest to the science and engineering talent that can be found in Massachusetts and would be available for the USPTO to attract enthusiastic and committed patent examiners.

In conclusion, the Museum would welcome a regional office of the USPTO into the local science and engineering community, as would our extensive network of educational and business supporters.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ioannis N. Miaoulis", written over a horizontal line.

Ioannis N. Miaoulis
Museum Director and President