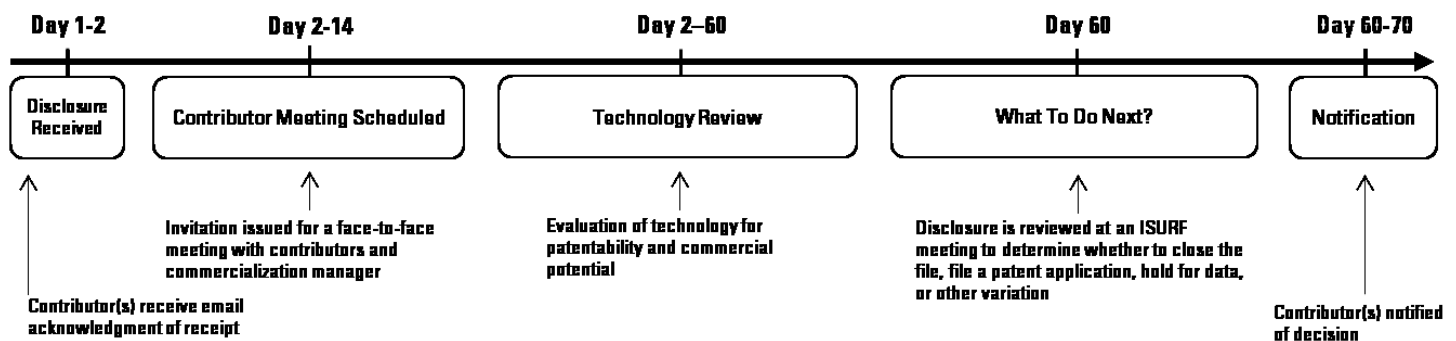




Technology Invention Disclosure – what to expect . . .

The receipt of an invention disclosure, via an Intellectual Property Disclosure and Record (IPDR) form, is the start of the commercialization process. The technology is carefully evaluated for patentability or other options for protection, and commercial potential. Included in the patentability assessment is a review of the prior art (examples: publications, presentations, patent applications, existing patents, and non-confidential communications) and an evaluation of whether the idea is novel and non-obvious patentable subject matter (requirements for a patent). The commercial evaluation includes an assessment of the current and future market potential (examples: cost, effectiveness, industry’s interest and ability to adopt, and overall impact) and a comparison to competitive technologies. Third party agreements, including funding agreements, are reviewed to make sure Iowa State is meeting its obligations. Here is what you can expect after you submit an IPDR:



ISURF Cost

There are usually not any out-of-pocket expenses related to reviewing the invention disclosure. If the disclosure is outside of ISURF’s areas of expertise or we have a large number of disclosures under evaluation, we will utilize outside sources to provide information such as the prior art review or market assessment. The cost of using outside sources can be up to \$3,000.

Timeline (Days)



Day 2-14: Initial Meeting

Commercialization Managers will meet with the contributor(s) to discuss the technology and the invention disclosure. This is to ensure a complete understanding of the technology, and to gather any information missing from the IPDR, such as funding sources, public disclosures, contributors, collaborators, a more thorough description, etc.



Day 2-60: Technology Evaluation

- Patentability Assessment. Review of prior art and an evaluation of whether the idea is novel and non-obvious patentable subject matter (requirements for a patent).
- Commercial Review. An assessment of the current and future market potential and a comparison to competitive technologies.
- Third Party Obligations & Rights. Funding source review to make sure Iowa State is meeting its obligations to third parties under funding agreements. Collaborators and co-owners are also considered.
- ISURF internal technology evaluation meeting to determine next steps.



Day 60+: Activities following the decision made from technology evaluation meeting

Decision – Consult with Third Party

- If a third party has rights under a funding agreement or collaboration, ISURF will consult with that party to determine their interest in pursuing a patent application or other protection.

Decision – Market and Re-evaluate

- ISURF will assess the commercial potential before making a filing/protection decision. A non-confidential summary, that does not adversely affect patentability, will be placed on ISURF's website and potential licensees will be contacted.

Decision – File Provisional or Utility Patent Application

- ISURF will retain a patent attorney and an initial consultation between the patent attorney and contributor(s) will occur.
- A non-confidential marketing brief will be placed on ISURF's website and marketing will be initiated.
- See Provisional, or Utility Patent Application – what to expect, Just In Time series handout for more details.

Decision – Protect as Copyright or Tangible Property

- ISURF will protect the intellectual property using Copyright and/or Tangible Property. See Copyright or Tangible Property – what to expect, Just In Time series handout for more details.

Decision – Close & Publicly Disclose

- ISURF decides not to file a patent application or otherwise protect the intellectual property.
- Contributor(s) will receive a notification that the IPDR file will be closed. Public disclosure/publication for public good is encouraged.
- Improvements and further developments of previously-disclosed technologies often lead to new commercial opportunities and should be disclosed to ISURF for evaluation.

Decision – Hold for Data

- If additional data is needed to make a decision and no public disclosure is planned, ISURF will keep the IPDR file open. ISURF will inquire about progress approximately every six months. This can continue until there has been a public disclosure, enough information is obtained to make a decision, or a deadline is reached.
- The contributor(s) should contact ISURF to share all new data, presentations, publications and/or public disclosure plans.

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