

This document reviews basic topics in protecting and commercializing inventions made by Johns Hopkins faculty and other researchers.

## WHAT IS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP)?

Intellectual property refers to creations of the mind, distinct from “tangible property” such as land, a building, products of nature, etc. Intellectual property may be protected under the patent, trademark, trade secret, and/or copyright laws.

## WHAT IS A PATENT?

In the U.S., a patent provides the holder the right to exclude others from making, using, selling, offering to sell, and importing any patented invention. Thus, a patent does not necessarily provide the holder any affirmative right to practice a technology, since it may fall under a broader patent owned by others. Instead, it provides the right to exclude others from practicing it. Patent claims are the legal definition of an inventor’s protectable invention. Patents are the most common form of IP protection that JHTV files, approximately 140 per year.

## WHO OWNS MY INVENTION?

All inventions conceived or first reduced to practice in whole or in part by Johns Hopkins’ faculty and staff in the course of their University responsibilities or with more than incidental use of University resources are owned by the University regardless of the source of funding.



### DOES YOUR INVENTION HAVE COMMERCIAL POTENTIAL?

ASK THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS

1. What is the problem your invention solves?
2. What is the magnitude of the solution you have developed?

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I REPORT MY INVENTION?

Within two weeks from receipt of your submission, JHTV will reach out to schedule a conversation to better understand the potential for IP protection and the commercial relevance. Within two months, we will reach a decision about how to proceed and discuss next steps with you. Options include but are not limited to: **1.** wait and collect more data to prove commercial viability or strengthen the IP position, **2.** file to secure patent, copyright or trademark protection, or **3.** agree not to pursue protection based on IP or commercialization concerns. If protection is filed, the next step is planning to market and license the technology to a third-party, either an established corporate entity or an inventor-initiated startup company.

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN MY INVENTION EARNS MONEY?

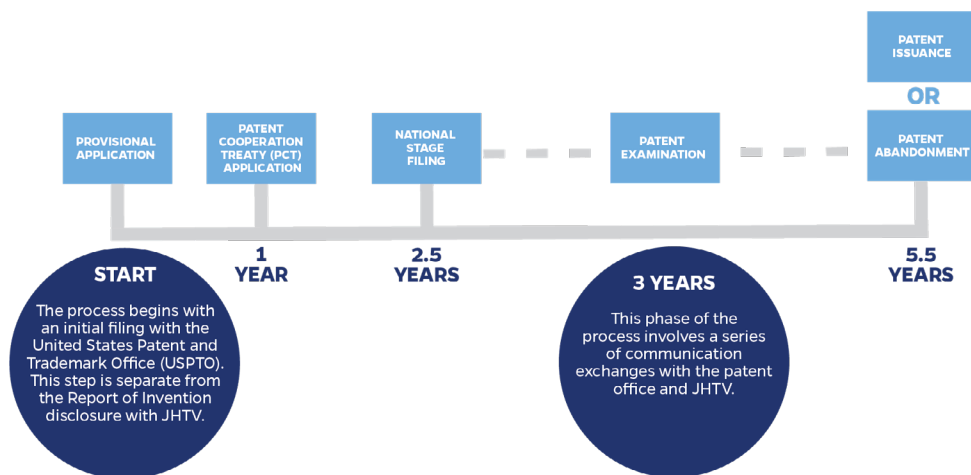
JHTV negotiates business terms with licensees to secure appropriate remuneration for the development of Johns Hopkins technologies. These commonly include upfront payments, royalty payments or milestone payments. JHTV tracks product development and sales milestones to ensure that technologies are advancing and that appropriate revenues flow back to university stakeholders. These revenues are collected by JHTV and then distributed [according to the IP policy](#).

## WHAT IS A PUBLIC DISCLOSURE?

In order to preserve potential patent rights, we strongly encourage you to report your invention before publicly describing your invention including conference presentations, journals and e-journals, poster sessions, internet posts, archived internet posts, investor presentations, awarded grant abstracts, lab meetings with non-JHU guests, or theses shelved and indexes. Once publicly disclosed, an invention may have restricted or minimal potential for patent protection. When in doubt - **ask us!**

## HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO RECEIVE A PATENT?

The average patent application process can take up to five years. Below is a typical timeline you can expect to experience.



## WHO DO I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS?

A list of relevant contacts is located on our website at [ventures.jhu.edu/contact-us](https://ventures.jhu.edu/contact-us)

## OUR ADVICE TO YOU

- When you report an invention, complete **all** requested fields
- Before you make any public disclosures about your research - **come talk to us**
- Keep your contact information up-to-date
- When in doubt - **ASK US!** We are here for you

