Industry Research & Intellectual Property at Penn State

An Overview of Our Approach to IP Resulting From Industry Sponsored Research
Leader in Industry-Friendly IP Keeps Innovation at the Forefront

Penn State leads U.S. universities in Tech Transfer, having the first and friendliest IP policy for industry sponsored research. Intellectual property resulting from industry sponsored research may be owned by the sponsor through a straightforward assignment process.

Research Agreements & IP Highlights

- Industry partners may be assigned ownership of IP resulting from sponsored research if all personnel agree.
- Most faculty researchers agree to assign ownership of IP to industry sponsors (95%). Even when they don’t, industry partners may still be able to obtain a license to the IP (exclusive or non-exclusive, depending on the situation).
- Decisions regarding IP ownership are made up front, so the Sponsor knows whether they can take ownership of resultant patent rights before research begins.
- In consideration for assigning ownership of IP, we ask the Sponsor to reimburse Penn State for patent protection costs incurred.
- Penn State may file a provisional patent application to protect IP in circumstances where we have an expedited need to publish or present results.
- When Penn State owns IP resulting from federal flow-through funds, industry partners may negotiate a license agreement.

No IP Hurdles
Removing IP as a hurdle in the research agreement negotiation process saves time.

Accelerate Start of Research
With a straightforward IP assignment process, research begins sooner.

Clear Process Aids Decision Making
PSU IP assignment is a clear process that supports both you and our researchers; most researchers agree to assign IP to the sponsor.

No Surprises
We identify relevant background IP so you can make informed decisions.

Diverse Industry Partner Opportunities
Our flexible IP policy fits industry research partners of all sizes.

Shared Success
We believe 100% of revenues earned in early development should support company growth. In the case of exceptional success, we ask that IP owners share some of the success. Thresholds vary depending on product and market.

Tech Transfer & Industry Partnerships
*2 years combined data

$801 mil 2015
$836 mil 2016

researchers
5000

$801 mil 2015
$836 mil 2016

research expenditures

10
STEM fields ranked in top ten by NSF
IP Disclosure & Assignment

5 Simple Steps

With a fully digital process, assignment of IP developed as a result of your sponsored research can happen quickly and efficiently.

1. The Principal Investigator (PI) prepares an invention disclosure to identify and describe the intellectual property developed and to identify the researchers who contributed to the development of the intellectual property. If a patent application is filed in the future, a patent attorney will determine if these researchers are also inventors.

2. The PI forwards the invention disclosure to his/her academic college’s research office to be kept on record.

3. The college research office forwards the Invention Disclosure to the Office of Technology Management where it is assigned to a Technology Licensing Officer.

4. The Technology Licensing Officer/Office of Technology Management forwards the Invention Disclosure to the Sponsor and inquires if the Sponsor wants to take ownership of the intellectual property identified in the Invention Disclosure.

5. If the Sponsor decides to take ownership of the intellectual property in the Invention Disclosure, a standard Assignment Agreement, developed specifically for this purpose, is executed on behalf of The Penn State Research Foundation and is forwarded to the Sponsor.
No Two Industry Challenges are the Same

A research partnership with Penn State puts you ahead of your competitors by helping you find solutions for your unique challenges. With just one phone call, you can begin to solve complex manufacturing problems, utilize world-class facilities, and find top talent. This partnership works for you.

“Penn State is developing a culture that encourages, nurtures and rewards entrepreneurship in all fields of study.”

Dr. Eric Barron
President, Penn State University

Office of Industrial Partnerships

The Office of Industrial Partnerships helps your company make the connections you need across University colleges, departments, facilities and services.

Contact Your Concierge
814-867-6328
researchpartnerships.psu.edu

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