



Industry Sponsored Research and Intellectual Property . . .

Industry sponsors often fund research projects at ISU that result in new ideas and discoveries, including patentable inventions, copyrightable subject matter, and tangible property (“Intellectual Property”). Inventors and authors assign and submit ideas through the Intellectual Property Disclosure and Record (“IPDR”) to the Iowa State University Research Foundation (“ISURF”). ISURF owns, manages, and commercializes ISU Intellectual Property. Through the sponsored research contract, ISURF has obligations to the industry sponsor, related to Intellectual Property resulting from the sponsored funding.

Disclosure

- Different Types of Intellectual Property
 - Technology: Includes items of manufacture, compounds, processes, and methods
 - Software: Includes algorithms, source code, and executable programs
 - Tangible Property: Includes germplasm (plants, seeds, and cultivars), hybridomas, cell lines, viral and bacterial isolates, antibodies, and DNA plasmids
 - Information collected in an IPDR
 - Agreements addressing funding, collaboration, confidentiality, and material transfer
 - Prior art (e.g., publications and presentations of any kind, by anyone, anywhere)
 - Inventors and authors, including addresses, employers, and duties to assign their innovations
 - Any tangible property or software used, including the source(s)
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Technology Evaluation

ISURF works with inventors and authors to understand the Intellectual Property and evaluates the following:

- Patentability
 - 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
 - Industry Sponsor Rights
 - Industry sponsored research agreements contain language regarding rights the sponsor has to Intellectual Property. ISURF informs the sponsor about the disclosed Intellectual Property and consults with the sponsor on decisions about protecting, licensing, and commercializing the Intellectual Property.
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Marketing and Licensing

For industry-sponsored research, several options exist related to marketing and licensing the Intellectual Property.

- If the sponsor is interested in licensing the Intellectual Property exclusively, ISURF will negotiate a license agreement with the sponsor and not market it to other parties.
- If the sponsor is not interested in licensing the Intellectual Property exclusively, ISURF will usually recommend public disclosure/publication.



Commercialization – Sales of the Technology

- Depending on the Intellectual Property, it may take up to ten years for a company to sell a product or service. Inventors and authors may be asked by the sponsor to assist in further research or engage in related consulting activities.
- Licensed Intellectual Property may produce net income (after reimbursement of expenses and an administrative fee), that is shared among ISURF, ISU, and the inventors and authors according to ISURF's royalty sharing policy.

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