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Plenary 4. Intellectual Property in Mine Action: Trends, Rights and Responsibilities

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Programme Officer, Research and Innovation, the GICHD

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Lakshmi Supriya
World Intellectual Property Organization

Emilie Skogvang
HIP, Innovation Norway

Kyaw Lin Htut
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Yves Acremann
ETH Zurich

Ivan Dudiak
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Technologies for Mine Action

Lakshmi Supriya

Patent Analytics Officer,

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Geneva, Switzerland

WIPO WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION

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IP and Innovation

Types of IP:

1. Patents,
2. Trademarks,
3. Designs,
4. Copyrights
5. ….

IP can translate ideas into assets

WIPO – specialized UN agency for IP and innovation

WIPO leads the development of a balanced and effective global IP ecosystem to promote innovation and creativity for a better and more sustainable future.

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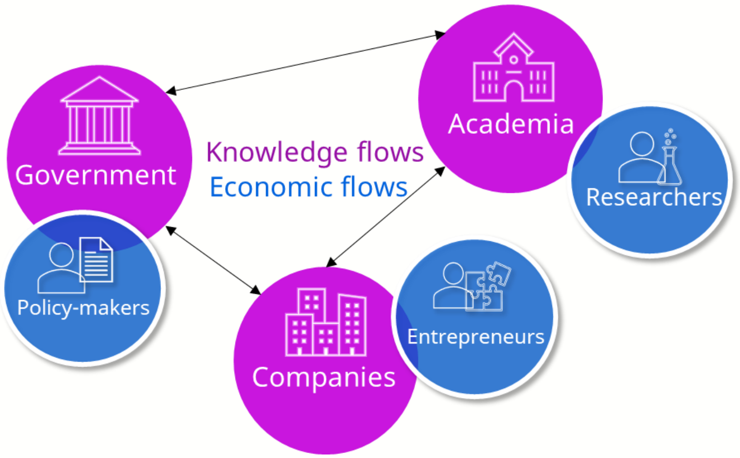
Innovation Ecosystems



Because great ideas deserve the power to grow!

- IP and innovation ecosystems create the conditions for ideas to move from inspiration to impact—fueling creativity, protecting inventors, and building the foundations for sustainable growth, equity, and shared prosperity.

How WIPO contributes to IP and Innovation Ecosystems

Empowering innovation and creating value
supporting innovators, creators, businesses, and governments

Facilitating IP and technology dispute resolutions and supporting legal ecosystems
supporting IP owners, businesses, and judiciaries

Delivering evidence-based insights
supporting IP, innovation, and policy decision making

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What is IP analytics?

Leveraging the wealth of knowledge contained in IP data (mostly patents) to provide added-value information and support informed decision making

Data → Sorted → Arranged → Presented visually → Explained with a story

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How is IP analytics useful?

Data driven evidence to understand innovation in a technology

Hard evidence of inventions in the field

What partnership opportunities are available?

What companies can we partner with to commercialize our research?

How to develop policy?

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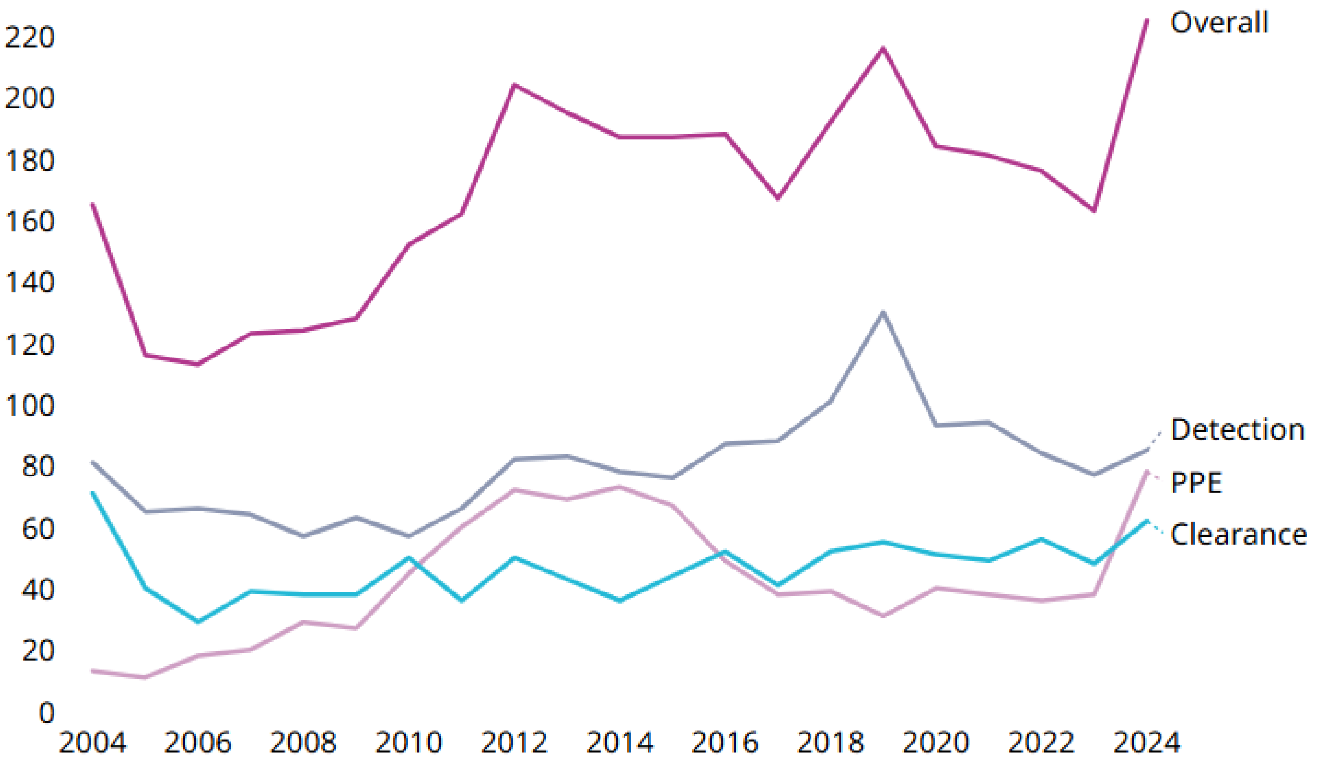
Technologies for Mine Action – WIPO Technology SPARK Report



- About 3,500 patents published in 2004-2024
- Steady increase in patenting activity over the years

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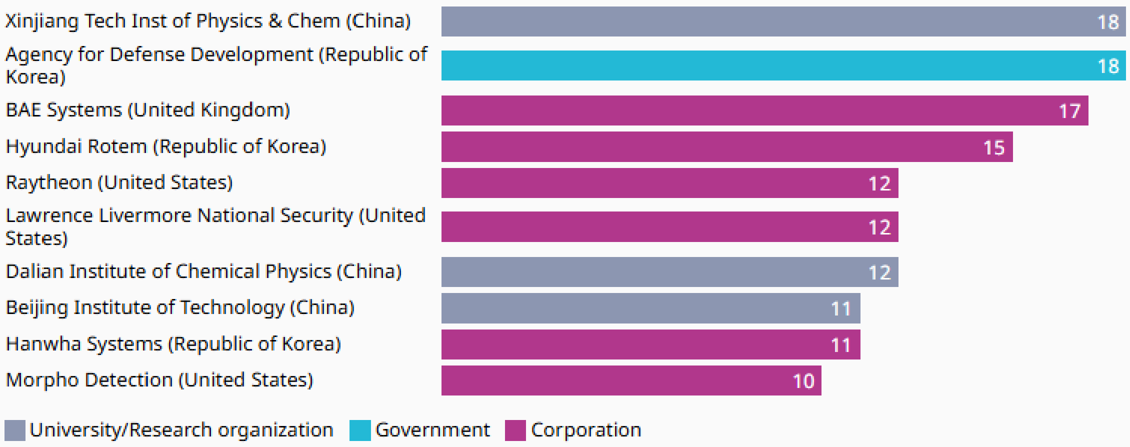
Detection Technologies

- Total about 1700 patents published
- Highest number of patents filed in China, about 600
- Followed by the US (300) and PCT (175)
- Growing interest in explosive substance detection using fluorescence and phosphorescence

The top patent owners have technologies that are specific for explosive substance detection as well as for detection broadly and for operational support

Figure 4 Top patent owners in detection technologies



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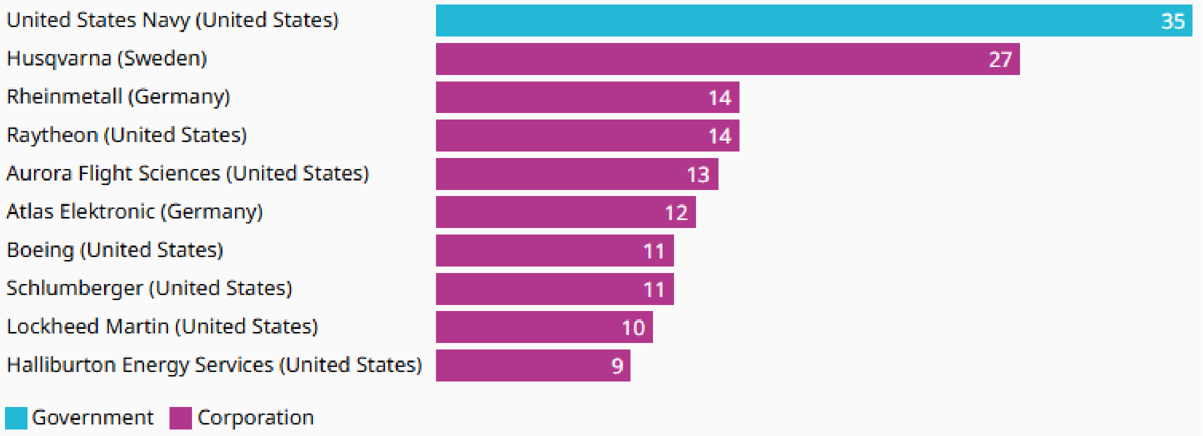
Clearance Technologies

- Total, 980 patents published
- Highest number of patents filed in the US – about 350
- Followed by the PCT (150) and China (126)
- Growing interest in using robots and UAVs to render explosives harmless

The top patent owners are associated with the defense or security sectors

Figure 7 Top patent owners in clearance technologies, 2004–2024



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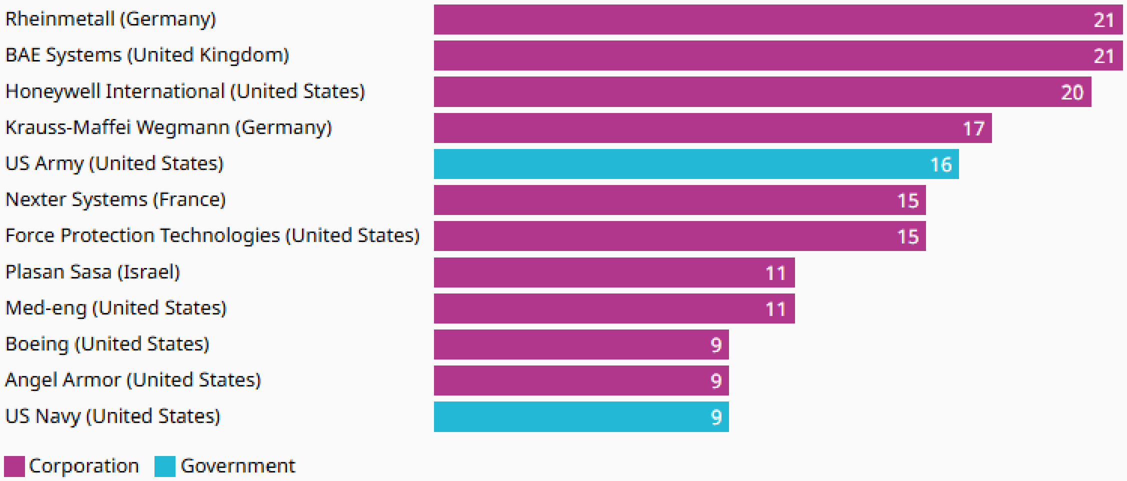
Personal Protective Equipment Technologies

- Total about 900 patents published
- Highest number of patents filed in the US – about 540
- Followed by the China (76) and EPO (73)
- Multilayer armor construction sees significant growth in 2020-2024, all other technologies show a low and steady number of publications

The majority of patent owners are based in the United States, consistent with the United States being the top jurisdiction

Figure 10 Top patent owners for PPE, 2004–2024



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Summary

- Defense R&D dominates the global innovation landscape
- Sensors and detection remain the largest category of patenting activity
- Sustained effort to leverage advances in other technology domain for mine action e.g. robotics and UAVs, AI-assisted systems, geophysical sensing, chemical detection of explosive substances

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IP Analytics at WIPO

WIPO patent landscape reports

- Over 20 PLR reports on various topics prepared since 2010
- Compilation of publicly available PLRs

Patent analytics methodological resources

- WIPO guidelines for preparing patent landscape reports
- Manual on free and open-source tools for patent analytics
- Handbook on patent analytics

WIPO technology trends

Large-scale patent landscaping exercise with additional data analysis, contextualization and expert inputs

Patent analytics training

Introductory and advanced training webinars/seminars and workshops

Thank you!

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https://www.wipo.int/patent-analytics

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IPR in Humanitarian Innovation Partnerships

Emilie Skogvang

Senior Advisor, Humanitarian Innovation Programme

Innovation Norway

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The Humanitarian Innovation Programme - HIP

- Launched in 2018 to respond to an identified need: humanitarian organisations are struggling to fully reap the benefits of the competence and expertise in the private sector
- Financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs & administered by Innovation Norway
- Support and de-risk humanitarian-private innovation partnerships
- Overarching goal: A more effective humanitarian response that saves lives, alleviates suffering and preserves human dignity
- Support with grant funding, advisory, tools & resources

Photo: Norwegian People's Aid

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IPR in humanitarian-private innovation partnerships: The challenge

- Have supported over 70 innovation projects, including innovative solutions for mine action
- IPR is a critical challenge to address early on:
  - Trust
  - Rigging a project to scale
  - Protecting people affected and the interests of partners involved

Photo: Natalia Jidovanu

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IP in partnerships

Background What the parties bring into the project	Foreground What the parties generate during the project	Results The results of the project
Resources: • Access • Brand • Knowledge • Tech • Design	• R&D • Knowledge • Test results	• Product • Service • Technology • Data

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA)
Therapeutic VR in Humanitarian Response

- Therapeutic Virtual Reality (VR) to support survivors of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in low-resource settings
- NCA owning all IPR, private partner owning all IPR or a modular solution?
- Biggest challenges: ethical concerns, commercial interests and humanitarian reach
- Conclusion: Applied a modular approach to IPR to balance the goals of humanitarian reach, Fornix' commercial interests and preserving the do no harm principle

Photo: Norwegian Church Aid

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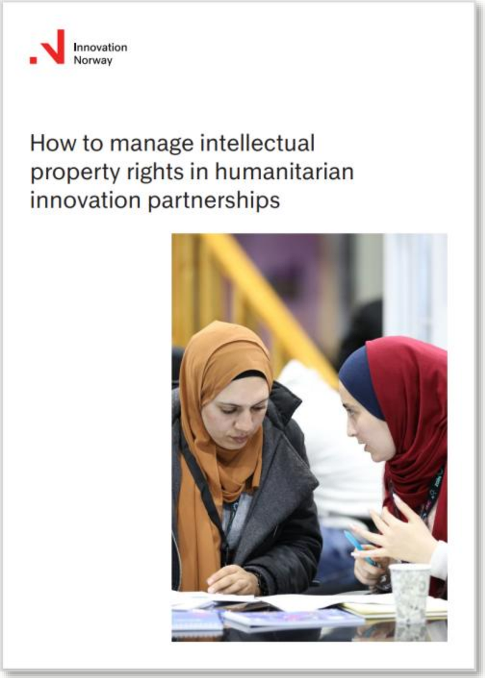
IPR in humanitarian-private innovation partnerships: The Handbook



- Introduction to intellectual property
- Ownership and licensing of IPR
- How to attract potential partners
- List of useful resources and license agreement example
- https://hip.innovationnorway.com/article/intellectual-property-rights

HIP SANDS ENGINEERS WITHOUT BORDERS unicef Supply Division COMITE INTERNATIONAL GENEVE UNHCR NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID

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Recommendations

- Address:
  - Who shall be granted the ownership of the generated IPR?
  - Who shall be allowed to use the IPR, and on what conditions?
- Identify:
  - Who has the best qualifications to exploit the IP that is generated?
  - Who are able to best carry the burdens of ownership?

Photo: IOM

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Example: Emergency Response System

- R&D collaboration – software and sensors to predict emergencies
- Copyright protection and portfolio of trade secrets
- Company is assigned ownership and humanitarian organisation is granted a free, non-exclusive license for use in global operations
- Licensing is a flexible tool to manage IP rights and allows for wide distribution
- Sub-licensing, modular licensing and open source.

Photo: Save the Children

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Key takeaway: TRUST

- **T**alk about IPR!
- **R**ig your project to scale from the start through your IPR strategy
- **U**tilize competence about IPR within and outside your organisation
- **S**hare best practices with others
- **T**ailor the IPR so vulnerable people are protected, and that the needs of all parties are met in the best possible way

Photo: IOM

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Get started!

- Download the IPR handbook here: https://hip.innovationnorway.com/article/intellectual-property-rights

  Or use the QR code:

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Application of IPR Tools and Best Practices in Mine Action R&D Projects

Kyaw Lin Htut
Senior Advisor - Innovation, Norwegian People's Aid

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NPA Projects funded by Innovation Norway HIP

- Crush Wire Detection Systems (2019 – 2022)
- Next Generation Personal Protective Equipment in Mine Action and Disarmament (2021 – 2024)
- Rapid Soil Tests to Protect Civilians and Livelihoods (2023 – Present)
- Scaling of Next Generation Personal Protective Equipment in Mine Action and Disarmament (2024 – Present)
- AI Assisted Imagery Analysis in Humanitarian Response (TBC)

Photo credit: Emilie Skogvang, Innovation Norway

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Project Modalities

Innovation Lab

- Application with a Problem Statement
- Needs assessment/Research
- Market Dialogue
- Innovative Procurement for partner selection
- Product development and testing/piloting
- Final procurement

Scaling

- Application with private sector partner
- Documented proof of concept and scaling plan
- 1:1 Matched private sector funding
- Bringing to mass-market an existing prototype product/solution
- Focus on wider adoption in the sector and beyond; not just for own use
- Sustainability

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Intellectual Property Rights on Innovation Lab projects

- Innovative Procurement Process: Market dialogue prior to tender
- Two-phased project life-cycle approach: Development and Procurement
- IP rights clearly outlined in the call for tenders and subsequent contract
- Partners retain all IP they have developed and exploitation rights after a project, including Scaling
- If NPA has directly developed IP for partners to use; then both parties have joint rights with mutual approval
- Respect for third parties in using their IP

Photo credit: Norwegian People's Aid

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Case Study: Development and Scaling of Next Generation PPE

Problem Statement: Polycarbonate visors have very limited operational lifespans. Aramid in aprons also deteriorates after prolonged use. Unisex PPE in the mine sector is generally designed around men's body types.

Photo credit: Norwegian People's Aid

Innovation Lab Processes

- Needs assessment and published research
- Market Dialogue
- Tender and contracting with advice from Innovation Norway
- Two partners selected:
  - ROFI
    - New unisex aprons optimized for women
    - New visors made from re-treated and recycled aramid. ***Designed by a third party.***
  - Human Brights
    - Local recycling of polycarbonate visors and value creation/livelihoods. Proof of concept: demining tools.
- Testing and procurement

Note: Partners and third party owned all IP

Photo credit: Norwegian People's Aid

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Route to Scaling

- Circular economy
- Sustainable business model for partners: NPA is an "incubator" for private sector partners
- Production and recycling goals
- Uptake of solutions by national stakeholders, other mine action organisations and the private sector
- Budgeted into future NPA projects

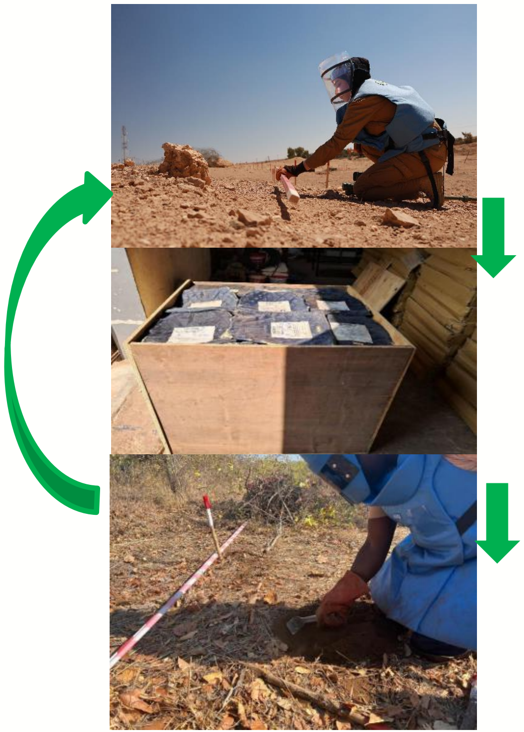

Photo credit: Norwegian People's Aid

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Thank you!

www.npaid.org
kyawhtut396@npaid.org

Norwegian People's Aid

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Open science

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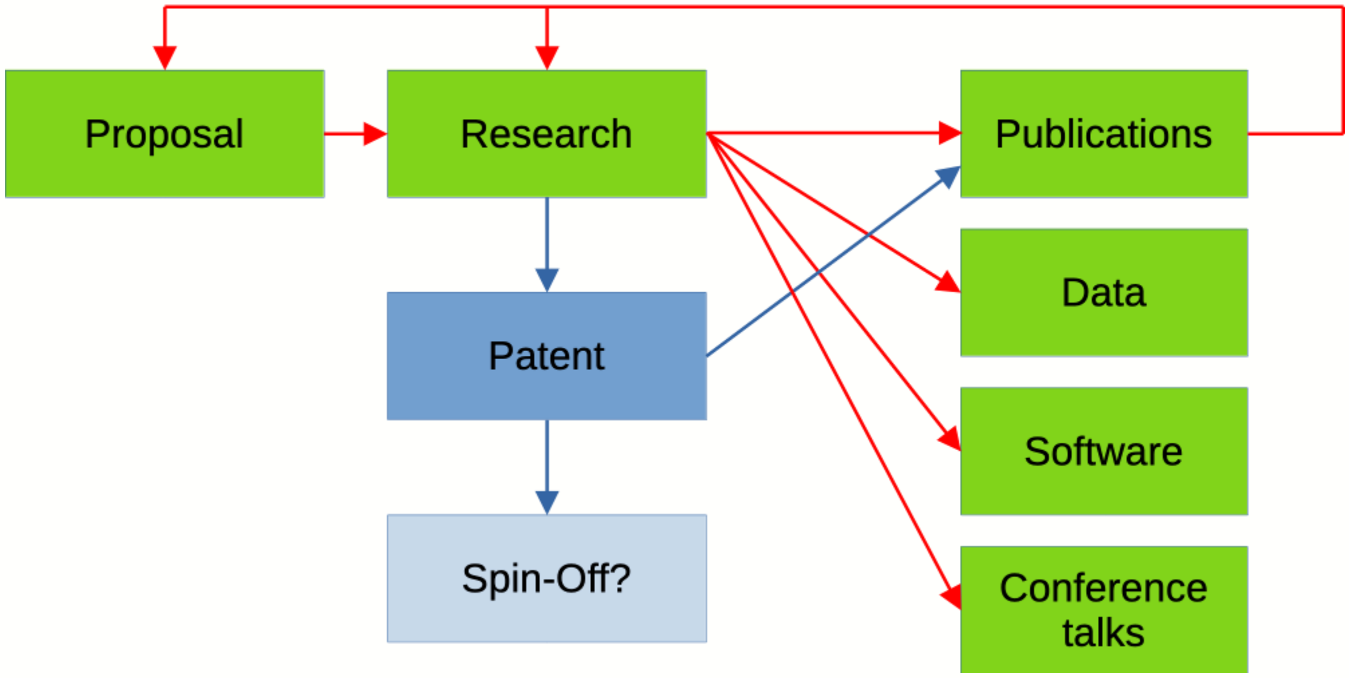
The Lifecycle of a Research Project



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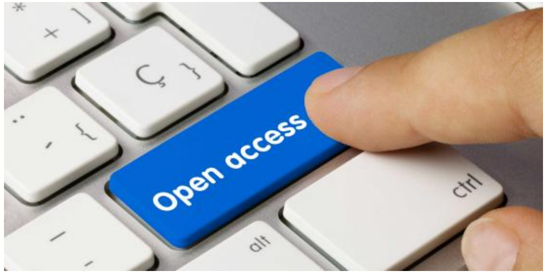
Publications in Open-Access Journals

- Two decades ago: Available only with expensive subscriptions.
- Pressure from the funding agencies: Articles must be openly accessible.
- Two models:
  - Green open access (by institute)
  - Gold open access (by journal)
- Publication of preprints



From https://library.ethz.ch/en/news-and-courses/news/news-articles/2025/09/open-access-eth-zurich-leads-the-way-globally.html

- Makes the research available for the society
- Improves visibility

Publishing the Raw Data: FAIR Data Principle

- The raw data of the experiments should be published.
- FAIR data principle:
  - Findable: Use identifiers (DOI)
  - Available: Publish the data
  - Interoperable: Use good data formats
  - Reusable: Provide documentation
- The FAIR principle should provide the data in a human- and machine-readable form. => Metadata, documentation!

- Makes the data available to other researchers
- Enhances trust in the data analysis
- Scientific integrity

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Open-Source Software

- Publishing open-source software is encouraged
- Different licenses, examples: GPL (restrictive), MIT (more liberal)
  - No liability
  - Provided as is
  - Give credit to the authors
  - In case of the GPL: Related work needs to be under the same license

open source initiative®

From https://opensource.org/osi-logo-files/

Open source and free (as in freedom) software is at the heart of the internet today!

Often, the FAIR data only makes sense together with the software.

Open Technology from Basic Research

- Many technologies are developed as a side-project of our research, some examples:
  - World wide web (CERN)
  - Python, numeric libraries, AI
  - Control systems
  - Sensors (example: sensitive magnetometers!)
- The open collaboration is essential for innovation.

Let's Share What We Know
World Wide Web
https://www.w3.org/Illustrations/LetsShare.ai.ps

TANGO
https://tango-controls.org

python™
https://python.org

NumPy
https://numpy.org

EPICS
https://epics-controls.org

GNU / Linux
https://gnu.org

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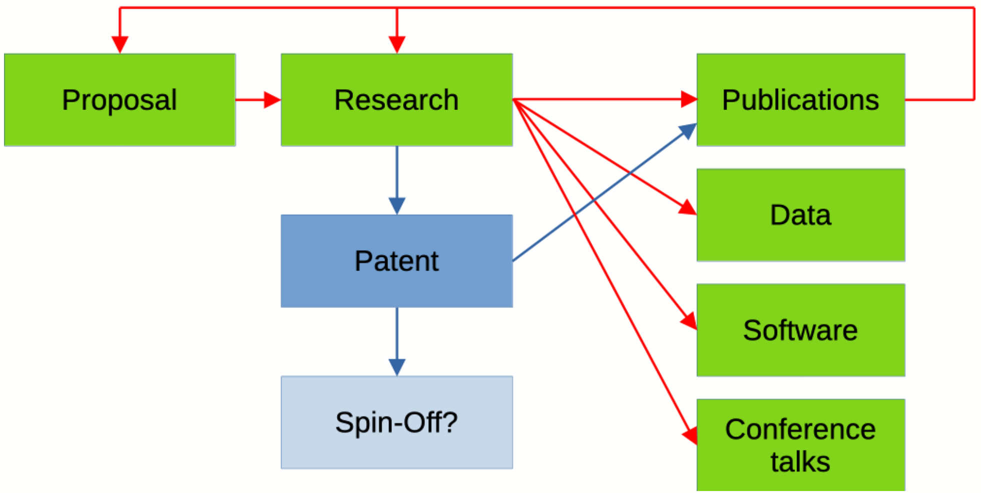
The Role of Patents in Basic Science

- At ETH Zurich: Patents are only supported by the technology transfer office if there is potential commercial use.
- Some research groups file patents on their own (independently of the central technology transfer office)
- For basic research, patents have two functions:
  - Enable commercial use (main purpose)
  - May help with future proposals (minor, not the policy of ETH, papers are more important!)

Conclusion

Basic science is generally very open and available for everyone.



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Patents & IP Strategy: Sokil's Private Sector Perspective

Ivan Dudiak
CEO at Sokil

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Why is IP important to us?

Protect the value of the company

Build up credentials

Control over inventions

Navigate export challenges

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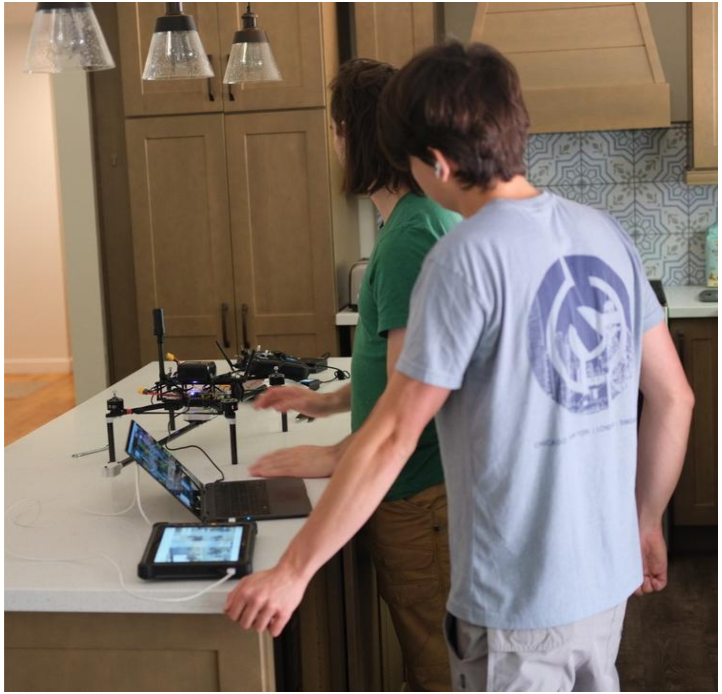
Protect the value of the company

Owning our tech IP is crucial to:

- Legally sell our systems
- Have certainty over our future
- Important for investors



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Export issues

For international companies — important where the R&D happens, which IP laws apply

E.g. Ukraine prohibits most defense-related exports and the US has stringent controls on dual-use exports

Our mistake:

We got delayed by 6 months because of a late start on the US bureaucratic paperwork

Why did we patent?

- We had an invention
- We were going to present at a conference
- This constitutes a public disclosure
- So we had to file the patent application to prevent IP loss

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Our Patent journey

Feb 2024

Filed a **provisional** application

1 year waiting period

Feb 2025

Filed an **non-provisional** application and a **PCT** application

June 2025

Received an initial response from USPTO

now

2026

Expect to have a patent granted in the US and Ukraine

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