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Sent: Monday, January 30, 2012 6:32 PM
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Subject: USPTO Office for New Mexico

January 30, 2012

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

Mr. Azam Khan,

I wholeheartedly endorse, and encourage you to select Albuquerque, New Mexico as a location for a new regional satellite patent and trademark office. As Dean of the University of New Mexico, School of Engineering, such an office would be a great enhancement to our region, providing a better connection with our faculty who want to register patents as well as our also increasing outreach activities for our highly productive innovative faculty. Since 1995, 203 patents have been issued for UNM School of Engineering faculty alone. This is with a faculty size of on average only 100 faculty. UNM is also a Carnegie Very High Research Intensive University, with contract and grant research expenditures of 31.7M in the School of Engineering last year alone. So, we are a highly productive and innovative School of Engineering in need of such a satellite office, not to mention the additional high level researchers in need of support from the many National Laboratories in the state of New Mexico.

Albuquerque is also the home of STC.UNM, the University's Science & Technology Corporation, a nonprofit corporation formed for the purposes of protecting, commercializing and transferring faculty inventions and university patents. The following demonstrates the high volume of intellectual discovery happening at UNM and in the School of Engineering, in Albuquerque, NM.

School of Engineering	Total
Count	As a % of total UNM
FY2007 37	54% 69
FY2008 35	46% 76
FY2009 54	64% 84
FY2010 53	50% 106
FY2011 48	48% 99

The Albuquerque metro area, with a population of 907,775 (as of 2011) is uniquely suited for a regional satellite patent and trademark office with its unique proximity of two National Laboratories, Sandia National Labs and the Air Force Research Lab. This, along with the University of New Mexico, with its strong science and engineering programs, means there is a high percentage of PhD's in the region. This leads to a high number of patent applications coming out of the region, as well as a strong pipeline of qualified workers for the patent office. The cost of living in Albuquerque is at 95% of the national average. Albuquerque has four distinct seasons, with mild winters, and on average 278 days of sunshine per year! The School of Law at the University of New Mexico can also provide an excellent source of high quality legal professionals for the patent office, and the nationally ranked School of Medicine provides excellent quality health care for the metro.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to let me know.

Regards,

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Dean of Engi neeri ng
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