

# EASY ACCESS IP

AN INTRODUCTION FOR  
INDUSTRY PARTNERS

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**EasyAccessIP**

RESEARCH & INNOVATION OFFICE

## INTRODUCTION TO EASY ACCESS IP AT UTS

UTS is dedicated to the discovery and dissemination of knowledge and to delivering impact from research. Effective partnerships between UTS and industry provide opportunities to put UTS research generated intellectual property to good use, however we also recognise that there are often many barriers that limit industry-academic collaborations and prevent university IP from being taken to the market. UTS already has a reputation for being good to do business with, and now through Easy Access IP doing business with us has become even easier.

University technology is often at a very early stage of development and it will require significant investment in order to release the inherent value and deliver impact. Universities have limited resources to develop IP to a stage of significant commercial value, and we recognise that industry partners are better placed to bring these technologies to market. The Easy Access IP model provides a mechanism for UTS to release a proportion of our technology portfolios for free to those who can develop it and put it to use.

In return for a free license to UTS Easy Access IP we ask our industry partners to:

- demonstrate how you will create value for society and the economy
- acknowledge UTS as the originator of the intellectual property
- report annually on the progress on the development of the Easy Access IP
- agree that if the IP is not exploited within three years, the licence will be revoked
- agree that there will be no limitations on UTS' use of the IP for the university's own research and teaching

## WHAT IS EASY ACCESS IP?

Whilst UTS will still protect and commercialise some IP through more traditional revenue-based licensing or start-ups, we will offer some of our IP to industry partners and entrepreneurs for free, to increase the take-up of IP, accelerate the development of these opportunities and to encourage new collaborations and research engagement opportunities with business. Easy Access IP aims to make it easier for industry to work with us, by reducing the barriers to internal investment in development by offering the IP for free and using quick and simple agreements, removing the need for lengthy, costly negotiations.

In order for us to decide on the most appropriate licensee, those interested need to tell us how they will use the IP to benefit the economy or society.

## BENEFITS TO EASY ACCESS IP

Easy Access IP is intended to provide industry with greater opportunity and incentive to develop products and services that will lead to economic, environmental and social benefits. We believe there are some significant benefits to Easy Access IP for our industry partners:

- Easy Access IP is free – there are no royalty or milestone payments regardless of how successful the end product is
- You gain easy access to cutting edge science, technology, design and innovation
- Simple template license agreements means no lengthy and expensive negotiations and legal costs
- A generous period of time to develop and commercially exploit the IP
- Any patent costs are at the discretion of the licensee
- Ready access the researchers that developed the IP and the opportunity to collaborate on the development of the IP

## ACCESSING EASY ACCESS IP

UTS will regularly release IP that is available for licensing through Easy Access IP and publish them on the UTS website [www.uts.edu.au/easy-access-ip](http://www.uts.edu.au/easy-access-ip)

To apply for an Easy Access IP licence, we will ask you to provide a Statement of Intent, which will form the basis of the Easy Access IP license. The Statement of Intent should answer some of the following questions in relation to the specific IP you wish to licence:

- What is the market or social need and your ability to address that need?
- How will you use the UTS IP to better address that need?
- How do you intend to engage with UTS for the development of the IP?
- Will you need any ongoing IP protection?
- What are the critical milestones you intend to achieve over the next 3 years?
- What are the total resources you will invest in developing the IP?

## FAQs:

### **Is all UTS IP available for free?**

No, UTS will continue to offer IP under more traditional investment or revenue-based licensing if we think it is the most appropriate way to derive impact from the IP.

### **Does giving IP away for free mean it is of low value?**

UTS recognises that IP derived from our research is often at a very early stage, and whilst it may have potential commercial value, the resources and investment required to derive that value are beyond the limited resources available to UTS. The commercial decision to invest in technology development is influenced by many factors, and there can be barriers to making that decision if the perceived risk is too high. Easy Access IP helps to reduce these risks.

### **Who pays for any patent costs?**

Whilst UTS may have already filed patent applications at our own cost, the ongoing prosecution and maintenance of patents is at the discretion of the licensee, the licensee is expected to cover all patent costs if they decide that patent protection is of commercial value.

### **What happens if we stop maintaining the patents?**

Maintaining the patents is at the discretion of the licensee, and so the licensee can choose to stop paying the patent costs at any time. We do ask that you keep us informed of these decisions.

### **What happens if more than one company is interested in the same IP?**

We will review the Statements of Intent provided by all interested companies and at UTS' discretion we will select the company that we believe is best suited to deliver impact from the IP.

### **What happens if the licensee does not develop the IP as described in the Statement of Intent?**

The Easy Access IP license provides the licensee with 3 years to develop the IP, if the licensee has not made reasonable efforts to achieve this then UTS may revoke the Easy Access IP license.

### **What happens after the 3 year development period?**

If the licensee has demonstrated that they have honoured the Statement of Intent and made reasonable efforts to commercialise the IP, they can request to have the IP assigned to them.

### **Are the researchers that created the IP able to keep using it for research?**

Yes. UTS will always retain the rights to continue to use the IP for research and teaching. In many cases the licensee will want to collaborate with the researchers that created the IP, deriving further value from the IP and the relationship with the researchers.

### **Where did Easy Access IP come from?**

The Easy Access IP movement originated at the University of Glasgow and is now in use by a number of universities around the world. UNSW are the Australasian Ambassador for Easy Access IP, and UTS are grateful for the support that UNSW has provided in supporting UTS' adoption of Easy Access IP.

## ENQUIRIES:

If you have any questions about Easy Access IP please feel free to contact:

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