

# 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.**

**A**nytime 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

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

6,825 patents 

AND UNIVERSITY-BASED RESEARCH LED TO THE FORMATION OF

1,003 start-up companies 

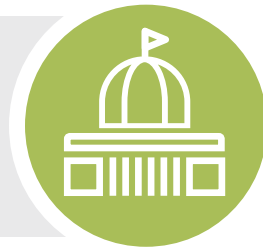
AND

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



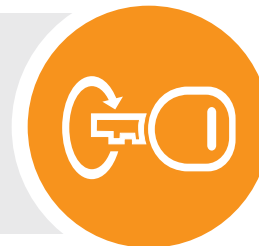
3

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

