**VUB TechTransfer**

**Invention disclosure form for the potential patenting and/or valorization of research results**

A. Introduction and clarification

This form will serve as a written proof of your invention and as such fulfills the first step towards protection and a possible valorization trajectory of your invention.

Please be as complete and detailed as possible while filling in this document.

This form enables you to:

- assess in consideration with VUB TechTransfer whether your invention is patentable;

- once the decision is made to proceed with the patent application, to get a patent application composed and filed by a patent attorney;

- investigate in consideration with VUB TechTransfer who is in charge of which rights with regard to the developed technology and to scrutinize any further issues;

- to set a ‘date-of-invention’, which might be important in the further patent application process;

- to determine and define the inventors of the invention

It is very likely that you won’t be able to answer every question but it is crucial that you dedicate sufficient time and reflection while doing so. VUB TechTransfer will support you in investigating and considering the possible answers to your questions. This disclosure form is considered as much more than just a one time administrative requirement for a patent application or valorization trajectory – it is an essential and necessary means to come to a viable and successful patent and/or valorization strategy. Consequently, this information must and will be frequently updated and optimized during your trajectory.

All information provided in this form will be treated confidentially.

According to article 169*ter,* paragraph 2 of the Flemish decree on Universities, before any form of public disclosure, all valuable research results have to be reported to VUB TechTransfer of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

Personal data will be treated according to the applicable data protection regulation and the VUB’s Privacy Statement to be found on www.vub.ac.be/privacy.

B. Questionnaire

1. Title and description of the invention

Title of the invention

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Application domain (for example biotechnology, new materials, telecom, ...)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Keywords (required to allow patent databases to be searched for similar inventions)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Describe the problem for which the invention provides a solution.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

How have others tried to solve this problem? Which alternative solutions to this problem are available until now?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Give a short description of the invention, preferably including a list of those elements of the invention that are essential to make the invention work and those elements that can be varied in different embodiments of the invention

|  |
| --- |
| (max 1 page!) |

Which advantages are related to your invention and how might it improve the current solutions? Are we talking about an incremental improvement of an existing technology?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

What are the disadvantages or limitations of your invention (compared to the current solutions) and how can they be overcome?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Is the technological head start based on your invention sustainable towards any third parties? Might your invention easily be sidestepped? How?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Development stage of the invention: concept only, laboratory tested, prototype, (in case of life sciences: preclinical, animal models, …). What further development may be necessary?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

What are your future plans concerning the further R&D of the invention? What development ‘milestones’ do you think you might reach during the following 12 months (e.g. more scientific data, proof of concept, prototype development, …) ? What timing do you premise during the following 2 or 3 years? If possible, give an estimation of the means you may need to reach these goals, e.g. to develop a prototype?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

2. The inventors

Who was involved in the invention process? Please indicate for every inventor or author: name, address, nationality, employer and unit or department of the organization. Please indicate clearly if there are any master or PhD students involved. If this is the case, mention the name of the promotor. Please provide an indication (%) of the relevant contribution of each inventor to the disclosed invention! Each inventor has to agree. Consequently we ask each inventor to co-sign this form.

|  |
| --- |
| INVENTOR 1  Name:  ORCID-no. or FRIS ID:  Address-work:  Address-home:  Email:  Citizenship  Employer:  Student?  Relevant contribution: \_\_% |

*NOTE: Inventorship is not the same as authorship and has important legal implications! Not everybody working on the technology is automatically qualified as inventor. Contact VUB TechTransfer for more information.*

3. Finance/Funding

Past and current funding that led to the invention?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Agency/Sponsor | Grant/ Contract (type and fiche nr.) | Term  (dd/mm/yy) to dd/mm/yy) | |  |  |  | |

Do third parties hold rights to the invention? Please list the persons, companies or organizations outside the Vrije Universiteit Brussel involved in the research which led to the invention, for example: IMEC, VIB, VITO, IBBT, EU, … IMPORTANT: Include the GRID ID of such organizations (if available).

|  |
| --- |
|  |

In case the employer is not Vrije Universiteit Brussel, … please indicate under which contract/project his or hers involvement is active. Who’s paying the inventor’s salary?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Are there partners/co-financers willing to contribute to the further development? (e.g. companies via IWT subsidies, …)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Link to IOF (project) financing and/or BOF (project) financing that has led/contributed to the invention as disclosed in this form, as well as IOF funding being used to develop the invention towards the market?

|  |
| --- |
| BOF: |

|  |
| --- |
| IOF: |

4. Invention disclosure record

List all past and near-future disclosures of the invention (or parts of it). If unpublished and undisclosed, provide the anticipated disclosure date and any submissions already made for potential publication Include abstracts, posters, proceedings, manuscripts, oral presentations, theses, reports, news article or press release, … that have been or will be posted, submitted, printed or web-published.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Type | Publication/submission date (dd/mm/yy) | Reference | |  |  |  | |

Did you already discuss the invention with any third parties? Did you sign a confidentiality declaration?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

3. State of the art

Please provide the references and copies of any (yours or others) publications (theses, reports, preprints, abstracts, patent, paper, …) believed by you to disclose ideas *most closely related* to the invention. Please rank them according to how closely related they are. MAX 10 refs!

|  |
| --- |
|  |

What is new about your invention? What wasn’t known about it yet? Try to be as accurate as possible. Compare your invention to the closest prior art. Which characteristic(s) or aspect(s) of your invention haven’t been described?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Do you have concrete plans to publish about the invention? If so, in which term, where, in which publication, ...? Do you already dispose of a first draft? If so, please hand in a copy.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

5. Records material

Are there records in a laboratory notebook available? Are these dated and signed?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Have you been using infrastructure, materials, gifts, biological material (of human origin), materials of any kind provided to you by a third party? If so, please give as many details as possible; more specific: has a ‘material transfer agreement’ been signed? If relevant: did you possess the consent of the patient?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

5. Software authorship

Is there any expression of this invention through software?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

In case of software: in which language has it been written? If necessary, can the software be written in another language? Can the user consult the source code?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Is the software a derivative or improvement of any existing code, if so which?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Did you make use of open source software? Using what kind of open source license (see <http://www.opensource.org/licenses/category> )? If possible, hand in a print out of the license conditions.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

What is the purpose of the software (e.g. proof of concept, demonstration, prototype, fully functional end user version)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

6. Commercialization potential

Where or how might the invention be implemented? Which commercial applications could and would be derived from the invention?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Who stand to benefit from the application of the invention?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Which type of company could be potentially interested in the invention and why?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Which products which compete with the invention are presently on the market?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

What might be the main bottleneck for commercial success?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Do you wish to operate the invention yourself by setting up a start-up company?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Do you already have contact with possible commercial partners/customers? Did you have contract research projects before? With which partners?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Which research groups are active/competitive with relation to the invention? Which research groups have filed relevant patent applications?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Which companies file relevant patent applications? If possible, give a brief description of their activities, means, employees, imbedding with customers and research institutions,... What is their position towards each other ? Which contact persons do you know at these companies? Please provide their coordinates.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

Document composed in Brussels, on the.... of ....(month), ....(year) by

Name + signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

INVENTOR 1

Name + signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

INVENTOR 2

Name + signature

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_