

USPTO TO OPEN SATELLITE OFFICE IN DETROIT

In December, 2010, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) announced its plan to open the first ever USPTO satellite office in Detroit, Michigan in 2011. In its press release, the USPTO indicated that Detroit had all the critical criteria, including a high percentage of scientists and engineers, access to major research institutions, and a high volume of patenting activity and significant numbers of patent agents and attorneys in the area. The USPTO is expecting to “create more than 100 new jobs in its first year and provide a boost to the region’s innovation economy.” The USPTO is also hoping for the satellite office to draw upon Michigan’s highly qualified workforce to help reduce the backlog of more than 700,000 patent applications.

The satellite office will support USPTO’s Nationwide Workforce Program and hire more patent examiners in locations across the country. Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) David Kappos stated that “[e]stablishing satellite offices in geographically and economically diverse areas of the country will enable the agency to better recruit and retain a broad range of talented patent professionals.” The USPTO indicated that if this satellite office is successful, it will consider opening additional offices.

A specific location and anticipated opening date for the new Detroit office will be announced in the coming months.

The USPTO’s press release is available at http://www.uspto.gov/news/pr/2010/10_65.jsp.