

USPTO and AutoHarvest Collaborate to Accelerate Advanced Manufacturing

Partnership aims to spur innovation and generate jobs in Detroit and surrounding regional areas

DETROIT- (March 5, 2013)— The U.S. Department of Commerce's United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and the AutoHarvest Foundation today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to work together to spur innovation and generate jobs in advanced manufacturing. The two organizations will collaborate on the creation of an online environment for innovators to exchange information, facilitate technical discussions, and encourage the growth of entrepreneurial activities. The USPTO opened its first-ever satellite office in Detroit in [July 2012](#), and the MOU is part of the agency's outreach into the community.

Through the MOU, entrepreneurs and corporate executives will have direct access to a centralized online collection of databases, information resources, software and analytical tools designed to help inventors better understand the process of obtaining, maintaining and commercializing their intellectual property (IP). Through a series of actionable interfaces, innovators will also have the ability to view, directly respond to and potentially enter into business transactions to commercialize their IP or provide their technologies to emerging companies seeking advanced manufacturing solutions.

"This partnership will help advanced manufacturing businesses and individual inventors in Detroit and the surrounding region obtain patent protection and commercialize their inventions," said Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Acting Director of the USPTO, Teresa Stanek Rea.

The MOU marks yet another step the USPTO has taken to help grow businesses by establishing partnerships with regional economic development commissions and general public-private partnerships in order to offer a tailored suite of IP support services to local start-ups, incubators, and job accelerators.

"The importance of the Midwest as a global engineering center is reinforced by this alliance," said AutoHarvest chairman, Dr. David E. Cole. "AutoHarvest members will benefit from information and databases sourced and potentially co-developed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office that will help inventors better understand the process of obtaining, maintaining and commercializing intellectual property, leading to real economic impact" noted Jayson D. Pankin, AutoHarvest president and CEO."

AutoHarvest Foundation is a Michigan 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization - led by some of the most highly respected figures in the automotive industry. AutoHarvest is designing and planning to launch a marketplace-driven e-collaboration system that accelerates innovation in advanced manufacturing. AutoHarvest is guided by its peer interest group, which consists of over 130 prominent government, university, automaker, supplier, venture capital, business accelerator and manufacturing organizations. Located within the innovation hubs of the Southeast Michigan region including Wayne State University's Research and Development Park - TechTown - and the University of Michigan's North Campus Research Complex, AutoHarvest sits in the heart of NAFTA's automotive cluster. Recently awarded a grant by the New Economy Initiative Foundation ("NEI"), AutoHarvest is part of the NEI's Detroit Regional Innovation Network For more information visit: <http://www.autoharvest.org>.

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