
IP protection and technology transfer at CTU

This document covers questions 3.8 and 3.9 within the framework of

SELF-EVALUATION REPORT MODULE 3

Three units are operating at the rector's office in support of commercialization, IP protection, technology transfer, spin-offs and start-ups: the Intellectual Property Protection Office (IPPO), the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) and the InQBay Incubator. There is also a License Fund (LF) and a Commercialization Committee (CC) with strong industry participation.

The Intellectual Property Protection Office (IPPO) offers its services to the inventors, faculties and institutes of CTU. In 2014 and 2015, part of the cost of the office was met by providing services to external bodies; since 2016, the capacity of IPPO has been fully used by inventors from CTU. It has three certified patent attorneys (2.5 FTE), two of them with EU certification and one with CZ certification only. For countries/patent offices outside Europe (USA, Japan), CTU paid for extra help in the countries of application. IPPO also has an educational role. It offers seminars to CTU scientists and students.

The Technology Transfer Office (TTO) offers services to inventors, such as estimates of business potential, preparation of license agreements, and direct negotiation of such agreements with investors. TTO has a lawyer and marketing specialists.

CTU established its InQBay incubator in 2016. The incubator provides systematic support for start-up companies and thus increases the chances of ideas and inventions emerging at CTU entering successfully into the commercial sphere. Approximately 30 startups had been supported by the end of 2018. Some of them have disappeared, while others have passed successfully through the incubation phase and have joined the fully-commercial environment. Examples of incubated start-up companies (2014-2018): FlexiCare Ltd., MOB-BARS Ltd., Advamat Ltd., AKAENE Partners Ltd., Galavito Ltd., RedCup, M2MC, Job-IT.cz, *BF Design*, Imaglee, SmartGuide, M2MC, Aikit Digital, *Dot Glasses*.

The License Fund (LF) was established to support international patent application(s). Any applicant from CTU can apply for support. The inventor makes a presentation, on the basis of which the LF committee may partly or fully support the IP protection costs in exchange for a share in the future benefits. The fund is still at its beginning; from 2014 to 2016 the fund ran only on subsidies from CTU. Since 2017, it has obtained more and more of its funds from patents supported by LF that have been licensed.

The Commercialization Committee (CC) is the decision body behind a small proof-of-concept project fund. Seed money was obtained from the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (Inovafond 2015-2019, ProoFond since 2020). Small projects (e.g. typically lasting 18 months and with funding of EUR 30 000) help to develop ideas with market potential into products or know-how ready for the market. It should be noted that the selection process itself is an asset

for inventors, as questions asked by external CC members and the opinions that they express have helped even unsuccessful candidates to form a better strategy.

No new spin-offs with direct ownership interest of CTU were established in the period under review.

[Eyedea Recognition Ltd.](https://www.eyedea.cz/) (<https://www.eyedea.cz/>), with a 10% CTU stake, is a spin-off set up before 2014 that has continued to develop successfully.

CTU has many talented staff, students and graduates with technological knowledge and entrepreneurial ambition. The University offers comprehensive support services aimed at helping them to succeed, and sharing in their risk and in their profits.