Metro Atlanta Chamber

January 30, 2012

David Kappos
Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property
Director of the United States Patent and Trademark office
Department of Commerce
Madison Buildings
600 Dulany Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Subject: Atlanta for Satellite Office Comment Submission [Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066]
Email: satelliteoffices@uspto.gov

Dear Under Secretary Kappos,

The Metro Atlanta Chamber (MAC) appreciates the opportunity to respond to this Request for Comment issued by the Department of Commerce. MAC is the Atlanta regional chamber of commerce representing more than 4000 companies, academic centers and research institutions. Over the last decade, we have recruited more than 500 companies creating over 55,000 high-paying jobs. We focus on fostering growth in our companies in the supply chain, advanced manufacturing, bioscience, technology, and business services sectors.

As the commercial capital of the Southeastern United State, Atlanta is home to many innovative industries, companies and institution that help drive the Southeast's economy. More than 145,000 private-sector firms call Atlanta home, with 12 Fortune 500 companies headquartered in the city including Home Depot, United Parcel Service (UPS), Delta Airlines, and Coca- Cola. Along with these and other important companies, Atlanta continues to attract new and innovative businesses every year.

Atlanta also fosters the vital development of a talented and diverse workforce through its numerous top-ranked institutions of higher education. Within only miles of downtown Atlanta, are some of the country's premier science, engineering, and business institutions, including Georgia Tech, Emory, and Morehouse. In addition to graduating sought after employees, research universities in and around Atlanta produce many patents and feed and support a vibrant startup community. The Georgia Research Alliance (GRA), a non-profit organization that coordinates science and technology research between private and public sector entities, plays a key role in strengthening the state's innovation capacity and highly-skilled workforce. Together, GRA member institutions produce groundbreaking research and help bring technologies and discoveries quickly to the marketplace and could do even more work in close proximity to a Regional USPTO Office.

What follows provides MAC's general view regarding the questions set forth by the Request for Comment on the Administration's initiatives for revitalizing American innovation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our views on this important topic. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Danielle Fernandes, Sr. Project Manager of Corporate Operations & Business Services, at 404-586-8452, for additional information.

Sincerely,

Sam A. Williams
President, Metro Atlanta Chamber

Atlanta

Comments on Additional USPTO Satellite Offices for the Nationwide Workforce Program

Docket No. PTO-C-2011-0066

January 30, 2012

Submitted by
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I. INTRODUCTION

Atlanta appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Request for Comments regarding potential locations for future USPTO satellite offices. The Atlanta area offers the infrastructure and a combination of resources that uniquely qualify the city to serve as an USPTO satellite office. The city has a diverse and educated population needed to meet the USPTO's goal of recruiting and retaining a highly-skilled workforce. Because it is a hub of innovation, technology, and patent and trademark activity, an Atlanta office would be a natural choice to help reduce patent application pendency, improve quality, and enhance communication between the USPTO and the patent applicant community. The metro Atlanta area is a national leader in entrepreneurial activity and the technology sector, and leads the Southeast in patent activity. Atlanta is an international gateway with global access through the world's most traveled airport, and is a logistics hub. Its diverse economy and businesses, along with top universities, including research, engineering and medical leadership, drive commercialization and continue to attract growth.

A PTO Atlanta location would be highly successful both domestically and internationally. Atlanta offers the best resources to fuel the American entrepreneurial spirit and to support the nation's competitive advantages globally. Atlanta knows what it takes to nurture an innovative environment and with the PTO, could continue to build a globally competitive economy.

The Southeast's population exceeds 78 million and employment is greater than 33 million.[1] Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the Southeast measured $3.2 trillion in 2010 representing 22 percent of the U.S.[2] If the Southeast were a country it would have the 5th highest GDP in the world, larger than the GDP of all but four countries: United States, China, Japan and Germany. Metro Atlanta is one of the fastest growing metros in the U.S. and has the 10th largest GDP in the U.S., making it a city that drives this region's economic growth.

Atlanta is the business capital and global business hub of the Southeast. It is also the geographic center of the region. Metro Atlanta, which has consistently ranked in the top five cities with the most Fortune 500 headquarters throughout the last decade, continues to attract additional investment by America's largest corporations. Turner Broadcasting System, ThyssenKrupp, NCR, First Data, Sony Ericsson, and AT&T Mobility call Atlanta home because of the region's strengths in talent and resources. These corporations support the innovative spirit of the City.

a. CASE FOR USPTO IN ATLANTA

Atlanta is the epicenter of the Southeast, attracting business and talent.
- Atlanta provides a **deep talent base.** The region's healthy job growth, highly ranked universities, and vibrant economy continue to attract human capital that employers seek.
- Atlanta is a **top higher education metro area**, with institutions including Emory University, Georgia Tech, Georgia State University and many technical colleges. These schools drive innovation and produce young, educated professionals who are a significant part of the workforce.

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[1] US Census Bureau
[2] US Bureau of Economic Analysis: Advance 2010 and Revised 2007—2009 GDP–by–State Statistics

- Atlanta is a **world leader in technology, consistently ranked as a Top 10 city for technology innovation, use and connectivity**. The technology community includes more than 13,000 companies and it continues to grow. The city is known for its strengths in telecom, internet security and digital media, with manufacturing and software development offering employment to tens of thousands of Atlantans.
- **Hartsfield - Jackson Atlanta International Airport** is the world's most-traveled airport, serving over 90 million passengers annually. Eighty percent of the U.S. can be reached within a two-hour flight and nearly 80 international destinations in 50 countries can be reached nonstop.
- Atlanta provides **exceptional quality of life while maintaining affordability.** Business environment and quality of life consistently rank Atlanta at the top of major U.S. metropolitan areas for working, living, and playing. The region is noted for its job creation investment advantages, pro-active business environment and various quality-of-life indicators.

b. ECONOMIC IMPACT OF USPTO IN ATLANTA

The USPTO can **contribute greatly to the economic success of Atlanta** by hiring local employees. The economic impact that a PTO office would be at least $3.7 million in additional labor income and would decrease Atlanta's unemployment rate of 9.5%, which is higher than the nation's 8.5%.[3]

Metro Atlanta Statistical Area

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[3] US Bureau of Labor Statistics Dec 2011.

II. DIVERSE ECONOMY & BUSINESSES

Businesses are challenged to drive growth while cutting costs. Therefore, innovation is a mandate given today's business environment. Atlanta's business climate fosters innovation and cultivates an environment to attract innovative companies and individuals.

Atlanta has the lowest relative business costs among the nation's top 10 largest metro areas[4] (Appendix A-1). FORTUNE 1,000 companies understand the value of a metro Atlanta address, as more than 70 percent have established operations here. Businesses include twelve Fortune 500 headquarters, hundreds of other headquarters, over 2,800 foreign-owned operations, and thousands of small businesses.

Fortune 500 companies include United Parcel Service (UPS), The Coca-Cola Company, The Home Depot, Delta Air Lines, The Southern Company, NCR and First Data. Atlanta is also home to the Sixth District Federal Reserve Bank. Internationally recognized non-profits such as Habitat for Humanity, CARE USA, American Cancer Society and the Arthritis Foundation are headquartered here. These entities continue to grow and invest in Atlanta, spurring innovation and increasing research and development commitments in this region.

Atlanta is a logistics hub, but it also a worldwide center of logistics innovation and a center for supply chain management software. The region is consistently ranked 5th nationally in transportation and logistics employment. Supply chain giants here include Delta Air Lines, Manhattan Associates, Norfolk Southern, and UPS. Seventy percent of the top 20 supply chain software providers have operations in this region because of access to talent and research facilities. Home to Georgia Institute of Technology's Supply Chain & Logistics Institute and School of Industrial and Systems Engineering, Atlanta is a globally recognized leader in research and patent activity for this industry.

Atlanta has a thriving bioscience community with special strengths in health IT, medical devices and vaccine development. More than 300 bioscience companies have operations in metro Atlanta. Top bioscience companies here include McKesson, Quest Diagnostics, Kimberly-Clark, MERIAL, CR Bard, and Quintiles Laboratories.

These companies, along with Atlanta's top universities, drive commercialization. Metro Atlanta bioscience companies were responsible for close to 1,000 patents in the Drug, Bio-affecting, and Body Treating Compositions class. Georgia frequently ranks among the top 5 states in agricultural bioscience patents and among the top 10 in total bioscience patents.[5] The Centers for Disease Control continually produces vaccine-related technologies which can be licensed for commercialization.

Atlanta is often referred to as the nation's health IT capital and is at the forefront of consumer digital health. There are more than 135 health IT companies in Georgia and that number continues to rapidly rise. Atlanta-based companies include McKesson Technology Solutions,

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[4] KPMG: Competitive Alternatives: Guide to International Business Location (2010)
[5] USPTO 2000 – 2008 patents by class

ranked as the world's largest by *Healthcare Informatics* in their annual report. This company and others produce more than $4 billion in annual revenue in the bioscience sector and continue to invest in innovation in Atlanta. The Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society, the world's largest HIT organization, originated at Georgia Tech.

The success of this industry is due to the vast assets of the city's numerous health IT corporations, served and supported by the diverse resources of Georgia academic institutions and healthcare providers. Another vital component of the city's strength is the highly trained professional health IT workforce provided by nationally prominent universities and medical schools, technical colleges and other training programs throughout Georgia. Atlanta demonstrated this strength by winning one of the highly competitive EDA Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge grants to focus on training the future HIT workforce.[6]

Like the logistics and bioscience communities, Atlanta's technology community is highly innovative and a global leader.

a. TECHNOLOGY SECTORS

Atlanta is ranks well in various rankings related to IT infrastructure:
- 2nd "Most Wireless Savvy City"[7]
- 3rd in the nation for internet and telecom services[8]
- 5th in the nation for software publishers[9]
- 4th largest information sector market with a project 9.1% growth rate from 2010-2020[10]

Atlanta is a national leader in information security, communications services, and financial technology. Home to technology leaders such as AT&T Mobility, IBM Internet Security Systems, Siemens One, GE Technology Infrastructure, Cox Enterprises, Sony Ericcson, and Manhattan Associates, Atlanta is a fast paced, high-technology center with strengths in transaction processing, digital content and distribution, software publishing, wireless and internet security.

Among U.S. Metros, Atlanta's high-tech economy is ranked in the top ten for data processing, computer system design, as well as architectural and engineering industries. Atlanta also has a strong financial-tech center (Fin Tech), with 8 of the top 10 Fin Tech companies located in Atlanta. In fact, three of the Top 20 American Banker Fin Tech 100 Companies are headquartered in Atlanta: NCR, First Data, and Equifax. Some of Atlanta's earliest entrepreneurs in this space started as software developers for CPAs or cash management tools for small businesses but quickly grew to international FinTech leaders. This community continuously spawns serial entrepreneurs to improve financial management, e-commerce, and mobility.

Atlanta's technology companies are growing and expect to invest $1 billion in the next three years. This means increased innovation, hiring, and research which will lead to increased patent

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[6] http://www.gatech.edu/newsroom/release.html?nid=70264
[7] Atlanta Business Chronicle, March 15, 2011; AT&T Inc.
[8] Cybercities 2011 Tech America Foundation
[9] Cybercities 2011 Tech America Foundation
[10] Moody's Economy.com October, 2011

activity. Atlanta-based GE Energy, a major player in the smart grid space, has developed a $15 million center of excellence. This center trains close to 300 engineers and software developers every year.

Smart grid technologies aim to lower the cost and improve the efficiency of power generation and delivery. They also help make the power grid more reliable and inclusive of renewable energy technologies, such as solar and wind power.

Atlanta is also a hub for mobile technology. There is a critical mass of high-profile companies, talent and resources in the area that enable consumers to use their mobile devices for information, communication and transactions 24/7. AT&T Mobility and Consumer Markets recently announced the formation a new division in Atlanta called "Digital Life Services," which would develop services that would allow consumers to manage home security, energy use and health care from their mobile device. Georgia Tech and Shepherd Center's Wireless Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center were awarded a $4.75 million federal grant from the U.S. Department of Education to develop software applications to improve the quality of life for people with disabilities.

Top Hi-Tech Metro Areas Ranked By Hi-Tech Establishments

Rank	Metro Area	Hi-Tech Establishments
1.	New York	21,753
2.	Washington, DC	16,820
3.	Chicago	12,043
4.	**Atlanta**	**8,931**
5.	Boston	8,832

Source: Cybercities 2010; TechAmerica Foundation

Atlanta also leads the nation in entrepreneurial activity. A 2010 Kauffman Index for Entrepreneurial Activity ranks Georgia Number 1 in the U.S. for entrepreneurial activity. Atlanta's incubators are organized to help entrepreneurs start their businesses by providing facilities, training, and connections with the broader enterprise community. The Advanced Technology Development Center, affiliated with Georgia Tech, is one of 25 incubators in the state of Georgia to assist entrepreneurs and has been commended by Forbes as one of ten technology incubators that are changing the world[11] .

The state also has a unique framework geared towards creating growth in key industries. Georgia's Centers of Innovation provide unique, technology-oriented support to businesses and start-ups in the areas of aerospace, agribusiness, energy, life science, logistics, and advanced manufacturing. Each of the six centers provides direct access to university and technical college applied research, commercialization resources, technology connections, matching grant funds, potential investor networks, and key government agencies.

Georgia venture capital deals are on the rise. According to the 2011 Money Tree report published by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC and the National Venture Capital Association, seed and early-stage venture deals accounted for 48% of total deal volume nationally in the second quarter of

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[11] Forbes: Technology Incubator (2010)

this year. Total venture capital investment in Georgia increased 43% in Q2 of 2011 compared to 2010. The region has seen 336 deals valued at $1.8 billion in the last five years.[12]

Each year, Atlanta hosts Venture Atlanta, the region's premier technology innovation event, where Atlanta's top technology innovators meet the country's top-tier investors. As the state's largest investor showcase, Venture Atlanta connects Georgia's entrepreneurs with venture capitalists, bankers, angel investors and others who can help raise the capital entrepreneurs need to grow their businesses. There has been much success in this as Venture Atlanta and its earlier iterations have assisted companies in raising close to $900 million.

Atlanta also ranks first in the nation for minority entrepreneurs.[13] It is home to the Department of Commerce funded and award winning Minority Business Development Agency that serves entrepreneurs in the metro Atlanta area.[14] These services tie into many other resources such as incubators, venture capital, professional organizations, and business community drive entrepreneurial growth in Atlanta. These resources help promote invention, innovation, and patent activity.

b. METRO ATLANTA LEADS THE SOUTHEAST IN PATENT ACTIVITY.[15]

Southeast MSA	Number of Patents Granted 2006 - 2010
Atlanta, Georgia	**6,385**
Miami, Florida	4,111
Greenville, South Carolina	1,112
Charlotte, North Carolina	1,103
Nashville, Tennessee	717
Huntsville, Alabama	657
Jackson, Mississippi	91

c. INTERNATIONAL PRESENCE

Metro Atlanta has been recognized as an international gateway and the economic engine of the southeast. fDi Magazine has ranked Atlanta the No. 3 "Most Business Friendly American Major City of the Future" and among the top ten "American Cities of the Future".

International companies, such as Wipro, Porsche, Siemens, Samsung, UCB Pharma, and SANY have committed to major investments in both operations and talent in Atlanta. These companies

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[12] Technology Association of Georgia 2011 State of the Industry Report
[13] Forbes: Top 10 Metros for Minority Entrepreneurs, March 23 2011
[14] http://mbdabusinesscenter-atlanta.org/
[15] U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: Patenting in U.S. Metropolitan/Metropolitan Areas by Organization Name

see Atlanta as a gateway to North American markets and a jumping point to connect with the world. In fact, many such companies have chosen Atlanta for their R&D facilities. SANY America, Inc., a subsidiary of one of the world's largest concrete machinery manufacturers and the largest concrete-pumping equipment company in China, recently announced the expansion of its Atlanta plant with investment in an R&D center. Similarly, Novelis- the Atlanta based subsidiary of India-based Hindalco Industries Ltd., will invest about $25 million in a new research and development center in Atlanta.

Georgia's foreign direct investment activity is concentrated in metro Atlanta. Companies from six countries have invested a cumulative total of $22.3 billion in Georgia.[16] Over 4,000 internationally owned facilities call this region home, employing more than 130,000 Atlantans.

The metro Atlanta area prides itself on its ethnic and cultural diversity. Of metro Atlanta's 5.2 million people, over 700,000 were born in foreign countries. Atlanta's population is made up of newcomers from all regions in the United States, Latin America, Europe, Africa and all parts of Asia.

These people all have one important thing in common: they choose to call metro Atlanta home for its strong, diverse economy, low cost of living, world-class universities, arts and culture, public parks, plentiful shopping, dining locations, and direct access to 230 destinations around the world.

III. TALENTED WORKFORCE

As the Southeast's business and technology center, Atlanta naturally attracts and retains many highly educated people to the region (Appendix A-2). Atlanta is a national leader in attracting college-educated 25-34 year olds.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 50% of Atlanta adults hold at least a bachelor's degree.[17] Metro Atlanta's labor force is more than 2.7 million strong giving companies a robust access to talent. Atlanta's healthy job growth, highly ranked universities and vibrant economy continue to attract the talent that employers seek.
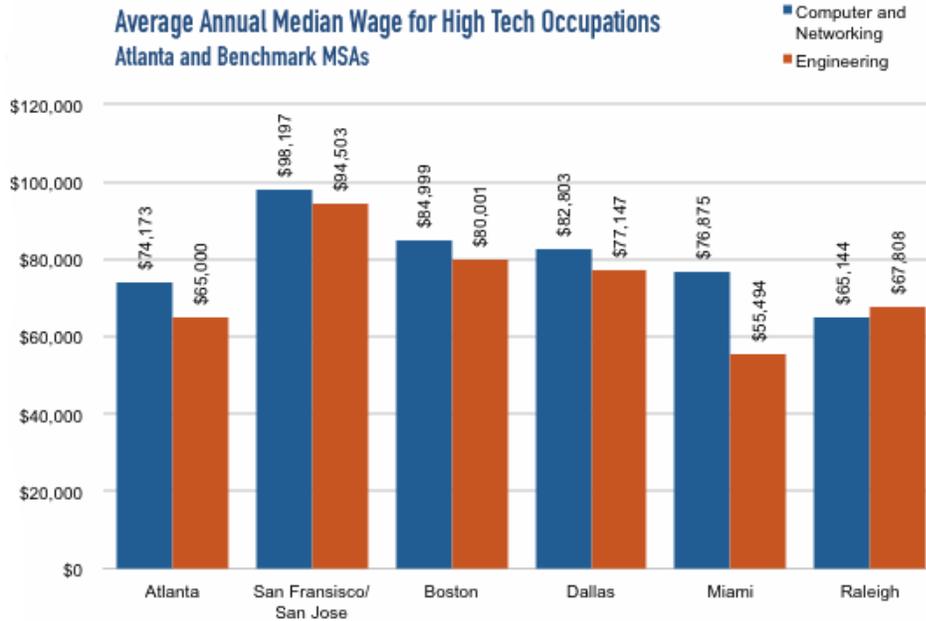
Top Corporate Employers, Atlanta MSA[18]

Employer	Atlanta Employees
Delta	22,257
AT&T	21,915
Emory University	21,000
Cox Enterprises	13,583
United Parcel Services (UPS)	10,745
Wellstar Health Systems	10,112
SunTrust banks	7,700
Lockheed Martin Aeronautics	7,531

[16] Georgia Department of Economic Development FDI through 2011
[17] U.S. Census Bureau 2010 State & County QuickFacts
[18] Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce & Georgia Power research departments (June 2007/2008).

Employer (cont.)	Atlanta Employees (cont.)
IBM Corporation	7.500
Northside Hospital	7,100
Turner Broadcasting Systems	6,600
The Southern Company (including Georgia Power)	6,000
AirTran Airways	6,000
The Home Depot (HQ not including retail branches)	5,500
Children's Healthcare of Atlanta	5,220
Coca-Cola	5,136

a. HIGH TECH OCCUPATIONAL CLUSTERS

According to the Technology Association of Georgia's 2011 State of the Industry report, Atlanta leads the nation in competitive wage rates for high-tech occupations such as computer networking and engineering. Nearly 90,000 are employed in IT occupations, creating one of the nation's largest IT employment clusters in the nation.

IT Employment Clusters in the Southeast.

Source: Georgia Power 2011

Source: Technology Association of Georgia's 2011 State of the Industry

Atlanta draws a diverse workforce to reflect its diverse economy. Highly educated employees represent all sectors of industry, making the region an attractive location for businesses to find human capital. For example, Georgia Tech ranks second in the national in the number of undergraduate engineering degrees conferred to minority students.[19] The table below reflects some occupational clusters that would support a PTO Atlanta office.

b. PTO OCCUPATIONAL CLUSTERS

Occupation	Atlanta MSA Employment	Atlanta MSA Median Hourly Wage	U.S. Median Hourly Wage
Software Developers	17,440	$42.99	$44.07
Engineers:	35,460	$32.14	$30.91
Electrical	2,080	$41.36	$40.26
Mechanical	2,900	$36.32	$39.53
Biomedical	110	$34.43	$43.16
Computer Software	1,070	$48.80	$50.20
Lawyers	11,330	$61.53	$68.55

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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[19] http://www.gatech.edu/about/factsandfigures.html

c. PATENT AGENTS/ATTORNERYS IN ATLANTA

The legal community is an integral part of every patent application. Patent attorneys and agents are often close partners in executing corporate innovation strategy. Georgia has about 813 patent agents and attorneys, the majority residing in Atlanta.[20] Atlanta leads the southeastern region in concentration of registered USPTO patent agents, attorneys, and high-tech skilled labor.

Southeast MSA	Number of Patent Agents/Attorneys
Atlanta, Georgia	683
Charlotte, North Carolina	173
Miami, Florida	74
Greenville, South Carolina	69
Nashville, Tennessee	47
Birmingham, Alabama	41
Jackson, Mississippi	9

IV. HIGHER EDUCATION

The Atlanta region enjoys a concentration of colleges and universities matched by few U.S. metropolitan areas, landing in the top tier across more than 20 measures of higher education. And Atlanta-area colleges and universities offer an extraordinary mix of missions and campus settings – from downtown campuses to tree-lined quads, from internationally renowned research institutions to small liberal arts colleges, and from comprehensive universities to specialized schools of art, theology, technology and medicine.

Fifty-seven colleges and universities enroll more than 250,000 students in metro Atlanta. Georgia residents have access to the HOPE Program which provides scholarships and grants for higher education in Georgia. Combined, metro Atlanta's three largest public universities- Georgia State University, Kennesaw State University and Georgia Tech enroll more than 75,000 students each year and are nationally recognized for excellence in their programs. Other large public institutions include Southern Polytechnic State University, Clayton State University and the University of West Georgia.

Metro Atlanta is also home to Emory University with graduate programs in medicine, law, engineering and business that consistently rank among the nation's top programs. In 2011, a study in the New England Journal of Medicine named Emory University as the nation's fourth

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[20] Georgia Department of Labor, Office of Workforce Statistics and Economic Research

largest contributor to the discovery of new drugs and vaccines by public-sector research institutions. Other private schools in, or near, Atlanta include Agnes Scott College, Mercer University, and Oglethorpe University.

Atlanta also is home to the main campuses of six technical colleges which enroll nearly 50,000 students a year. They are a vital workforce training and retooling resource for the local business communities.

Atlanta School Rankings[21]

No.1 Spelman College of historically black colleges
No. 2 Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering (Georgia Tech & Emory)
No. 3 Morehouse College of historically black colleges
No. 7 Georgia State University for Management Information Systems (undergrad program)
No. 7 Georgia Tech among all public universities
No. 18 University of Georgia among all public universities
No. 20 Emory University among all national universities
No. 21 Emory University among medical schools
No. 23 Emory University among business schools
No. 28 Georgia Tech among business schools
No. 30 Emory University School of Law

We understand that recruiting and retaining a highly skilled workforce is crucial to the USPTO decision process. Our colleges and universities are leaders in the nation for graduating students with engineering and law degrees.
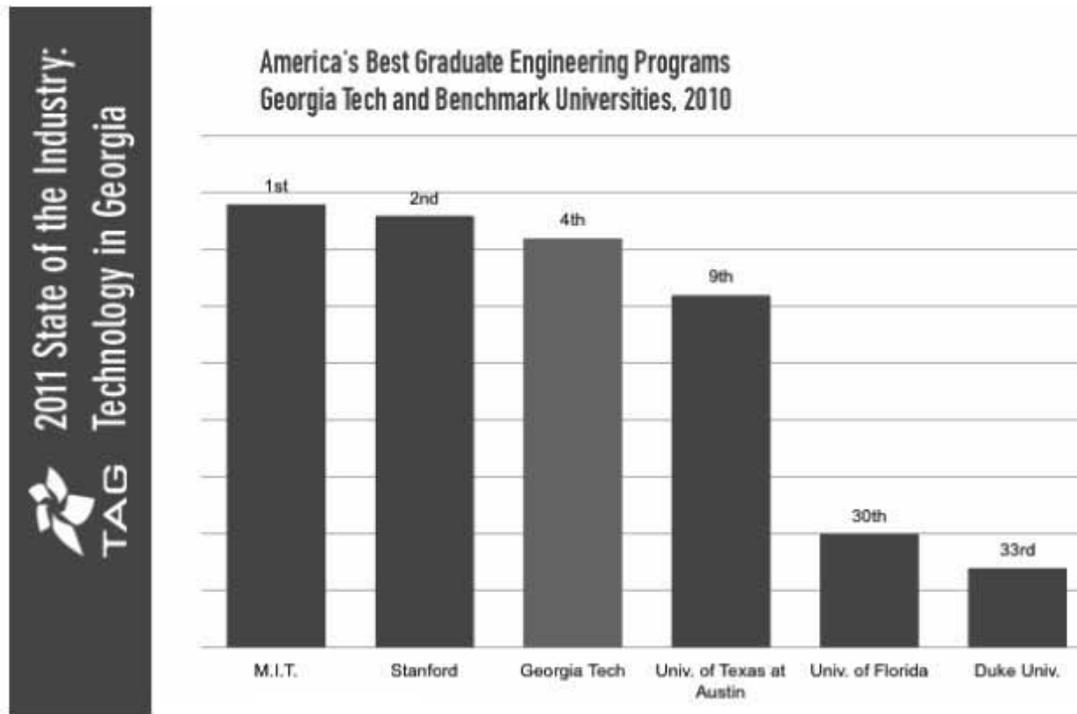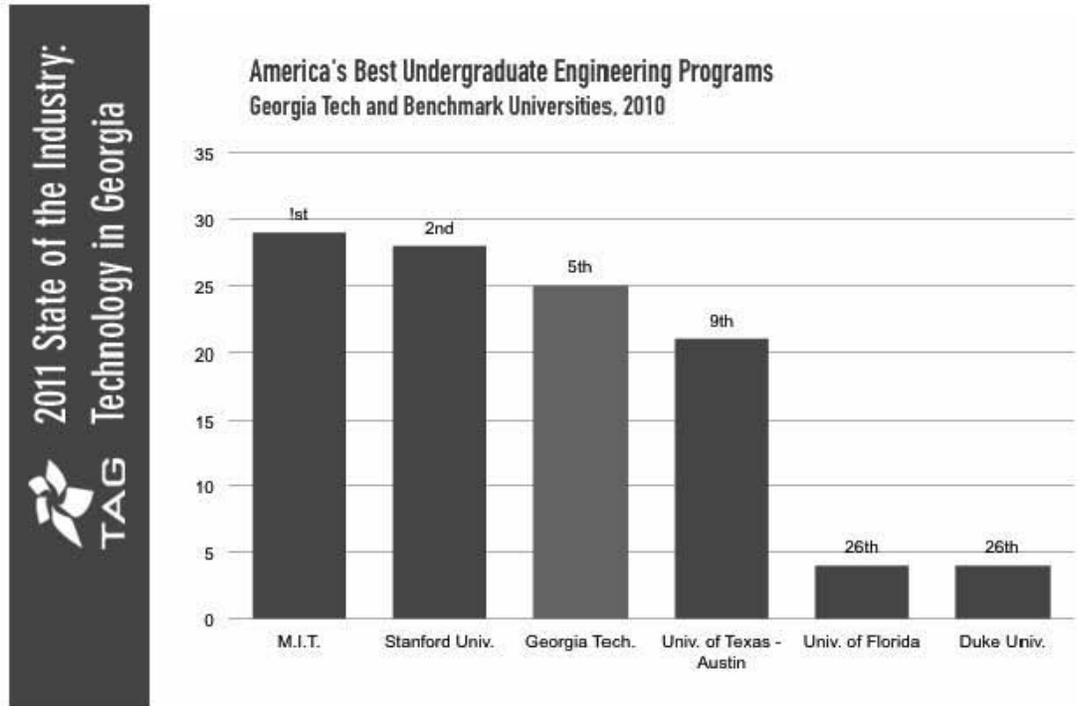
Atlanta law schools, Emory University School of Law, Georgia State University (GSU) and John Marshall Law School consistently produce graduates that have a strong interest in patent law. GSU has an extensive offering of patent-related courses, including Patent Law, Patent Drafting & Prosecution, Advanced Patent Law and Biotechnology Law to name a few. In addition GSU also runs a variety of extracurricular activities in the area of intellectual property in general and patent law in particular.

Emory Law and Georgia Tech's TI:GER® Program unites law, economics, management, science, and engineering graduate students to focus on the process of innovation and taking inventions from the lab to the marketplace. The program provides students with an education in patent and technology law, preparing students for commercializing new technologies and delivering innovating products to the marketplace.

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[21] 2010 U.S. New & World Report's Georgia School Rankings

a. ENGINEERING UNIVERSITIES

The Southeast has a significant cluster of 4-year universities that offer exceptional engineering degrees (Appendix A-3). Atlanta leads the Southeast in attracting top educators and students to its universities and ranks consistently among top engineering universities in the U.S.

America's Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs
Georgia Tech and Benchmark Universities, 2010

America's Best Graduate Engineering Programs
Georgia Tech and Benchmark Universities, 2010

Source: Technology Association of Georgia's 2011 State of the Industry

Georgia Tech's College of Engineering's recognitions are impressive. To start, the College is nationally and internationally renowned as attested to by the number of students applying for enrollment and faculty applying for teaching positions from around the world.

Georgia Tech has the largest College of Engineering in the country. It has 430 engineering faculty members and in 2010 conferred 2,855 engineering degrees. It consistently ranks in the Top 5 engineering schools in the country and was ranked fifth in the world in Shanghai Jiao Tong University rankings. Currently the College ranks 5th in undergraduate programs and 4th in graduate programs according to US News & World Report. Georgia Tech's College of Engineering is the largest producer of engineering degrees awarded to women and underrepresented minority students according to the American Society of Engineering Education and Diverse: Issues in Higher Education.

Georgia Tech's National Rankings in Engineering Programs[22]

4th Top Engineering Graduate Programs	**5th Top Engineering Undergraduate Programs**
Industrial Engineering – 1st	Industrial and Systems Engineering – 1st
Biomedical Engineering – 2nd	Aerospace Engineering – 2nd
Civil Engineering – 3rd	Biomedical Engineering – 2nd
Aerospace Engineering – 4th	Mechanical Engineering – 2nd
Environmental Engineering – 5th	Civil Engineering – 3rd
Computer Engineering – 6th	Environmental Engineering – 3rd
Electrical Engineering – 6th	Electrical Engineering – 4th
Mechanical Engineering – 6th	Computer Engineering – 6th
Materials Engineering – 8th	Materials Science and Engineering – 6th
Nuclear Engineering - 8th	Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering – 9th
Chemical Engineering – 11th	

Colleges and universities in the Atlanta region are a significant sector of the economy, generating a $10.8 billion impact on the state – 3.2% of Georgia's annual gross product – from spending by institutions, employees, students and visitors, plus the impact of capital expenditures.[23]

Research Center

Three local institutions – Georgia Tech, Emory and University of Georgia– consistently rank among the top 50 U.S. universities for research and development spending, according to the National Science Foundation. In FY 2011, Georgia Tech, Emory, Georgia State University and University of Georgia spent $1.5 billion in research expenditures, putting Atlanta in the top 5 metro areas in higher education research spending.

Together, Georgia universities and colleges filed nearly 1,500 patents from 2006 through 2008.[24]

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[22] U.S. News & World Report 2011 rankings
[23] Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education: How the Atlanta region's colleges and universities are enriching Georgia
[24] U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: Patenting in U.S. Metropolitan/Metropolitan Areas by Organization Name

b. SOUTHERN LIGHT RAIL

Southern Light Rail (SLR) is a Georgia Tech non-profit corporation providing National Lambda Rail (NLR) access to the Georgia Research Alliance universities, other universities in the Southern region of the United States and governmental and private sector organizations involved in university research initiatives. SLR will reach out to facilitate dark fiber connectivity to the Southern universities and research centers. This will help enable more collaborative research activities between and within universities. This kind of connectivity will be critical for a PTO satellite office in Atlanta.

NLR is a major initiative of U.S. research universities and private sector technology companies to provide a national scale infrastructure for research and experimentation in networking technologies and applications. NLR aims to catalyze innovative research and development into next generation network technologies, protocols, services and applications.

Southern Crossroads

SoX is a cooperative initiative by the members of the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA). It is designed to facilitate access to current and future highly integrated, digital communications services for education, research, and economic development within the region and across the United States. The mission is to connect both SoX Participants to Next Generation Internet services, as well as commodity services where appropriate, enhancing opportunities for collaboration among university researchers at institutions throughout the Southeast in a very cost effective manner.

Georgia Collaborative Research Initiative

The Georgia Collaborative Research Initiative (CRI) is a Georgia Tech effort with the goal of supporting the increasingly collaborative nature of scientific research. This initiative originated with the understanding that current and future research depends on the following:

With the formation of the Southern Light Rail (SLR), which connects to the National Lambda Rail (NLR), the universities have the capability to bring dedicated large bandwidth connections directly to a researcher. The CRI is about going beyond providing better network *connections* between researchers. It is also focused on recognizing and understanding the *context* of the individual researcher and applying this towards the development of *applications* that enable the researcher to work more effectively.

Many research projects require collaboration with international groups. Southern Light Rail, Inc. (SLR), working with National Lambda Rail (NLR), Internet Educational Equal Access Foundation (IEEAF), as well as other international providers can provide the necessary international connectivity.

SLR is one of the partners that will provide international connectivity and encourage innovation.

V. TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Atlanta has abundant and reliable telecommunication and utility services. Atlanta is the major interconnection point on the Eastern seaboard between New York and Miami and on to South America. This means unparalleled access to bandwidth and fiber.

Metro Atlanta ranks in the top five U.S. markets for total bandwidth and fiber access. Two of the country's largest fiber routes – North/South and East/West – cross in metro Atlanta. The Southeast's largest concentration of telecommunications companies sits at the heart of Downtown Atlanta, with giants like AT&T, Fiber Light, and Axis Teknologies operating in Atlanta.

Atlanta has a highly reliable power infrastructure and competitive electric rates put Atlanta in the top metros for technology infrastructure. AT&T Mobility is the nation's leading wireless carrier and the regional headquarters for AT&T. All AT&T central offices located in metro Atlanta are digital, ISN-equipped and have 100% redundancy. In fact, a majority of the nation's 21 largest telecommunications companies have a presence in Atlanta. This powerful cluster frequently ranks Atlanta as "America's Most Wired City."

The "Capital of the South", Atlanta is the hub of data center activity and growth for the southern East Coast. It is one of our nation's "peering points" for major U.S. Network Access Points (NAP's), and has excellent fiber connectivity and low latency services. This also means that Atlanta has an extremely low risk of business disruption and because of this, collocation providers offering both wholesale and retail offerings have continued to invest and expand in the region, with growing inventory in the works. With competitive utility rates and highly reliable networks, Atlanta is suited to grow as a data center hub.[25]

According to Broadband.gov, all of Georgia's counties enjoy 4Mbps broadband availability. In Metro Atlanta, 4Mbps is available to at least 50% of households. Because of its infrastructure, Atlanta has one of the world's most concentrated telecommunications and broadband activity.

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[25] Jones Lang LaSalle Data Centre Barometer Autumn 2011 – Issue 7

VI. GLOBAL AND DOMESTIC ACCESS

Atlanta's transportation network easily connects people and products to the global marketplace. The area offers unmatched market access to destinations around the United States and the world. Atlanta has become a distribution hub with its highly developed infrastructure, consisting of airports, railroads, highways and ports.

Air
The world's most-travelled airport, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), has five runways that serve more than 90 million passengers a year. More than 80% of U.S. consumers can be reached from Atlanta in two flight hours. One hundred fifty domestic locations and nearly 80 international locations are served non-stop via Atlanta's Hartsfield- Jackson Airport.

Improvements to its infrastructure and accessibility are continually being made. Hartsfield-Jackson will open the 1.2 million square foot Maynard H. Jackson Jr. International Terminal in 2012. This new terminal will feature 12 gates, eight security checkpoints, 3,500 parking spaces, separate levels for arrivals and departures, and plenty of world-class shopping and dining locations.

Highways
Three major highways (I-75, I-85, I-20) converge near Atlanta's central business district. The perimeter highway (I-285) circles the city in a 62.7-mile loop. Georgia 400 is a six-lane highway providing yet another route to the city via north metro Atlanta. Atlanta's major highways contain High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) and High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes which decrease drive times during peak hours.

Mass Transit
Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), with bus and rail services that cover over 1,000 miles, is the ninth-largest transit system in the U.S. MARTA serves Downtown, Midtown, Buckhead, and the Central Perimeter submarkets with direct access to Hartsfield-

Jackson Airport. Atlanta counties also support public transportation with Cobb County Transit (CCT) & Gwinnett County Transit connecting into MARTA at various points.

Federal offices in metro Atlanta are serviced by MARTA through bus and rail (Appendix A-4). AMTRAK has overnight service to Washington, D.C. through Charlotte, NC and daytime service to New Orleans, LA, through Birmingham, AL.

Leveraging the proximity and interconnectedness of Hartsfield-Jackson Airport with Atlanta's roadways and rail service, comapnies optimize the latest innovations in transportation and supply chain technology to the advantage of their clients.

VII.   AFORDABLE LIVING

Even with all the benefits of a major city, cost of living in Atlanta remains below the national average. Lower costs for major expenses such as housing, clothing, food and gasoline help keep the region's cost of living below the U.S. average and well below those of most major metropolitan areas.

a. COST OF LIVING

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index, annual averages 2010. Cost of Living Index (U.S. average = 100)

Atlanta offers residences that are more spacious and considerably less expensive than other major metro areas. The median cost of an executive-level appointed 2,200 square-foot home with four bedrooms and 2.5 baths is significantly lower than most metropolitan areas. [26]

Housing Index
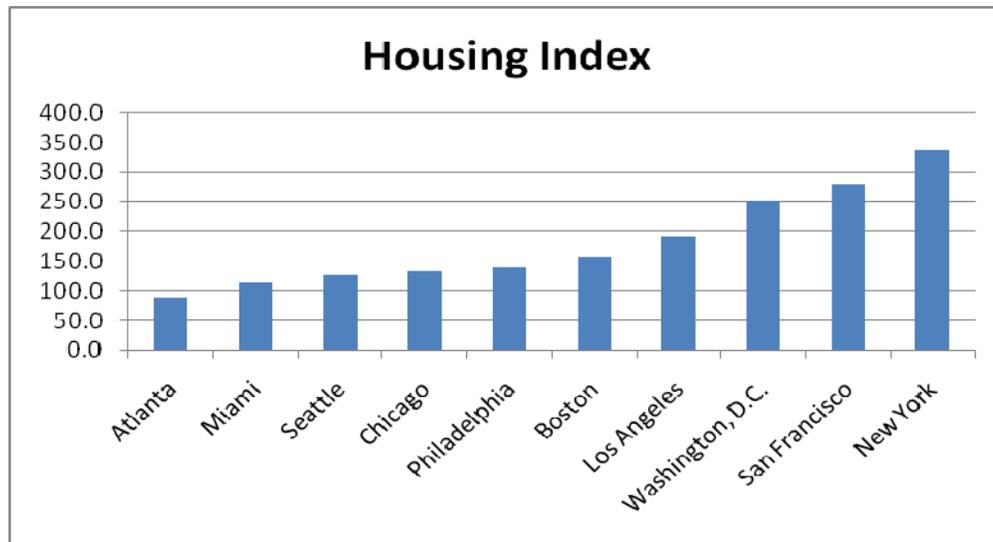
Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index, annual averages 2010

Metro Atlanta provides access to one of the most qualified, affordable, and efficient healthcare systems in the country. Metro Atlanta's healthcare community includes more than 90 hospitals, over 13,000 licensed physicians and over 100,000 healthcare practitioners.

b. QUALITY OF LIFE

Atlanta's moderate climate and low costs are attractive features in recruiting and retaining human capital in the region. Residents have many recreational and entertainment choices including the world's largest aquarium, professional and collegiate sports, theatrical productions, as well as art exhibits, community festivals, golf, tennis, and shopping.

Atlanta is home to nine professional sports franchises and continues to host major sporting events including the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series, PGA Tour Championship, Chick-fil-A Bowl and Parade, the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Tournament, SEC Football Championship, and the Peachtree Road Race.

Metro Atlantans have ample opportunities for both indoor and outdoor recreation. Atlanta boasts more than 100 public, private and semi-private golf courses and the city records over 300 golf days per year. There is an abundance of recreation leagues and clubs for popular sports, such as tennis, baseball, soccer, football, basketball, cycling and running.

Major festivals continue to grow in Atlanta with support from the public and private sectors. Quality of life is exceptionally high in Atlanta, making it a great city to raise a family, work, learn, play or retire.

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[26] Coldwell Banker Home Price Index (2008)

VIII. CONCLUSION

We applaud the Administration for looking into ways to expand the USPTO to further improve patent quality and enhance communication between the USPTO and the patent applicant community.

People and ideas represent the United States' greatest source of competitive advantage. **With a diverse economy, deep talent base, global air service, and sustained population growth, Atlanta is poised to support innovation and business growth.**

Regional economies are the drivers of growth for this nation. For Atlanta, the geographic and business epicenter of the Southeast, it is this intersection of people and place, talent and infrastructure, productivity and innovation that makes it a good choice for a PTO location.

We urge the USPTO to consider Atlanta as a location for one of its satellite offices.

METRO ATLANTA

Demographics	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
Metro Area Population										
Population (2010 Census)	5,268,860	4,552,402	9,461,105	12,828,837	5,564,635	18,897,109	5,992,660	4,345,320	3,449,059	5,582,170
Projected Population (2015)	5,801,800	4,679,500	9,721,570	13,285,310	5,963,340	19,376,000	6,060,570	4,439,390	3,691,320	6,141,540
Projected Growth Rate (2010-2015)	9.2%	2.7%	2.7%	3.4%	6.7%	2.5%	1.1%	2.1%	6.6%	9.1%
Median Age (2010 Census)	34.9	38.5	35.8	35.1	39.8	37.6	38.1	38.2	36.8	36.1
Foreign Born Population (Estimate 2010)	13.6%	16.9%	17.6%	34.4%	38.9%	28.8%	9.5%	30.0%	16.8%	21.9%
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 Census, American Community Survey, Woods & Poole Economics MSA profile, 2011.										
Metro Area Education										
Earned High School Degree or Higher (Estimate 2010)	87.5%	90.6%	86.4%	77.5%	82.7%	84.7%	88.4%	87.2%	91.2%	89.6%
Earned Bachelor's Degree or Higher (Estimate 2010)	34.1%	43.0%	34.0%	31.0%	28.1%	36.0%	33.1%	43.4%	37.0%	46.8%
Earned Graduate or Professional Degree (Estimate 2010)	11.8%	19.0%	12.8%	10.7%	10.4%	14.6%	13.1%	16.8	13.1	22.3%
Total Post-secondary Degrees Awarded- Bachelor's degree or higher (2005)	35,802	57,195	66,701	68,478	16,236	97,166	43,134	14,564	19,313	46,330
Total Post-secondary Students Enrolled- Full-time Equivalent (2005)	176,171	211,754	341,192	413,857	96,795	448,161	188,367	88,982	107,852	185,090
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census American Community Survey, Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education, 2008.										
State Education										
Doctorates Awarded (2009)	1,435	2,619	2,322	5,966	2,026	3,852	2,570	5,966	855	587
Source: National Science Foundation, 2009.										
Economic Indicators	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
GDP (Millions) (2010)	$272,362	$313,690	$532,331	$735,743	$257,560	$1,280,517	$346,932	$325,927	$231,221	$425,167
Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2010.										
Metro Area Workforce										
Labor Force (July 2011)	2,683,000	2,562,277	4,859,469	6,494,296	2,903,709	9,378,162	2,958,131	2,230,722	1,861,249	3,059,778
Unemployment Rate (Jul 2011)	10.4%	6.2%	10.2%	11.8%	11.2%	8.2%	8.3%	10.1%	9.1%	6.1%
Median Hourly Wage (May 2010)	$16.82	$21.26	$17.59	$17.75	$15.14	$19.98	$18.36	$22.29	$20.64	$22.97
Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2010-2011.										
City FORTUNE 500 Headquarters										
Number of FORTUNE 500 Headquarters (2011)	10	2	8	5	2	45	5	8	4	4
Rank of Top Cities with FORTUNE 500 Headquarters (2011)	3 (tie)	Not Ranked	6 (tie)	Not Ranked	Not Ranked	1	Not Ranked	6(tie)	Not Ranked	Not Ranked
Large Private Headquarters (2010)	7	8	13	24	7	26	11	24	0	0
Source: FORTUNE magazine May 2011, Forbes.com America's Largest Private Headquarters 2010.										
Transportation	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
Metro Area Air Service	ATL	BOS	ORD	LAX	MIA	JFK	PHL	SFO	SEA	IAD
International non-stop markets served	90	32	69	65	80	96	34	28	19	43
Domestic non-stop markets served	158	71	165	85	49	61	86	69	71	83
Sources: Individual airport websites, 2010.										
Regional Container Port Service	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
Distance to port (miles)	251	0	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	41
Source: Google Maps, Individual Port Websites, 2010.										

Commercial Real Estate	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
Metro Area Office Market										
Class A Asking Rent ($/sq.ft./yr.)	$21.60	$26.56	$27.52	$30.34	$36.03	$52.09	$24.72	$31.59	$30.86	$37.88
Class B Asking Rent ($/sq.ft./yr.)	$16.93	$19.14	$20.32	$24.59	$25.05	$40.18	$19.60	$29.03	$22.86	$27.58
Total Office Market Inventory- Class A,B,C (sq.ft.)	281,822,059	367,172,905	447,704,258	420,287,051	102,133,383	539,221,079	373,006,008	160,338,040	171,221,874	452,236,411
Total Office Market Vacancy Rate-Class A,B,C	17.3%	10.9%	15.5%	12.4%	14.2%	7.7%	12.2%	13.1%	12.9%	12.9%
Metro Area Industrial Market										
Warehouse & Distribution Asking Rent ($/sq.ft./yr.)	$3.53	$5.28	$4.60	$6.59	$6.72	$9.70	$4.13	$9.74	$5.80	$7.74
R&D / Flex Asking Rent ($/sq.ft./yr.)	$8.03	$8.97	$9.91	$14.53	$11.45	$15.06	$8.86	$18.47	$14.78	$12.03
Total Industrial Market Inventory (sq.ft.)	631,198,850	485,704,971	1,139,056,095	1,048,134,114	242,324,612	341,164,534	973,176,355	99,711,295	301,682,521	206,728,771
Total Industrial Market Vacancy Rate	14.1%	11.6%	12.2%	5.1%	9.1%	5.1%	9.7%	7.2%	8.4%	12.8%

*Source: CoStar National Market Reports: Year-End, 2010. *New York City Industrial Market is Long Island, New York*

Cost of Business	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
Overall Business Cost Index (Average = 100)	96.3	100.8	98.8	101.4	97.0	102.0	98.3	104.1	100.1	99.0
Total Tax Index	91.1	87.9	92.8	107.3	96.1	101.9	88.9	109.5	92.1	102.8

Source: Competitive Alternatives: KPMG's Guide to International Business Location, 2010.

State Electricity Costs	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
Residential (avg price per kilowatt-hour)	9.34 ¢	15.01 ¢	10.63 ¢	14.43 ¢	11.74 ¢	17.55 ¢	12.29 ¢	14.75 ¢	8.04 ¢	13.48 ¢
Commercial (avg price per kilowatt-hour)	9.14 ¢	14.60 ¢	7.98 ¢	11.26 ¢	10.13 ¢	15.63 ¢	9.71 ¢	13.10 ¢	7.37 ¢	13.34 ¢
Industrial (avg price per kilowatt-hour)	6.41 ¢	13.56 ¢	6.50 ¢	9.03 ¢	9.14 ¢	9.17 ¢	7.58 ¢	9.80 ¢	4.07 ¢	9.64 ¢

Source: Energy Information Administration, December 2010.

State Taxes	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
State Sales/Use Tax (2011)	4.00%	6.25%	6.25%	8.25%	6.00%	4.00%	6.00%	8.25%	6.50%	6.00%
State Corporate Income Tax (2011)	6%	8.25%	7.6%	8.84%	5.5%	7.1%	9.99%	8.84%	None	9.97%
State Individual Income Tax (2011)	1% to 6% (6 brackets)	5.3%	5.0%	1% to 10.3% (7 brackets)	None	4% to 8.97% (7 brackets)	3.07%	1% to 10% (7 brackets)	None	4% to 8.5% (3 brackets)
State Gasoline Tax (per gallon) (2010)	12.40 ¢	23.50 ¢	39.00 ¢	46.60 ¢	34.50 ¢	44.60 ¢	32.30 ¢	47.70 ¢	37.50 ¢	23.50 ¢

Source: The Tax Foundation.

State Unemployment Insurance	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
Taxable Wage Base	$8,500	$1,400	$12,740	$7,000	$7,000	$8,500	$8,000	$7,000	$37,300	$9,000
New Employers' Tax Rate (based on taxable wages)	2.70%	2.83%	3.35%	3.40%	2.70%	3.40%	3.70%	3.40%	3.50%	2.70%

Source: Significant Provisions of State Unemployment Insurance Laws, U.S. Department of Labor, July 2010.

Cost of Living	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
Cost of Living Index (U.S. average = 100)	98.8	137.2	114.4	131.1	108.3	187.9	123.8	161.3	115.2	147.5
Grocery Items Index	106.1	117.8	115.7	105.8	107.7	134.6	123.2	118.8	109.0	111.3
Housing Index	89.2	157.8	133.6	192.1	114.0	337.2	139.8	278.2	126.9	251.4
Utilities Index	96.4	146.6	99.0	112.4	93.5	130.3	126.0	90.4	90.1	105.8
Transportation Index	102.5	110.6	113.1	106.3	106.8	114.9	105.9	108.8	112.8	109.9
Health Care Index	101.1	120.9	107.3	110.1	111.1	119.6	102.9	110.7	119.3	100.3
Misc. Goods and Services Index	103.7	134.0	102.9	103.3	108.3	125.6	117.3	119.0	115.3	100.4

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index, Third Quarter 2011.

City Average Housing Costs	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
Average New Home Price (2400 sq.ft. 4BR 2 BA)	$261,224	$418,700	$360,966	$585,580	$266,107	$1,123,114	$392,622	$813,300	$383,117	$668,633
Average Monthly Apartment Rent (950 sq.ft. 2BR 2BA)	$790	$1,492	$1,455	$1,841	$1,433	$2,776	$1,314	$2,264	$1,365	$1,783

City Average Healthcare Costs	Atlanta, GA	Boston, MA	Chicago, IL	Los Angeles, CA	Miami, FL	New York, NY	Philadelphia, PA	San Francisco, CA	Seattle, WA	Washington, DC
Doctor ($/visit)	$87.08	$149.00	$86.66	$86.67	$90.57	$120.23	$114.01	$109.71	$110.96	$89.27
Dentist ($/visit)	$88.73	$103.02	$98.99	$92,360.00	$89.88	$119.19	$89.01	$120.47	$113.67	$86.73
Optometrist ($/visit)	$70.82	$91.45	$97.82	$110.07	$79.93	$150.67	$100.28	$109.71	$110.96	$75.52

Source: ACCRA Cost of Living Index, annual averages 2010.

Population Density of the Southeast, 200 Mile Radius of Atlanta
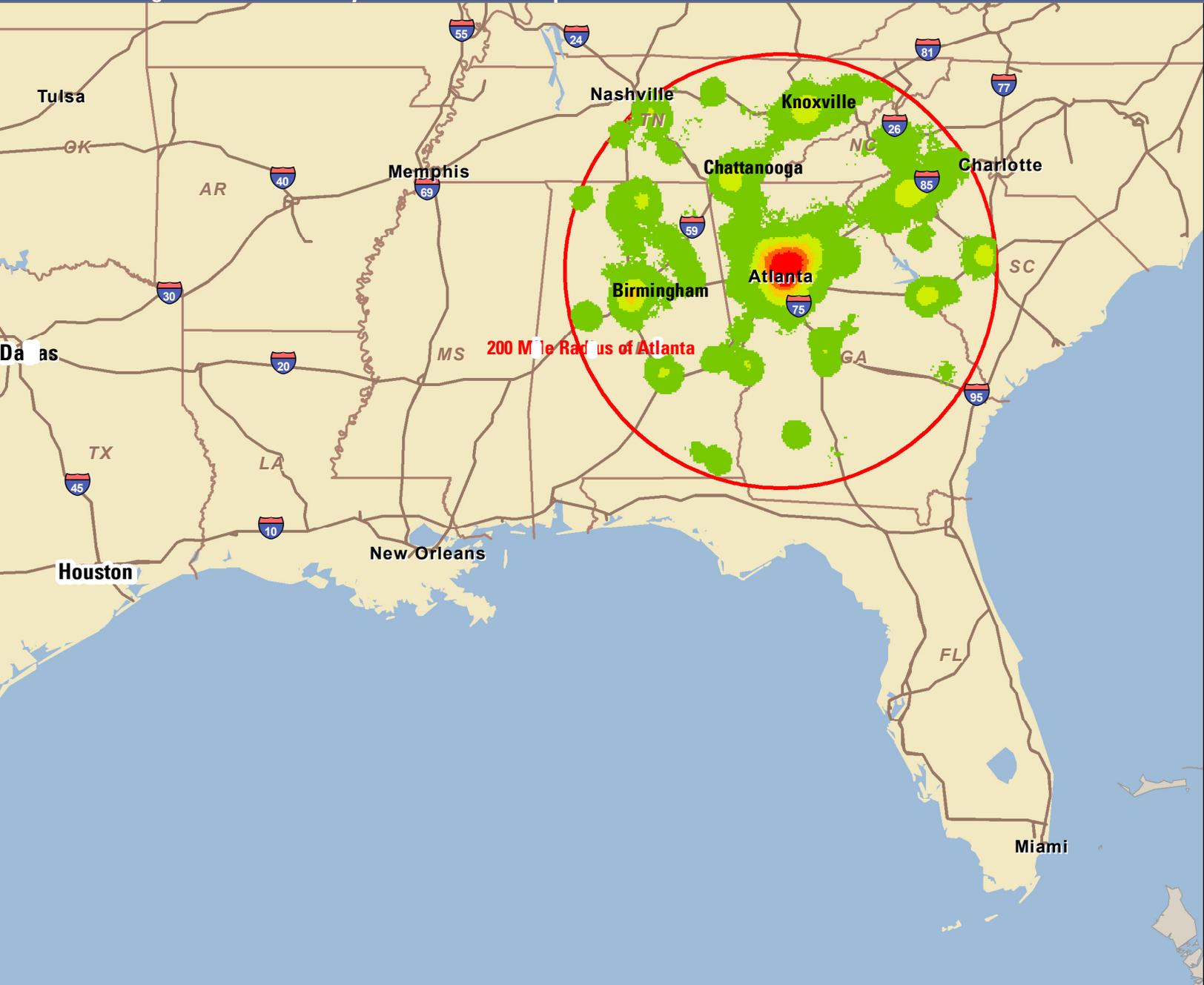
Population Density 2011 - Population Per Square Mile

- 100 - 500
- 501 - 1,000
- 1,001 - 1,500
- 1,501 - 2,000
- 2,001 - 3,258

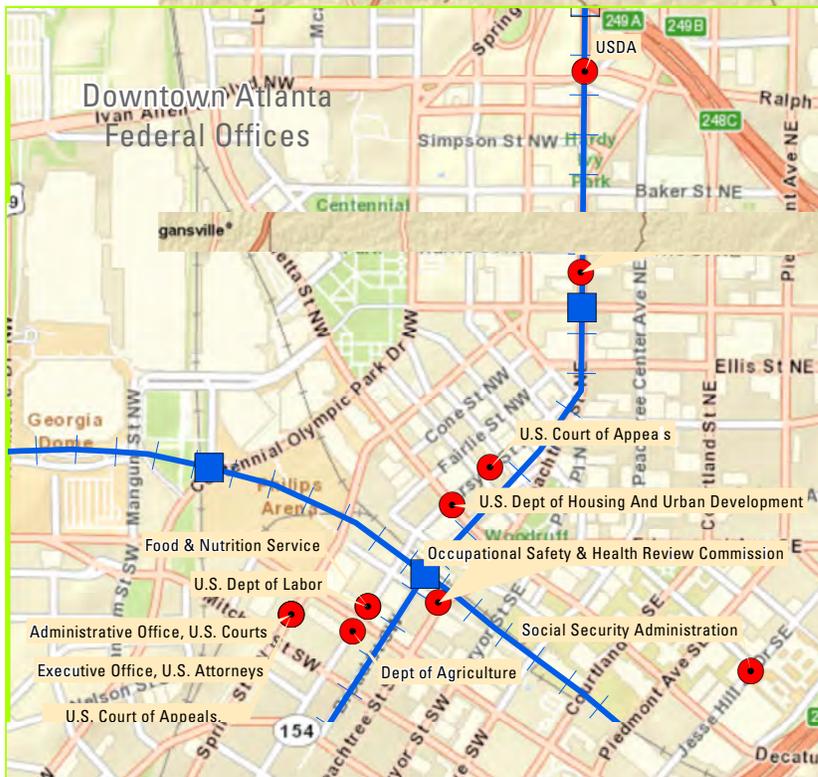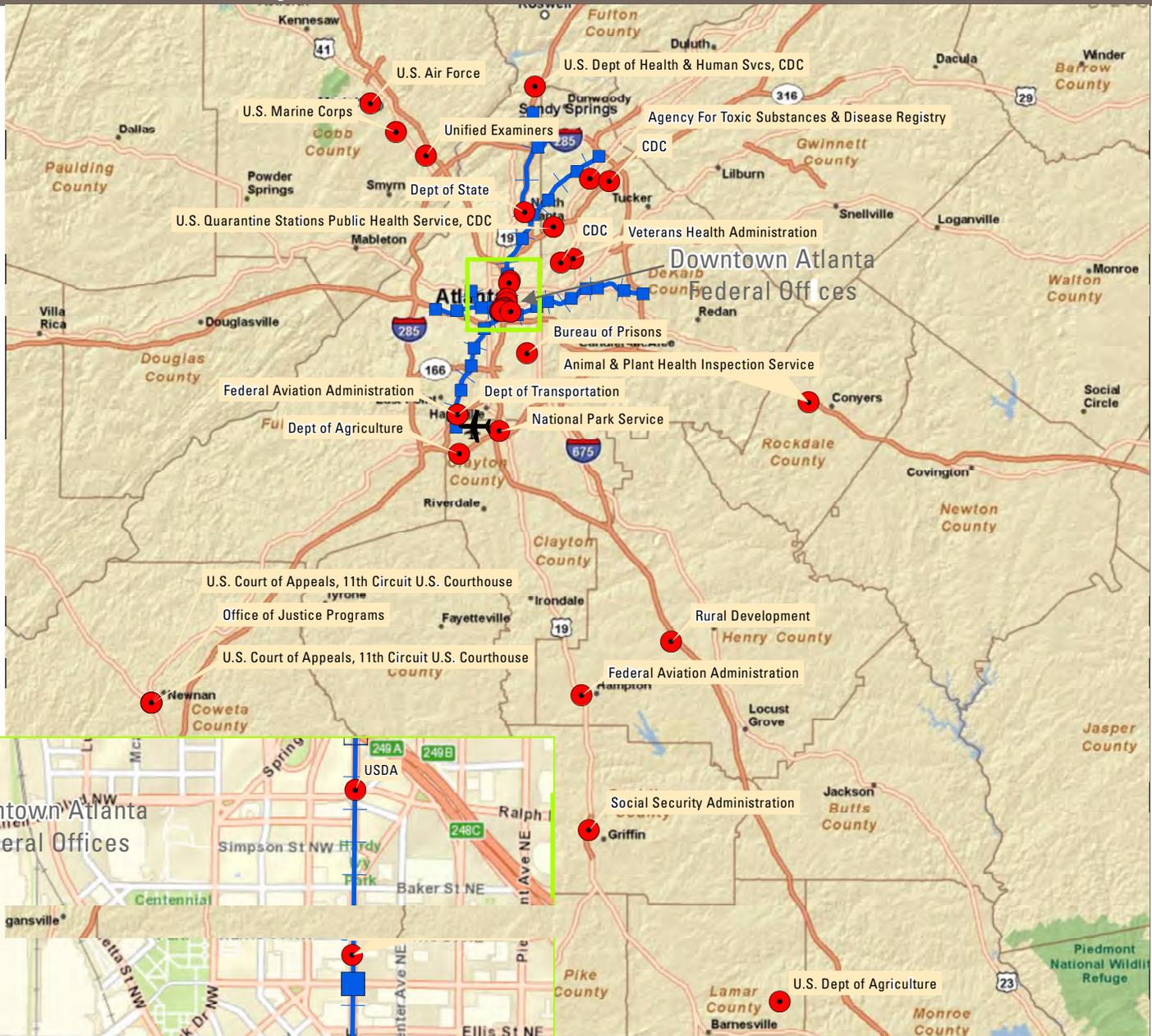GEORGIA POWER
A SOUTHERN COMPANY

A2

Engineering Schools in the Southeast with 200 Mile Radius of Atlanta (student population of 5K or more)

Georgia Power Community & Economic Development

200 Mile Radius of Atlanta

A3

Federal Offices in Metro Atlanta on MARTA Rail Line

Georgia Power Community & Economic Develoment

Labels on main map:
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Dept of Health & Human Svcs, CDC
- U.S. Marine Corps
- Unified Examiners
- Agency For Toxic Substances & Disease Registry
- CDC
- Dept of State
- U.S. Quarantine Stations Public Health Service, CDC
- CDC
- Veterans Health Administration
- Downtown Atlanta Federal Offices
- Bureau of Prisons
- Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Dept of Transportation
- Dept of Agriculture
- National Park Service
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit U.S. Courthouse
- Office of Justice Programs
- U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit U.S. Courthouse
- Rural Development
- Federal Aviation Administration
- Social Security Administration
- U.S. Dept of Agriculture

Downtown Atlanta Federal Offices

Labels on inset map:
- USDA
- U.S. Court of Appeals
- U.S. Dept of Housing And Urban Development
- Food & Nutrition Service
- Occupational Safety & Health Review Commission
- U.S. Dept of Labor
- Social Security Administration
- Administrative Office, U.S. Courts
- Executive Office, U.S. Attorneys
- Dept of Agriculture
- U.S. Court of Appeals

Legend:
- ● Selected Federal Offices
- ■ MARTA Rail Stations
- ┼── MARTA Rail Lines

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