



Research & Economic Development

TENNESSEE TECH

Intellectual Property Mini Session

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Agenda

- Open Discussion
- IP and commercialization resources (TTAC)
- Get involved



The background is a solid dark purple. On the left side, there are large, overlapping, semi-transparent shapes in shades of blue and purple, resembling stylized leaves or petals. In the lower half of the image, there is a faint, light-colored grid. Overlaid on this grid is a line graph with a black line that fluctuates, and several large, semi-transparent blue arrows pointing upwards and to the right, suggesting growth or progress.

**WHAT DOES “INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY”
MEAN TO YOU?**

IP Overview

- **Idea** – conception reflecting a specific approach to a problem
- **Invention** – any new discovery, use, application, process, composition of matter, article of manufacture, know-how, design, model, technological development, or biological material
- **Intellectual Property** – proactive acts are taken to convert the asset into property and, thus, protect others from using it without authorization – for TTU, it's defined as 'Inventions and Works'



The background is a solid purple color. On the left side, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent purple shapes that resemble stylized leaves or petals. In the center and right, there is a faint grid pattern. Overlaid on the grid is a line graph with a smooth, wavy curve. The curve starts at the bottom left, rises to a peak, falls to a trough, and then rises again. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

**WHAT DOES “COMMERCIALIZATION”
MEAN TO YOU?**

Commercialization Overview

- Defined
 - The process of translating research, innovation, and/or intellectual property (IP) into products, services, or solutions that create societal or economic impact.
- Can take many forms
 - Business startups/spin-offs
 - Licensing innovations to industry / technology transfer
 - Consulting arrangements
 - Sponsored research agreements



Commercialization Overview Continued

- Why it matters
 - Expands the reach and relevance of academic research
 - Opens new funding and collaboration opportunities
 - Drives innovation and regional economic development
 - Enhances faculty (and institutional) reputation and visibility
 - It is for ALL colleges and disciplines
 - Protects YOUR work
- Faculty Role in Commercialization
 - Inventing or co-developing IP
 - Student engagement
 - Engaging with industry partners
 - Participating in startups or licensing deals
 - Advising or consulting on technology application
- Record breaking year(s) for innovation at Tech
 - Invention disclosures are up
 - Awarded patents are up



FY25 Performance

- 13 disclosures
 - Some “still in the works”
 - 2 sent to TTAC
 - 5 faculty filed their first disclosure
- 4 patents awarded
 - Rory Roberts
 - Fuel Cell Turboelectric Fan for an Aircraft
 - Integrated Solid Oxide Fuel Cell Combustor Assembly, System, and Method Thereof
 - Both issued May 20, 2025
 - Charles Van Neste
 - System and method for generating electric based non-linear waves in natural terrestrial environments
 - October 1, 2024
 - Indranil Bhattacharya
 - Layered Double-D Coil for Wireless Power Transfer Systems
 - February 24, 2025
- 1 spinoff company formed, 1 in the works
 - Terawatts (Van Neste) – formed
 - MINCO (Roberts) – in the works



FY25 Performance Continued

- 5 (TTAC) IP & Commercialization Events
 - TTAC Introduction 10/3/24
 - Invention Disclosure Workshop 11/21/24
 - 3 “Happy Hours” (Feb, Mar, Apr)
 - *Need help reimagining*
- Second Annual Faculty Innovator Showcase
 - 12 inventions/innovations
 - 13 faculty presenters
 - 5 colleges represented!
 - \$1,000 extra pay each presenter w.o. disclosure / \$1,500 w. disclosure
- TTAC Proof of Concept Grant
 - 7 applications from 4 colleges - \$66,047 total requests
 - 3 awards, 2 colleges (Engineering & Fine Arts) - \$26,060 awarded
 - FY26 – in awards stage currently



Basic Process

- Create a novel invention
- Submit invention disclosure form
- Feasibility study
 - Is it patentable?
 - Is there market value?
- If feasibility: IPAC vote
- If vote yes, next steps (patent, spinoff, etc.)
- Tech has resources (TTAC) to support you at any stage!



TTAC <> ORED Resources and Processes

- LaunchTN TTAC program
 - Tennessee Technology Transfer Advancement Consortium
 - Statewide commercialization network led by LaunchTN
 - Funds and guides commercialization at Tech
 - GRA
 - TreMonti feasibility studies
 - Annual Faculty Innovator Showcase
 - Commercialization Counselor – FTE Tech transfer specialist
 - Proof of Concept Grant
- ORED will formally launch Office of Tech Transfer this year



TTAC <> ORED External Resources

- Additional TTAC external resources
 - \$15,000 legal fees (Husch Blackwell)
 - [TTAC Innovation Fellowship](#): A 6-week training program offered each Fall and Spring to help researchers evaluate commercial potential and explore entrepreneurial pathways.
 - [TTAC Travel Grant](#): Supports travel to industry conferences and events that help advance the commercialization of your technology.
 - [TTAC Maturation Grant](#): Awards of \$50,000–\$100,000 to help de-risk technologies through milestone-driven collaborations with industry partners.
 - [TTAC Partnership Program](#): Funding for strategic events and initiatives that connect the university to external industry and innovation partners, fostering a culture of commercialization on campus.



TTAC <> ORED Existing Resources

- Existing/Emerging IP (post protection > commercialization)
 - LaunchTN contract agreement with TTU (Nov 2024) to market IP to industry
 - Developing new income model/revenue split with LaunchTN
 - 50% inventor (same)
 - 20% to LaunchTN (new)
 - 30% to TTU (new)
 - All same:
 - 20% to the department(s) or unit(s) which sponsored the invention's development,
 - 10% to the originating college(s),
 - 20% percent to the university's Patents and Copyrights Account maintained in Research & Economic Development.
 - TTU can opt to exclude any IP from LaunchTN retaining 50%/50% split,
 - But, the IP cannot receive any TTAC resources (internal or external)



TTAC <> ORED Outcomes

- Skin in the game
 - We want some type of tangible ROI on patents to justify costs
 - Asking inventors (or their colleges) to provide 5% of costs
 - Negotiable
 - All IP (unless intentionally excluded from TTAC) will receive TTAC resources at no-cost
 - Far exceeds costs, time, and reach of going at it alone



Next Steps

- Reach out to us to discuss your invention
- Author your invention disclosure form
- Participate in the 3rd annual Faculty Innovator Showcase
 - Week of April 20 (date TBD, during research and Creative Inquiry Symposium)
 - \$1,000 to each participant
 - Key industry and government attendees
 - Trade Show (posters)
 - 5-minute presentation
 - Networking



THANKS

Questions?

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