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January 18, 2012

Via: Express Mail, Post Office to Addressee

David Kappos  
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property  
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Department of Commerce  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Recommending the Silicon Valley for the next Satellite USPTO Office

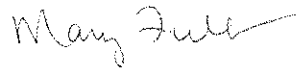
On behalf of Maxim Integrated Product, Inc. ("Maxim"), we would like to express our support for a satellite patent office in Silicon Valley.

Establishing a regional office in Silicon Valley would help reduce the number of pending patents in the USPTO system by enhance communication between the USPTO and the Silicon Valley community, while at the same time offering the USPTO high-quality and available workforce. The Silicon Valley has a concentration of scientists, engineers, patent agents and patent attorneys who would be competitive and qualified candidates to work in a Silicon Valley USPTO satellite office. Such a workforce would enhance and expand the USPTO's general technical resources, and provide highly qualified technical resources to work directly on the many cases originating in the Silicon Valley. In today's cost conscious world, companies like Maxim often forego valuable in-person examiner interviews because the travel costs associated with sending a Silicon Valley representative round trip to and from Virginia are prohibitive. By having USPTO experts in the region, Silicon Valley companies, including Maxim, will be able to work directly on high-tech cases with skilled patent examiners, resulting in higher quality patents in less time, which benefits everyone.

On average, Maxim files between eighty and one-hundred new semiconductor focused patent applications per year. The life cycles of products in the semiconductor industry can be relatively short, sometimes less than three to five years, which is coincident with the average length of patent pendency in this technology area. The more quickly Maxim's pending patent applications are processed, the better Maxim will be able to compete in the semiconductor space. An office in the Silicon Valley would reduce the time from patent filing to issuance, and allow our patent attorneys, patent agents, and engineers to develop close working relationships with patent examiners, thereby helping to assure higher quality patents.

If a satellite office were to be located in the Silicon Valley, Maxim would be able to partner with universities, other high-tech companies, local professional organizations, and the USPTO to help educate patent examiners on cutting edge technologies. Likewise, Maxim's patent attorneys and policy makers would be able to work more closely in partnership with the USPTO as the patent laws and policies change and take shape. We believe that collaboration between Silicon Valley inventors, Silicon Valley companies, and the USPTO is vital to refining the patent application process overall and maximizing innovation nationwide.

Very truly yours,



Mary A. Fuller,  
Associate General Counsel, IP  
Maxim Integrated Products, Inc.

cc:

Silicon Valley Leadership Group,  
Emily Lam (elam@svlg.org)