

## Pinkerton to move global HQ to Ann Arbor

BY CHRIS GAUTZ

**T**he historic **Pinkerton** security firm, which traces its roots to before the Civil War, has chosen to move its global headquarters to Ann Arbor.

The company began the move this week from its headquarters in New Jersey and expects to be fully operational before the end of the month with a staff of about 30.

Pinkerton President Jack Zahran said he decided to make the move from New Jersey, because he sees great potential in the Michigan area because the level of talent in the region is strong and many of

his employees have ties here. Zahran, who has been company president for two years, is a graduate of **Lawrence Technological University** in Southfield.

Pinkerton moved to New Jersey from Westlake Village, Calif., 15 years ago.

Zahran said the company is evolving. It has been synonymous with detective and security work for more than a century. Its first logo, featuring an unblinking eye, gave rise to the term "private eye."

The company was founded in 1885. Pinkerton employees provided personal security to President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War—but not on the



**Jack Zahran has been president of Pinkerton for two years, and is a graduate of Lawrence Technological University in Southfield.**

night of his assassination.

The company also figures in Detroit's history. The agency was hired by the automakers in the 1930s to aggressively work against union organizing activities.

Today, the focus of **Pinkerton Consulting & Investigations Inc.**, which does business as **Pinkerton Corporate Risk Management**, is on technology and corporate risk management services, though it still provides physical security services at national and international sporting events and award ceremonies.

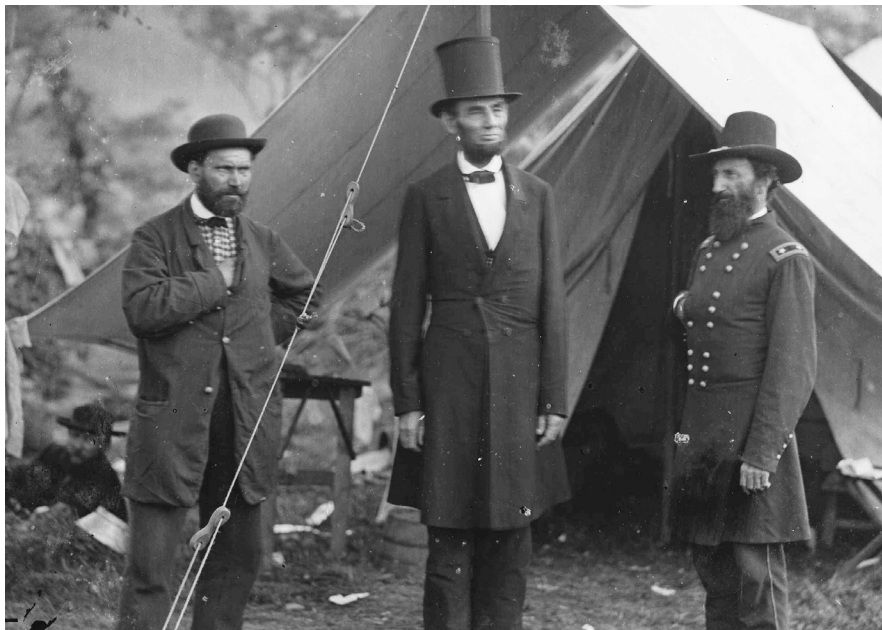
"We wanted to reinvent ourselves, much like Michigan has," Zahran said. "Our market has really shifted."

He said manufacturing is now a large segment of the company's clientele. So are technology and health care companies.

"When clients have a lot of complexity, the threat landscape around that can be pretty expansive," he said.

That threat landscape can include everything from physical security of products and facilities, to cybersecurity, brand protection and emergency response recovery.

"We have shifted from being a consulting-based company to one that offers a more holistic approach," he said. "You don't just send a bodyguard anymore."



**Allan Pinkerton (left), President Abraham Lincoln and Major General John A. McClernand in Antietam, Md., in 1862 after the Battle of Antietam during the Civil War.**

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The company will be in 11,000 square feet of space at 101 N. Main St., Suite 300, in Ann Arbor. He said the proximity to the **University of Michigan** was a big draw.

Zahran said of the 30 employees who will work out of the Ann Arbor office initially, about five will be new hires from the state with the rest relocating from other offices.

As the company grows, there are plans to expand in phases, he said.

Pinkerton has about 1,500 employees worldwide, along with a network of

about 10,000 vetted agents who can be called on for contractual work around the globe. During Hurricane Katrina, the company deployed about 3,000 agents; during Hurricane Sandy, it deployed about 500.

Pinkerton has 60 locations worldwide, including a two-person office in Troy, which will remain, he said.

The Ann Arbor headquarters will include management, human resources, sales, marketing, and finance positions.

The company made the move without any state or local financial assistance.



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“We weren’t looking for the best deal,” he said. “We were in the position to evaluate and to do what was best for our company.” ■