Technology Transfer at Illinois

A Seamless System of Resources

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February 12, 2010
Illinois’ Seamless System of Resources
Research → Innovation → Commercialization (Companies)

- **OSPRA**
  - grants, contracts, and industry agreements

- **OTM**
  - evaluation, protection, marketing, licensing

- **Illinois VENTURES**
  - New company funding and services

- **Research Park**
  - **Enterprise Works**
    - New company incubation

**Educational Resources**
- Technology Entrepreneur Center (TEC),
- Academy of Entrepreneurial Leadership (AEL),
- Illinois Business Consulting (IBC)
OTM Commercialization Process Overview

Screening Evaluation (6-8 weeks) → In-depth Commercial Assessment → Marketing → Licensing → License Compliance

Disclosures

US Patenting / US, Foreign Patenting

Return to Inventor
Portfolio Snapshot – OTM

- ~1,200 active technologies
- ~200 new disclosures /year
- ~350 active patents
- ~150 new applications filed/year
- ~150 active, revenue generating licenses
- ~40 new licenses /year
- Licensing revenues - $4-$7 M
  (’05-’09)
What is intellectual property?

Encompasses all forms of creativity:

Inventions, discoveries, know-how, show-how, processes, unique materials, copyrightable works, original data and other creative or artistic works.
Types of intellectual property:

- Patents
- Trademarks
- Copyrights
Why should You be interested in IP?

- **Thesis & Graduation & Publication**
  - Copyright

- **Sponsorship & IP**
  - Sponsors usually have terms covering IP and publication

- **University IP**
  - Inventors share in University income

- **Future jobs / Start Ups**
  - IP - Patents are very important to Companies
The Office of Technology Management (OTM) manages the *Intellectual Property (IP)* generated by research at the UIUC.

This includes identifying, evaluating, protecting, marketing, and licensing.

The OTM seeks to transfer the University’s *intellectual property* to partners/companies with the resources to develop research ideas into commercial applications.
How does the OTM decide what IP should be commercialized?

BETTER    FASTER    CHEAPER

The OTM looks at:

IP Protection
Market Fit
Vehicle for Commercialization
How do we find corporate partners?

**Traditional marketing methods**

- Finding leads through referrals and inventor contacts
- Attending tradeshows
- Mailings
- Newsletters
- Website postings
- Corporate presentations

*We are looking for partners that are good fits for the technology*
How do we Transfer the IP? Through Licensing

- **What is a License?** A legal agreement between the owner of the IP (licensor) giving a company (licensee) the right to use the IP.

- Defines rights and obligations of the parties
  - Owners can divide IP rights
    - By field, by territory
    - Exclusive, non-exclusive
  - Require Licensee
    - Payment of royalties
    - Diligence in commercialization

The *bottom line* is we strive to form “win-win” partnerships.
What does the OTM consider success?

• Signing a license

• Helping the investigator form a start-up company

• Bringing research money into an investigator’s lab

• Bringing recognition to the University

• Getting products on the market

• Bringing $$$ to the University and Inventors
At UI, Who owns your IP?

• General Rules Article III Intellectual Property
  http://www.uillinois.edu/trustees/rules.cfm#art3.

• Excluding certain copyrighted works*, University owns all intellectual property (IP) developed by employees or anyone using University facilities, equipment or funds.

• * Traditional Academic Works are author-owned
Exceptions to UI General Rules: Ownership by Students

- There are two common situations in which the University has typically granted exceptions to the University General Rules to allow students to own the IP they create
  - Student Class Design Projects
  - Student Entrepreneurial Activities
When do the exceptions apply?

• Likely to apply to the activities you are doing with
  – Tech Entrepreneurship Center
  – Patent Pilot Program (patent preparation)
  – Use of Authorized space in Enterprise Works
  – Business plan competition awards

• ASK the activity coordinator or the OTM whether the activity qualifies as an approved exception
When don’t the exceptions apply?

- When there is another University inventor
- When there is University background IP
- When University resources beyond what is routinely provided to the class or activity
For more information….

• Office of Technology Management
  http://www.otm.illinois.edu