

Commercializing Research Results

An Inventor-Friendly Process

The University of Alberta helps inventors demystify and navigate commercialization, ensuring ventures are nimble and competitive. While the process may vary on a case-by-case basis, it all starts with reporting an invention — the first step in protecting yourself and your ideas.



1

Report an Invention



2

Assess Potential



3

Initiate a Patent



4

Engage Partners
and Enter Agreements



5

Develop Product and
Establish Operations



6

Achieve Results

**Not sure
where to start?**

Transforming discoveries and innovations into reality is a complex and lengthy process. The **Technology Transfer Services** team is here to help you protect your idea, discovery or invention, and explore commercialization potential and opportunities.

Inventor-owned Intellectual Property (IP)

The U of A has an **inventor-owned patentable IP policy with two options** that place inventors as the primary decision-makers.

The U of A is committed to offering inventor- and inventor-friendly options for revenue sharing on IP developed within the university ecosystem.

Clear Pathways

After deciding whether to retain IP ownership or transfer it to the university, an inventor commercializing patentable IP may choose to **licence** to an existing company or **create a spinoff** company:

Licensing

Licensing allows an existing company to gain access to a particular invention without requiring the creation of a startup or spinoff company.

Spinoff

A spinoff is a new company set up in order to license and develop patentable IP into a product or service while retaining ties with the university.

Spinoffs choose how they share commercial revenue with the U of A through either an Equity model (with two options) or Royalty model.

Option 1



Inventor Retained IP

The inventor maintains IP ownership and control over commercialization while taking on the majority of financial and legal responsibility, risk and reward.



Royalty:

(typically 1-10% of sales)

66% of royalty to inventors
33% of royalty to U of A



Royalty:

2% to U of A on revenue over \$1M

OR

Equity:

a) **10%** to U of A
(fully and immediately dilutable);

OR

b) **5%** non-dilutable until
\$1M raised via equity
(fully dilutable after \$1M raised)

Option 2



University Retained IP

The inventor transfers ownership to the university. Joint decisions are made about commercialization with the U of A taking on all legal responsibility.



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(typically 1-10% of sales)

33% of royalty to inventors
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**UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA**

Startup

When there is no patentable intellectual property developed within the university context (e.g. software), an inventor may choose to launch a startup, an early-stage company that focuses on developing a specific product or service.

The inventor is still able to access a variety of supports and services to help advance commercialization. Startups have no formal ties to the university.