

HOW UNIVERSITY RESEARCH DRIVES INNOVATION



How Tech Transfer Transforms Society

The Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 significantly increased and accelerated the transfer of university discoveries to the marketplace. The products and processes that emerge from university technology transfer benefit the public in a number of ways.

Anytime you check your smartphone, get an MRI, or even check the weather report, you're benefiting from federally-funded university research that's been brought to the marketplace.

All of these and countless other technologies and everyday products are possible because of technology transfer—the process by which universities patent the discoveries unlocked in their laboratories and license them to businesses and entrepreneurs who then turn them into important and even life-saving commercial products.

Because the discoveries emerging from university research tend to be early-stage, high-risk inventions, successful university technology transfer transactions require a patent system that protects such innovations.

Previously, federally-funded university discoveries would often languish because they lacked the patent protections needed to bring them into the marketplace. The Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 prompted a significant increase in university patenting of those discoveries. Patent protections give businesses and entrepreneurs the confidence to license, invest in, and develop university discoveries into marketable products, knowing that no competitor can use those discoveries for a certain period of time. This process is central to promoting economic growth and ensuring the United States remains the global innovation leader.

Universities are guided by the core values and practices outlined in "Nine Points to Consider in Licensing University Technology," which sets out the principles for ensuring technology transfer promotes the public good.

BORN IN THE LAB

**DOPPLER
WEATHER
RADAR
DEVELOPED
AT MIT**



**MAGNETIC
RESONANCE
IMAGING (MRI)
DEVELOPED AT
SUNY**



**TIME RELEASE
CAPSULE
DEVELOPED AT
UNIVERSITY
OF KANSAS**



**TOUCHSCREEN
DEVELOPED AT
UNIVERSITY
OF DELAWARE
AND UNIVERSITY
OF KENTUCKY**



HOW UNIVERSITY RESEARCH *DRIVES* INNOVATION



IN 2017 ALONE, U.S. UNIVERSITIES GENERATED MORE THAN

6,825 
patents

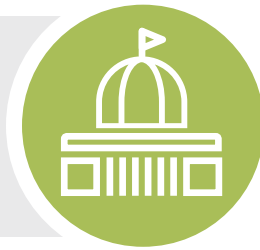
AND UNIVERSITY-BASED RESEARCH
LED TO THE FORMATION OF

1,003 
start-up
companies
AND

634 
commercial
products
INCLUDING LIFESAVING
MEDICINES AND MAJOR
TECHNOLOGICAL
ADVANCES.

1

Universities compete
for federal **FUNDING**
to conduct critical
research



2

University faculty
and students make
**GROUNDBREAKING
DISCOVERIES** in the lab



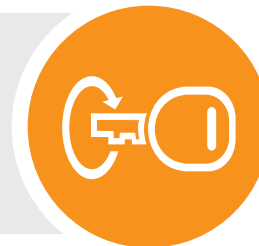
3

University technology transfer
offices **PATENT** and **COPYRIGHT**
these discoveries



4

University technology transfer offices then
help transfer the rights to use these ideas
to **BUSINESSES** and **ENTREPRENEURS**
and **STARTUPS**



5

Businesses, entrepreneurs and startups develop
the ideas into **PRODUCTS** that create jobs and
help improve quality of life for all Americans

