

LISA Kick-Off training – YOU are the Investor....

Exercise – Technology Triage for early-stage technologies

You are Director of Innovation in a research organisation, which we call 'The University' here. Below are four research-based ideas that have come to you for resources. These resources might be for example – help with patent costs, advice and expertise, creating a spinout company. The goals of your research organisation in commercialising science are a) income generation b) protection of University intellectual property and c) social benefit. You can only choose one – which one will you choose, and why?

1. CAMERA PROJECTOR

A researcher in the Department of Electrical Engineering brings to you a working prototype of a digital camera modified to be used as a digital projector for powerpoint presentations for example. The invention is unpublished and is the work of a team of researchers involved in European Framework funded research programme. The invention is patentable. There is clear demand for the technology as a portable replacement for digital projectors; it works!

2. MALARIA INVENTION

A team of researchers in the University's Research Centre for Tropical Diseases arranges a meeting with you to discuss very impressive new, unpublished results for a new vaccine candidate for anti-malaria vaccination, twice as effective as other vaccine candidates in clinical trials. The Professor has filed a number of patent applications with you before on her other vaccine work, and is a consultant to a global pharmaceutical company. The team are committed to working with you to file patents and get the technology to the market.

3. TENT

A team of researchers in your university has designed a new, lightweight, rapidly erected tent for all applications from leisure to defence. The requirement for an easily transported and rapidly erected tent or shelter system is essential for military and emergency aid situations, civilian applications and the leisure industry. Using a series of simple mechanical linkages a 2D sub-unit can be easily expanded to provide temporary accommodation of high strength suitable for use in a wide range of climatic conditions. The invention is patentable.

4. MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS DISEASE

Researchers in the University's Department of Public Health have developed a questionnaire for the specific measure of health status of patients with Multiple Sclerosis. The researchers receive many requests to use it, and they want advice on how to commercialise it. There have been numerous academic journal publications on the questionnaire as it has evolved over time, and been used in different patient studies. It contains 25 questions, covering 8 aspects of quality of life. The instrument was developed on the basis of interviews with people diagnosed with the disease. It has been widely validated, and translated into over fifty languages.