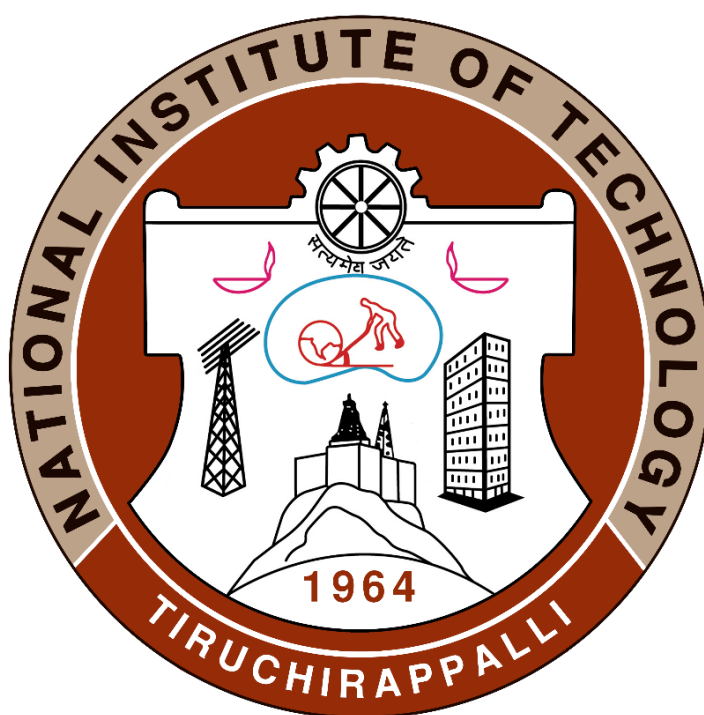


INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER POLICY



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY,
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI-620015
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS CELL
AND
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CELL**



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI – 620015
IP AND TT POLICY**



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1. PREAMBLE

National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli (hereafter referred to as ‘NITT’) is an Institute of National Importance dedicated to excellence in teaching and research. Its activities, centred on faculty, students, project staff, supporting staff, and visitors, are based on knowledge and intellectual exercise. In the era of technology domination, where values and perceptions change at a brisk pace, National Institutes of Technology, in particular, have to preserve the fundamental spirit of academics on one hand and march ahead on the other, accepting the changing realities of a business economy based on knowledge generated, protected, and disseminated under the intellectual property regime.

In the evolving scenario of the world today, with increasing awareness of the ‘Knowledge asset’, an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy is needed not only to preserve the interest of NITT but also to make NITT faculty, students, project staff, supporting staff, and visitors aware of the ‘knowledge asset and its impact on society’.

The present policy facilitates the protection of the rights of the Inventor(s) of NITT (i.e., faculty, students, project staff, supporting staff, and visitors) through the option of Intellectual Property protection on a novel work or to keep it in the public domain as they may deem fit. In alignment with the Vision and Mission of NITT, the policy favours the outreach of novel technologies developed at the institute. At the same time, it motivates the faculty, students, and researchers of NITT to initiate technology transfer using the intellectual property rights gained over a novel invention.

2. INTRODUCTION

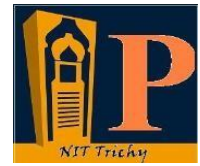
This IP and TT Policy applies to all NITT employees (regular or contractual) and students. Every member of the academic community, student and non-teaching and teaching staff alike, must be aware of their own rights and respect the rights of others pertaining to intellectual property.

NITT IP and TT Policy is intended to provide a healthy atmosphere conducive to research and development for the creation of intellectual property while at the same time giving proper consideration to the economic rights and responsibilities of the institute. This document is intended to introduce, regulate, and organise issues related to intellectual property within NITT. It also reaffirms the institute’s commitment to scientific endeavours, academic excellence and the dissemination of knowledge. This policy is designed to outline the responsibilities of the institute and its employees, as well as to establish a framework for ethical conduct.

This Policy is further intended to protect the respective interests of all participants by ensuring that the benefits of such property accrue to the public, to the inventor, to the institute and



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to sponsors of specific research projects in varying degrees of protection, monetary return and recognition, as circumstances justify or require.

3. DEFINITIONS

The meaning of terms in these rules is as given below, unless the context otherwise requires,

3.1 “**Applicant**” refers to a person or an organisation that owns the rights to the IP generated/developed and makes a formal application before an IP office for the grant of the respective right, such as a patent, Industrial Design or Copyright. The institute is usually the Applicant for all IP generated/developed by the Institute Personnel.

3.2 “**Assignee**” refers to a person or an organisation, like the institute, to whom/which ownership rights to the IP are legally transferred.

3.3 “**Assignment**” refers to the act of transferring the ownership rights, including the title and interest in the IP generated/developed.

3.4 “**Background IP**” refers to any IP/IPR that’s created, invested, authored or developed prior to or independently owned or controlled by the parties before the date of the agreement/contract. In simple words, the Background IP is a preexisting IP that a party brings to a research project. The parties include the institute, funding agencies, collaborators or the Government of India (hereinafter referred to as “GOI”).

3.5 “**Confidential Information**” shall mean and include any and all proprietary information whether commercial or technical of the institute and shall without limitation, include Trade Secrets, data, Know-how, software programs, processes, specifications, drawings, marketing plans, financial, strategies, forecasts, any or all Intellectual Property, product development plans, marketing, sales leads and work in progress; engineering, technical, manufacturing, service, financial and personnel information relating to all transactions of NITT, evaluation material, internal discussions and all nonpublic information whether the information is in print, written, electronic form or oral that is valuable to NITT and not generally known to outsiders.

3.6 “**Collaborative R&D**”: refers to projects that are jointly conceived, planned, and executed by the Institute Personnel, in collaboration and partnership with, the representatives, personnel, and staff of the collaborator such as an Industry, sponsors, universities, NGO’s, research organizations, hospitals or any other third party interested in R&D. Such projects will be characterized by substantial inventive and financial contributions from these entities. In addition, in the case of Collaborative R&D work carried out by the Institute and the Industry, the latter shall also make substantial inventive contributions, in tandem with the financial contributions made by it.



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3.7 “**Consultancy Projects**” refers to the work conceived and funded by industries or any third party to the institute for providing advice/solution to a specific problem without using Substantial Institute Resources.

3.8 “**Disclosure of IP**” refers to the Confidential Information, such as an Invention written up, and revealed by an Inventor to the institute, to determine whether Intellectual Property Rights for the said disclosure should be sought and obtained by the institute. The institute would also ascertain what could be the scope for Technology Transfer, Commercialisation, and Licensing of the said Invention.

3.9 “**Entity**” refers to any legally recognised organisation that provides financial or other support for research and development activities of the Institute.

3.10 “**Foreground IP**” refers to IP/IPR resulting directly from and authored, conceived, developed, reduced to practice or otherwise created during the performance of the research agreement/contract by the institute or in collaboration with the collaborating Entity.

3.11 “**Invention**” refers to an act of inventing something novel or unique, typically a device, method, composition, or process. An invention may be an improvement upon an existing product, process, or service, or it may be an entirely new product, process or service.

3.12 “**Inventor**”, creator or author, refers to the Institute Personnel who contributed to the creation/conception and/or development of the IP. In Patents, the inventor is the person, or persons, who preferably contribute to the claims of a patentable Invention

3.13 “**Institute**”/ “**NITT**” means National Institute of Technology Tiruchirappalli

3.14 “**Institute Personnel**” refers to all faculty, students, staff, project and contract employees, consultants, visiting and adjunct members, research scholars, interns, trainees, and any other individuals—whether internal or external—engaged in teaching, research, consultancy, or innovation activities using Institute resources or working under the Institute’s academic or research programs.

3.15 “**IPEC**” refers to the Intellectual Property Evaluation Committee constituted by the Dean of Research & Consultancy with the approval of the Director from time to time to evaluate and make recommendations regarding IP related issues.

3.16 “**Joint IP/ Joint ownership**” refers to IP that may be jointly owned by the institute and the external party that has contributed intellectually to the generation of such IP through its employees.

3.17 “**Know-how**” refers to any technical information or tacit knowledge closely held together with accumulated skills which is valuable and identifiable, including results, experimental techniques, formulae, chemical structures, source code, etc., not strictly a form of IP but equally important and proprietary to the institute.



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3.18 “**Licensor**” refers to a person or an organisation, such as an institute, which grants a license to another or a third party. It simply means that the institute that is the IP(R) owner grants permission to another individual or an organisation to make, use, import, sell, etc., the rights it holds in a patent, copyright or other forms of IPR.

3.19 “**Licensee**” refers to an individual or organisation that receives a license from the Licensor.

3.20 “**Ownership**” refers to the rights an organisation holds under this policy to deal with the IP generated/created by the Institute Personnel. Subject to the rights of the government and any exceptions contained in this policy, NITT owns or will be considered the owner of all the IP generated by the Institute Personnel. Ownership of Patent or IP is independent of inventorship/authorship. The Institute Personnel generating/creating the IP will be considered Inventors/authors.

3.21 “**Project**” refers to a series of tasks that need to be completed to reach a specific outcome by the institute either on its own or in collaboration with an external entity, and includes research project(s), consultancy project(s).

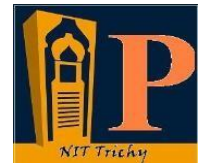
3.22 “**Publications or Public disclosure**”: refers to the various documents, reports, technical communications, research papers, manuscripts, software, research data etc. arising out of a R&D work carried out by the Institute Personnel that are generally made available to the public by act of publishing, including electronic and printed copies, through different forms such as journal publications, books, thesis, dissertations, newspaper articles, posters, conference publications or other publications via a website or other electronic means, physical copies or in an oral presentation to someone who is not an employee of the institute, or is not bound by confidentiality to keep such information secret. Demonstration/promotion of the invention in a public place is also considered public disclosure. Theses and dissertations kept in the NITT library or published as an e-copy are also considered public disclosure.

3.23 “**Revenue**” refers to all the financial earnings made by the Licensee, from the rights to use the Invention/ IP(R), for commercial purposes, including the sale, sub-license, internal use, or assignment to any other party, etc., that result in financial, commercial, economic, or any other material benefit to the Licensee.

3.24 “**Substantial Use of Institute Resources**” means use of the Institute’s Resources such as experimental facilities, background IP, Know-how, laboratories, computational facilities, software, hardware, institute-provided or institute-administered funds or industry/ state/ central funding or other external sponsorship/funding, space provided by or through the institute or human resources including their release time from regularly assigned duties during the course of their work or on paid leave. The routine uses of the Institute library/information, desktops/laptops do not constitute “substantial use of Institute resources”.



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3.25 **“Sponsored R&D”**: refers to those R&D projects and/or activities which are originated and conducted by members of the faculty or, in some instances, by staff members and are supported wholly or in part by external agencies like the government funded projects or the industry funded projects. It also refers to research which is conceived and funded by industries requesting the institute to provide a solution to a specific problem, and such a solution is provided solely by the institute using its Institute Resources in addition to the funds from the industry.

3.26 **“Startup”** means an entity incorporated in India as a private limited company, registered partnership firm, or limited liability partnership, in accordance with the Companies Act, 2013, the Partnership Act, 1932, or the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008, and recognized as a Startup by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, as per the applicable notification issued from time to time (including Gazette Notification No. G.S.R. 34(E)).

4. INSTITUTE PERSONNEL IP RIGHTS AND DUTIES

4.1 All knowledge generated by Institute Personnel is IP and is owned by the institute as per the bylaws of the institute.

4.2. Nothing in this policy shall limit or restrict the right of Institute Personnel to publish the results of their research, other than the terms and conditions put forth by the funding source.

4.3. When the Institute Personnel would like to protect their IP, publication will have to be subjected to reasonable delays to preserve Intellectual Property Rights.

4.4. Research Agreements entered by the Institute Personnel with external entities or individuals must be consistent with the primary interest of the institute in the prompt public dissemination of its academic and research output.

4.5. Delays in publication required by the institute or third parties in sponsored research agreements, as a general rule, shall not exceed 90 days from initial disclosure of the Intellectual Property to IPEC or the funding agency. However, the period may be further extended with the consent of the respective Institute Personnel, if there is a requirement to protect any IP.

4.6. Institute Personnel are required to disclose Inventions, discoveries and other Intellectual Property to the IPEC in a thorough and timely manner, as stated above, when they either want to protect their IP or are required to do so by the terms and conditions of the funding that was used to generate the IP.

4.7. Institute Personnel should abide by all commitments made in license, sponsored research and other agreements and comply with all laws and regulations related to public and privately funded research.



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4.8. Institute Personnel cannot sign or enter into legal agreements with a third party. Only the competent authority, as the case may be, as per the Institute's Scheme, Regulations and Bye-Laws, is authorised to sign legal agreement(s) with a third party on behalf of the institute.

4.9. Institute Personnel shall not file for any form of Intellectual Property protection independently without the prior knowledge and written approval of the IPEC.

4.10. Any IP filed without such approval shall not be considered valid for evaluation in promotion, appraisal, or performance-related activities of the Institute.

4.11. The Inventor shall also provide such assistance that may be necessary throughout the technology transfer process, by realising the goals and objectives of this policy

4.12. The Institute Personnel shall ensure that he or she does not enter into multiple agreements for the same technical scope of research work to avoid conflicts. In the event of a conflict or if the said Personnel foresees any possible conflict, he or she should inform and work with the IPR Cell to resolve such issues.

4.13. If the Inventor is seeking appropriate IP Protection or has entered into an agreement with a funding agency, the Inventor shall keep the nature and all matters relating to the IP confidential until the fact and manner of disclosure is agreed by the IPR Cell.

4.14. The Institute personnel shall ensure that contracts are put in place with third parties involved in a project involving existing IP or the creation of new IP, preferably before the start of the collaboration.

4.15. Inventors shall assist in protecting the institute's rights to the IP by keeping suitable records of its creation (wherever necessary, drawing on guidance from the Specialist IP advisors) and co-operating with any registration activity. In case IPEC recommends seeking statutory protection for an IP, the Inventor(s) shall cooperate promptly and fully with the Office of IPR Cell and the Patent Attorney chosen from a panel of attorneys approved by the institute, to prepare the application to file for protection in the jurisdictions recommended, including preparation of supporting documents, forms, affidavits and authorisations.

5. ESTABLISHMENT OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS CELL AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CELL

The key components of this IP & TT Policy include the establishment of two IP management cells, namely:

- i) **Intellectual property rights Cell (IPR Cell), and**
- ii) **Technology Transfer Cell (TT Cell)**



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Constituted with distinct roles and responsibilities for comprehensive management of IP from the steps of identification of various creations in the institute, to their appropriate protection, publication, knowledge/technology transfer, including commercialisation

The IPR Cell and the TT Cell, from time to time, shall have the right to co-opt Domain Experts, IP Experts, technology/knowledge transfer experts, to assess diverse Creations submitted to the Groups for the appropriateness of their IP Protection, commercialisation potential and value to the institute.

The TT Cell would function as the key technology/knowledge broker for the institute and would closely work with the IPR Cell to translate the “**identified creations**” for assessment of their commercial potential and further work towards the realisation of their commercial value.

5.1 CONSTITUTION OF THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS CELL (IPR CELL)

The **Head** of IPR Cell: The Director shall appoint a member of the faculty as the Head of IPR Cell, who will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of IPR issues and shall work under the guidance of the Dean (R&C).

Intellectual Property Committee (IPC): The Director shall appoint an Intellectual Property Committee (IPC) to administer, oversee intellectual property matters and make suitable recommendations to the Dean (R&C) / Director for implementation. Dean (R&C) will serve as the **Chairman**, and the Head IPR shall serve as the Head of the IPC. In addition to Dean (R&C) and the Head IPR, the Director shall nominate four more members among the faculty of the institute as a **core committee** and three more members among non- teaching staff as a **technical support committee**.

The tenure of the IPR Head is three years. He/ she shall continue to hold the IPR Head till the appointment of his/her successor. Furthermore, the person shall not hold the IPR Head position continuously for a period exceeding three years, unless they are specially appointed for at least a second term. The tenure of the members will be three years. A member may be appointed for a second term, but not more than six years in total.

5.2 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF IPR CELL

The Intellectual Property Cell (IPC) at NITT shall serve as the nodal body for all matters related to intellectual property creation, protection, and management. Its functions include:

- i. Create Awareness about intellectual property among students, faculty, staff, and MSMEs through different capacity-building programs.



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- ii. Plan and conduct IP evaluation meetings at periodic intervals.
- iii. Support different departments of the institute in different stages of IP filing and protection as per the Institute norms.
- iv. Maintain a database of all IP filings as well as published and granted patents.
- v. Review the IP clause in MoUs, NDAs, and license agreements and ensure legal compliance.
- vi. Review any cases of IP infringement and recommend necessary legal or administrative actions.
- vii. Facilitate different initiatives for technology transfer, commercialisation, industry networking, as well as collaboration with IP-related firms and organisations.
- viii. Prepare and submit proposals for different funding support related to IP management, awareness and capacity building.
- ix. Appointing or engaging experts/consultants to assist in IP search, filing, drafting and legal matters.
- x. Procure necessary goods and services to secure and manage the IP rights of NITT.

Procure a smart tool for searching IP databases for the preparation of technology/knowledge landscapes and assessment of their IP potential. Also, design a structured innovation disclosure form to capture the essential features of the innovations. Train the researchers to use the smart tools and to report their innovations using the innovation disclosure form.

If the Creator(s) decide to approach any external agency / third party for funds/support for the filing and prosecution of the IP application(s) of the said creation, the Creator shall take prior written permission from the IPR Cell.

1. Any IP transaction (licensing/assignment) associated with such IP shall be referred to the IPR Cell and TT Cell for prior clearance.
2. If any of the creations are evaluated to be maintained as a “trade secret”, then the IPR Cell would initiate the necessary processes to ensure the maintenance of confidentiality of the said creations and the associated information.
3. The IPR Cell shall ensure appropriate interactions between the IP Professionals and the creator(s) of the IP for technical inputs while drafting the IP applications and their prosecution. The IP professionals shall be hired by the IPR Cell. These IP Professionals shall report to the IPR Cell and keep the IPR Cell informed of their interactions with the creator.



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4. IPR Cell shall prepare a formal report on each creation disclosed to it and provide the Technology/knowledge Transfer Group with its findings to trigger the TT Cell to initiate its process for the realisation of the commercial potential of the IP (and/or in the process of being protected).
5. The IPR Cell with TT Cell shall conduct IP awareness programmes to impress on the Institute personnel the essential aspects of intellectual property rights (IPR) and its role in enhancing the quality of innovations, increasing their probability for technology/knowledge transfer & commercialisation. Further, these awareness programmes shall also demonstrate good practices of taking appropriate care of the IP and how not to knowingly infringe the IP of others.

IPR Cell on behalf of the institute shall arrange to bear the cost of the institute-owned IP Applications, prosecution, maintenance, enforcement, commercialisation, etc., from the appropriate project grants obtained from various project funding agencies and the “Institute IP Fund”.

6. The IPR Cell will ensure that adequate and timely IP protection has been provided and actions taken on all disclosures submitted to it, prior to publication and public disclosure of these creations.
7. The IPR Cell will arrange for legal support as necessary to defend and protect the IP obtained by the institute against any infringement / unauthorized use by others.
8. The IPR Cell will provide guidelines on conflicts of interest and the resolution of conflicts regarding non-compliance with the Institute's IP Policy.
9. The IPR Cell may engage with associated entities promoted by the institute for the commercial exploitation of Institute IPs.

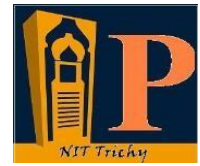
5.3 CONSTITUTION OF THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CELL (TT CELL)

The **Head** of the TT Cell: The Director shall appoint a member of the faculty as the Head of the TT Cell, who will be responsible for the day-to-day administration of TT issues and shall work under the guidance of the Dean (R&C). He/ She will serve as the Head of the Technology Transfer Committee.

Technology Transfer Committee (TTC): The Director shall appoint a Technology Transfer Committee (TTC) to help administer Technology Transfer and to make suitable recommendations to the Dean (R&C)/ Director for implementation. Dean (R&C) will serve as the **Chairman**, and the Head TT Cell shall serve as the Head of the TT Cell. In addition to Dean (R&C) and the Head TT Cell, the Director shall nominate four more members among the faculty



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of the institute as a **core committee** and three more members among non- teaching staff as a **technical support committee**.

The tenure of the TT Cell Head is three years. He or she shall continue to hold the TT Cell Head till the appointment of his/her successor. Furthermore, the person shall not hold the position of TT Cell Head continuously for a period exceeding three years, unless they are specially appointed for at least a second term. The tenure of the members will be three years. A member may be appointed for a second term, but not for more than a total of six years.

5.4 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TT CELL

The main role of the TT Cell is to continually explore the options and means for the commercialisation of the Institute's IP and nurturing, in parallel with the Institute's thrust towards setting up entrepreneurships and startups. The TT Cell would therefore function as the institute's outreach to the Industry / Businesses in India and abroad and become an operating channel for effective commercialisation of creations from the Institute and Institute IP.

The inventors are instructed to communicate with the TT cell if they would like to do technology transfer. Once a month or once every 2 months (based on the number of requests received), the TT Cell reviews the applications and will be forwarded to the next levels of approval

The TT Cell shall set up the formal mechanisms to deal with all forms of contracts, agreements, memorandum of understandings (MOUs), and negotiations with external agencies for commercialisation. The TT Cell is therefore responsible for all contractual agreements, material transfer agreements, IPR issues related to acceptance of grants from various organisations, government and non-government bodies, including industries, financial institutions, and angel investors.

The TT Cell shall therefore act as an "IP Watch Dog" and vet the terms and conditions set

- By project funding agencies with respect to IP ownership
- For sharing of benefits from the earnings of the resulting IPs
- For IP portfolio maintenance
- For acceptance of fellowships by the students, faculty, staff, etc.

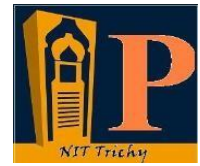
Every Institute Personnel shall submit all such documents linked to IP given to them for signing by any external agency to the TT Cell for legal scrutiny and shall not sign such documents without the explicit written clearance by the TT Cell.

The same requirements apply to setting up joint projects, initiating collaborations, accepting consultancy projects, advisory assignments, etc.

The TT Cell will set up and operate all precautionary policies and processes to deal with IP Trolls and their like operating nationally and internationally.



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The TT Cell, from time to time may induct into its working teams, industry experts, technocrats, legal experts, consulting agencies to help it to professionally handle each case of technology/knowledge transfer and also conduct familiarization and training programmes to equip the Institute personnel with the rudiments of IP monetization, global good practices and also to conduct periodic audit of the processes being followed in the institute.

The IPR Cell shall provide its recommendations on selected developed innovations and creations with their associated IPR to the TT Cell for evaluation and exploration of possible knowledge transfer/commercialisation with potential industrial partners.

The TT Cell may call for the entire documentation related to the said creations that includes the creation disclosure forms, the reports on prior art searches, the IP applications made, the prosecution history, including the final form in which the IP has been granted/registered. The TT Cell, if appropriate, may also initiate “**a Freedom to Operate Exercise**” (FTO), to ensure that the said creations with their IPR do not infringe the existing IPR of any other party.

The TT Cell shall conduct a “Due Diligence” on the creations with its IPR referred to, or identified by it, to ensure that all actions related to the said creations comply with the associated contracts/agreements/arrangements with the funding agencies supporting the project, collaboration arrangements, etc.

The TT Cell is empowered to progress technology/knowledge transfer, conduct negotiations and conclude formal deals between the institute and the identified industry partners, including signing of working MOUs/ agreements to progress across the knowledge value chain.

As a government-funded institution, the institute is primarily committed to making all efforts to ensure that the benefits of the Institute Creations are made available to the largest sections of our society. Accordingly, “**Non-Exclusive licensing**” would be the most preferred option for TT Cell, though exclusive licensing or an assignment of the Institute IP may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

The TT Cell shall establish formal benefit-sharing arrangements with the creators on earnings resulting from the commercialisation of their “Creations and IPR.

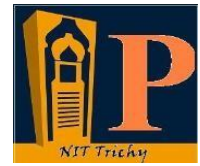
TT Cell will ensure that formal agreements have been signed between the creators and the institute on the benefit-sharing arrangements between the institute and the creators.

The benefit-sharing arrangement policy shall be reviewed periodically, and the TT Cell may recommend to the Institute Board appropriate amendments for incorporation in the IP Policy.

The TT Cell shall encourage its students, faculty and staff into an entrepreneurial mode and help them to establish start-ups and, where necessary, appropriately transfer the Institute's IPR in favour of the start-ups under well-structured contracts between the institute and such start-ups / entrepreneurs, and their like.



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TT Cell shall also impress on the parties with whom technology transfer/knowledge transfer contracts are being negotiated that the institute, as a policy, does not knowingly infringe any IP of other parties. Notwithstanding what has been stated, the TT Cell shall

Non-exclusive ensure that in all contracts concerning its IP transactions, the institute is indemnified by the Parties to whom the IP has been transacted with, from any infringement proceedings, including, without limitation, in all such aspects related to production of its IP-related products, manufacturing defects, debugging applications associated with software products, etc.

Further, it will be the endeavour of TT Cell in all contracts related to IP transactions between the Institute and Third Parties, to indemnify the Institute Creators from all proceedings related to the aspects referred to in this paragraph. Notwithstanding what has been stated, the institute may be called upon by the associated third parties to whom the Institute's technology/knowledge with IP has been transferred, to provide technical support to defend such parties in any associated IP litigations.

- Select innovations and creations with/without their associated IP for evaluation and exploration of possible knowledge transfer/commercialisation with potential industrial partners
- All steps being taken by the creator(s) for the commercialisation of the said technologies/knowledge under this subsection shall be intimated in writing to the TT Cell, and all benefit-sharing arrangements between the Creator(s) and the institute shall be guided by the policy and norms set by the TT Cell and applicable at that point.
- Participate with the IPR Cell to decide on filings abroad, suggesting that filing abroad will be processed through or by the TT Cell or with the Concurrence/ recommendation of the TT Cell, strategies for linking the institute with industry and other commercialisation partners
- A policy to be prepared/formulated by TT Cell to deal with contractual agreements, data ownership, data and material transfer agreements, IPR issues related to acceptance of grants from various organisations, government and non-government bodies, including industries, financial institutions, angel investors, including a specific policy for dealing with IP Trolls, etc.
- Creating a special corpus fund called “Institute IP Fund” to meet the financial requirements necessary for the management of Institute IP.
- Conducting IP familiarisation programmes and structured formal courses within the institute’s educational system to equip the beneficiaries and stakeholders with the nuances of IPR and their relevance in the global, socio-economic and technological development, with specific emphasis on India
- Ensuring that IP practices in the institute are contemporary and world-class



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- Providing a cohesive value-added platform within the associated entities promoted by NITT (such as start-ups / incubates in CEDI, Technology Park, etc.) to facilitate and support IP-related matters.

6. REVENUE SHARING

The net earnings from the commercialisation of IP owned by NITT would be shared as follows: (Refer to Clause 6.C for student-owned patent revenue sharing)

S.No	Particulars	Share (%)				
		Inventor(s)	Institute	Department/ Centre	IPR Cell	TT Cell
1	Net earnings	70	10	5	5	10

After 10 years or upon superannuation, whichever is earlier, the full revenue shall go to the Inventor(s).

A. The creator(s) share would be declared annually, and disbursement will be made to the creator(s), their legal heir, whether or not the creators are associated with NITT at the time of disbursement.

B. Co-creators of IP shall sign at the time of disclosure, the Distribution of IP Earnings Agreement, which shall specify the percentage distribution of earnings from IP to each co-inventor. The inventors may at any time, by mutual consent, revise the Distribution of IP Earnings Agreement.

C. Revenue shares for the students' owned patents (under the clause) are

- a) 90% (Ninety per cent) of the revenue will be given to the Inventor(s).
- b) 10% (ten per cent) to the Institute.

After 5 Years from the date of commercialization 100 % revenue will go to the Inventor(s).

7. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP

7.1 NITT OWNERSHIP

A. Intellectual property of any kind created by faculty, students, staff, project staff, visitors and others, such as trainees from other institutes, participating in NITT programs or using NITT funds or facilities, are owned by the institute when at least any one of the following applies:

- i. The intellectual property was created with the significant use of funds or facilities administered by NITT.



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- ii. Intellectual property was created (i) as a part of the normal professional duty or (ii) employment contract.
- iii. If the intellectual property is created under the course of or pursuant to a sponsored/consultancy research agreement with NITT, specific provisions related to IP made in contracts governing such activity will determine the ownership of IP.
- iv. In case of the intellectual property being created as a part of academic research and training, leading towards a degree or otherwise, rights will be owned by the institute.

B. All copyrights, including software copyrights, will be owned by NITT when it is created as part of any of the academic programs of the institute or created pursuant to a written agreement with NITT by any individual, institute or organisation providing for transfer of copyright or ownership to NITT.

NITT will not claim ownership of copyright on books and scientific articles authored by NITT personnel. However, NITT will have the copyright on books and reports which have been created using funds specifically provided for this purpose by NITT.

7.2 INVENTOR/AUTHOR OWNERSHIP

A. Inventors/Authors will own intellectual property when

- i. None of the situations defined in subdivision 4.1 above for NITT- ownership of intellectual property applies.
- ii. Popular novels, poems, musical compositions, or other works of artistic imagination created without the use of significant institutional resources.

B. Students will own copyright on theses/dissertations created as a part of their academic programme. However, the student must grant NITT royalty- free permission to reproduce and distribute copies for teaching and research, as well as for dissemination for teaching and research to other academic institutions.

7.3 THIRD-PARTY OWNERSHIP

A. Ownership of intellectual property resulting from:

- i. Funds provided partially or fully by a third-party to NITT will be governed by specific provisions in the contract (MoU/MoA) between the third party and NITT.
- ii. Exchange programs between NITT and other institutions will be governed by specific provisions in the contract (MoU/MoA) between the third party and NITT.



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- iii. Where applicable, confidentiality and data protection will be governed by a separate Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) or by confidentiality clauses included in the MoU/MoA
- iv. In case no specific terms and conditions are mentioned in the contract (MoU/MoA), IPR will remain with NITT.

B. In case of all IPs related to patents and copyrights covered in 4.3A above, NITT shall retain a non-exclusive, free, irrevocable license to copy/use IP for teaching and research activities, consistent with agreements wherever signed by NITT.

C. In cases where an IP is created by NITT personnel, during deputation, the concerned NITT personnel is free to retain the IP rights generated during such absence. The IPR Cell will evaluate the ownership of the IP so generated during such leave. He/ She should officially communicate about the creation of such IP to NITT at least one month before the date of filing.

D. In cases where an IP is created by NITT personnel, during any official leave, including sabbatical leave, NITT will hold part of the rights. However, he/ she should officially communicate about the creation of such IP to NITT at least one month before the date of filing.

7.4 COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS, STARTUPS AND INCUBATION

To accommodate different combinations of collaborative engagements, such as:

- Student (NITT) – Faculty (External)
- Student (NITT) – Industry Partner
- Faculty (NITT) – Faculty (External)
- Faculty (NITT) – Industry Partner
- Student (NITT) – Startup/ Incubation/ Industry Project

In all the above collaboration models, ownership and benefit-sharing shall be determined based on:

- i. The MoU or funding agreement and its IP clauses.
- ii. Any Tripartite Agreement executed between the parties.
- iii. The extent of NITT resource utilisation (infrastructure, funds, manpower).
- iv. The source of financial contribution or sponsorship.
- v. The Pre-project IP Agreement executed before commencement.
- vi. Formal communication and approval from the IPR Cell before initiating any collaborative activity likely to generate intellectual property.



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Each such agreement shall clearly define the ownership, protection, revenue sharing, confidentiality, and publication rights associated with the intellectual property generated. The agreement/ MoU/ T&C shall be routed through the IPR Head before legal vetting.

The specific terms may be customised based on the nature and objectives of the collaboration and the anticipated IP outcomes.

8. INDUSTRY FUNDED PROJECTS

8.1. JOINT OWNERSHIP

NITT may consider joint Ownership of IP with an Industry that in addition to funding

- contributes its Background IP for the development of the Foreground IP, or
- makes intellectual contributions to the Foreground IP through the participation of its employees in generating IP together with the institute.

The extent of Ownership shall be determined based on the MoU/MoA (or) intellectual contribution from each entity.

8.2. ASSIGNMENT/TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

NITT may consider the transfer of Ownership or Assignment of rights outside India in a particular field of use to explore the Commercialization of the IP. Please refer to section 14 for the terms and conditions of such transfer.

8.3. NON-INDUSTRY RESEARCH COLLABORATOR

Ownership of any IP generated solely by NITT personnel shall be owned solely by NITT. NITT may also consider Joint Ownership if the collaborator

- contributes its Background IP for the development of the Foreground IP, or
- makes intellectual contributions to the development of Foreground IP, contributes intellectually to the generation of IP using its own funds or through funds from an external organisation, subject to the funding organisation's policies.

8.4 STARTUPS / SPIN-OFFS AND EQUITY

For any startup spin-offs, commercialisation, or equity sharing, the Institute Startup Policy shall apply, in accordance with the National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP) 2019 guidelines.



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All intellectual property generated in such projects- whether involving internal students, internal faculty, external collaborators, or industry partners shall be governed by a pre-collaboration IP agreement.

9. OWNERSHIP OF TANGIBLE RESEARCH PROPERTY

9.1. All tangible property developed at NITT using its funds shall be owned by NITT and shall be licensed in accordance with this policy. The tangible property includes but is not limited to all forms of material - organic and inorganic chemicals, pharmaceuticals, biologicals, metals, ceramics and polymers, machinery -prototypes (equipment, machine), electrical and mechanical systems, circuits in all packaged and integrated forms, and computer software.

9.2. GOI funded projects: Any tangible property generated or made in the course of research/Consultancy projects funded or supported by GOI shall be owned by NITT, subject to the Ownership and other provisions of the GOI grant.

9.3. GOI and Industry-funded projects: In the event NITT receives funding from GOI and Industry for academia-industry collaboration projects, the Ownership of intangible property, if any, developed shall be subject to GOI policies.

9.4. Industry-funded projects: Any tangible property generated or made in the course of research projects funded by the industry shall be either solely owned or jointly owned by NITT. If the prototype is fabricated at NITT for subsequent off-campus use by the industry, such equipment may be licensed exclusively/non-exclusively to the industry. If the tangible property licensed to the industry is used for profit by the industry, then it shall compensate NITT for such use; the terms of such use and the remuneration shall be negotiated through a separate agreement on a case-by-case basis.

10. CONSULTANCY PROJECTS

10.1. Research-based consultancy project: These kinds of consultancy projects arise when the researcher, in addition to providing his/her research skills and/or expertise, has to conduct lab work and may involve other Personnel of the Institute, like students, in conducting such work under the project in return for remuneration from an external agency.

In such research-based Consultancy projects, NITT will consider Joint ownership of IP with an Industry

- that contributes its Background IP for the development of the Foreground IP to the said Project; or
- makes intellectual contributions to the Foreground IP through the participation of its employees in generating IP together with the institute.



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The extent of ownership shall be determined based on the intellectual contribution from each entity. Ownership of any IP generated without any intellectual contribution or any Background IP from the employees of the industry pursuant to the Consultancy Project shall be owned solely by NITT in India and in countries filed outside India.

10.2. Advisory-based consultancy projects: These kinds of consultancies include providing professional services and technical expertise under contract for a third party or any external agencies for a fee, and are expertise-based. The services include routine laboratory and other testing of materials, devices, products or produce; analysis of data; surveys, including market and opinion surveys; quality controls/checks; field trials; providing professional advice and opinion using knowledge that is already present in the open domain. These kinds of projects do not necessitate the consultant to conduct any lab work under the project to provide advice.

10.3. Any IP that is generated by NITT faculty under the Advisory-based Consultancy project will belong to the external agency funding such a project. NITT faculty shall be named as an inventor or an author in accordance with the IP law as applicable in the country where such protection is sought. Based on the NITT request, the said external agency may consider paying an additional remuneration as a contribution towards the generation of such IP. This may be in the form of a one-time payment or a running royalty to be mutually decided on a case-by-case basis when the IP is generated, or the revenue is generated.

10.4. Assignment/Transfer of Ownership: NITT may consider the transfer of Ownership outside India in a particular field of use to explore the Commercialization of the IP. Please refer to section 14 for the terms and conditions of such transfer.

10.5. Student Fellowship Funding by Companies: If the Industry is funding only the student academic fellowship, then the IP generated by the student shall be owned by NITT and shall be treated as NITT IP and dealt in accordance with the IP Policy of NITT.

10.6. Student Internship: NITT encourages student internships onsite in industry for a period of two to six months, and NITT shall not claim any ownership in the IP generated during the student internship for the said period, provided the student does not use NITT's Background IP or NITT resources for the generation of such Foreground IP. In the event the student uses NITT Background IP, NITT resources or continues to work in the same area he/she has been assigned at NITT, NITT shall have a stake in the Ownership, and the extent of Ownership shall be determined on a case-by-case basis.

10.7. Research under the Part-Time External: Part- Time External is viewed as a collaborative research arrangement between the institute and the employer of the registered PhD student. The Ownership of the IP generated will be shared between the institute and the employer organisation, provided the employer has appointed a co-research guide to guide the PhD research student, and the student is permitted to work in the premises of the employer towards the research problem



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identified during the enrolment. If the employer organisation wishes to exploit such jointly owned Foreground IP commercially, the institute will grant the organisation the first right to negotiate a royalty-bearing exclusive license of the rights held by the institute within six months from the date of disclosure. The organisation's rights in the Joint IP will, however, be limited to the field of application, as identified in the research proposal in the application for external registration. The institute reserves Ownership of any IP generated in the fields of application not specified in the research proposal and will be free to exploit the IP in those other fields of application without being accountable to the employer organisation. In the event the exclusive rights are not exercised by the employer organisation, NITT reserves the right to exploit the IP without accounting to the employer organisation, including its competitors in the market. If the PhD research student leaves the employer midway or is not permitted to use the employer's resources or does not identify a co-guide in the employer's organisation or is on unpaid leave to work with NITT full-time, then the Foreground IP generated shall be owned solely by NITT, and such IP shall be treated as NITT in-house IP.

10.8. "Contract R&D": This form of R&D would arise when a Sponsor/Funding Agency/Industry/Collaborator sets out a specific problem/research agenda/ scope of work in the R&D. The Institute Personnel would essentially be working on the above problem/ research agenda/ scope of work, and the Contract R&D Project would be completely funded by the Sponsor/Funding Agency/ Industry/ Collaborator, to cover all direct and indirect costs, costs to set up the laboratory, all operating costs and overheads for the independent (out-sourced) execution of the Contract R&D. In such extreme and rare cases, the institute may consider the request(s) for exclusive ownership of IP, from the Sponsor/Funding Agency/Industry/Collaborator.

11. DISCLOSURES, CONFIDENTIALITY AND ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS

- a. The contract on disclosure of IP for sponsored and/or collaborative work shall be followed as per the agreement.
- b. For all other IP produced at NITT, the inventors will be required to disclose their IP to the **IPR Cell** on the date using an **Invention and Technology Disclosure (ITD) Form**.
- c. In case the inventor is leaving NITT due to superannuation or other reasons, he/ she shall assign the rights of the disclosed IP to NITT before leaving the institute, and this is a mandatory requirement for obtaining a no due certificate. He/ she shall agree to the terms and conditions for the sharing of any financial benefits that may accrue to the institute by commercialisation of such IP.



- d. Having made the disclosure, the inventors, both NITT and non-NITT personnel, shall maintain confidentiality of the IP during the period when efforts are made for protecting and commercialisation of the IP, unless authorised in writing by NITT.

12. EVALUATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

12.1. FORMATION OF THE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

An Intellectual Property Evaluation Committee (IPEC) will be established by the Dean of Research & Consultancy with the approval of the Director to facilitate the assessment of inventions. The Head of the IPR Cell and one Associate Dean of R&C will also be part of the IPEC. IPEC members will be formed from Circuital, Non-circuital and Sciences and depending on the patent subject, IPEC members will be intimated for evaluation. The assessment of inventions is called by the IPR chairmen twice in a semester, and the inventors must submit the necessary forms at least ten days before the IPEC meeting.

12.1.1. Scoring System

Each criterion can be scored on a scale, with the total adding up to 100 points. Here's how the scoring can be broken down:

Novelty (30 points)	Original Contribution: 0-15; Prior Art Search: 0-15
Inventive Step / Non-Obviousness (30 points)	Non-obviousness Level: 0-10; Technical Advancement & Readiness Level: 0-20
Industrial Applicability (25 points)	Practical Application: 0-15; Scalability and Implementation: 0-10
Market Potential and Economic Impact (15 points)	Market Demand: 0-10; Economic Benefit: 0-5

12.1.2. Evaluation Process

- Initial review of the research work against the criteria.
- Assign preliminary scores based on available documentation and findings.
- Determination of the overall suitability for patent application based on the total score.



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- A threshold score (70 points) for recommending the research work for a patent application.
- Works scoring above the threshold may proceed to the patent filing stage.
- Works scoring below the threshold may be required for re-review.

12.1.3. Techno-Commercial Evaluation of Invention

- Assigning ownership of the invention.
- Determining whether an IP is innovative and fit for filing an application for patent rights in India and abroad.
- Assessing the scope of commercialisation and industrialisation of IP

A. After evaluation of inventions, if NIT Trichy decides not to take up the responsibility for the protection of the invention, then it will assign all the rights of the inventions to the inventors.

B. Even in such cases, as in (A), NIT Trichy may take up the responsibility of facilitating the protection of the IP on a case-by-case basis.

C. NIT Trichy will pay the patent renewal fees for the first seven years in all cases where the patent is held by the institute. If it is a joint patent with a sponsoring agency, the patent costs may be equally shared. If the patent has been commercially exploited within the first seven years, NIT Trichy shall pay the patent fee for the remaining period of the life of the patent. If the patent has not been commercially exploited within the first seven years, NIT Trichy and the creator(s) shall share the subsequent instalments of renewal fees on a 50:50 basis. If the creator does not show interest in such renewals, NIT Trichy can either continue maintenance of the patent by paying the fees for its full term or withdraw the application for patent protection at its discretion.

13. COMMERCIALIZATION

- a. IPR Cell shall market the IP and identify potential licensee(s) for the IP to which it
 - (i) has ownership and
 - (ii) for which rights have been assigned to it.
- b. For the IP where exclusive rights have not already been assigned to a third party, the creators may also contact potential licensee(s) on their initiative, maintaining confidentiality and taking all necessary care to ensure that the value of the IP is not affected.
- c. Know-how: The inventor is requested to provide the understanding of technology, know-how for commercialisation with the interested industry in the commercialisation of the patent. This includes prototype building, testing and commercial market launch. For providing such know-how, the IPR Cell could negotiate for honorarium for the inventor from the industry.



13.1. COMMERCIALIZATION/ UTILIZATION OF NITT IP

1. As the Sole or Joint owner of any IP, the institute is entitled to enter into a binding agreement with any party for the utilization of its IP, whether on commercial terms or on non-commercial terms in the public interest, and in a manner consistent with the terms of any agreement involving the R&D project from which IP was generated and read harmoniously with the terms of this policy.
2. The institute shall be entitled to grant Licenses, whether exclusive or not including open-source licenses, for the utilization and commercial exploitation of Institute IP, or to make such other arrangements as the institute may deem fit to facilitate Technology Transfer, Licensing, and other means of Commercialization of Institute IP to industry or other entities, while preserving the rights and interests of the institute and of the Inventor(s). Where Institute IP results from R&D projects funded by Public Agencies or through the resources provided by the institute, an exclusive license may only be granted if the terms of public funding permit such a license. Any licensing of IP generated from public-funded R&D, including R&D work supported by the institute, shall comply with applicable national legislation, if any. All Institute IP to be Commercialised will be listed on IPR website and the interested parties approaching the IPR Cell will be considered for such licenses.
3. Commercialisation through start-ups: NITT supports entrepreneurship and the creation of Startup companies as a means of exploiting NITT-owned IP. Where an Inventor wishes to develop and commercialise the Institute IP based on his/her Invention, the Institute will generally license such IP exclusively to the Inventor's startup. The Institute may also consider assigning the rights of such Invention(s) partially or completely to the Startup on a priority basis, as compared to other license seekers, through taking an equity stake in the Start-up Company that such an Inventor might set up and a combination of upfront payment/royalty. Such initiatives may be channelled through CEDI or other similar bodies formed by the institute to promote such initiatives. Agreements to enable such Commercialisation efforts will be formulated on a case-by-case basis. For guidance on the terms and conditions, CEDI or a similar body identified by the institute should be approached.

13.2. MODES OF COMMERCIALIZING NITT-OWNED IP

The possible modes of Commercializing of NITT owned IP include,

- non-exclusive licensing,
- exclusive licensing,
- exclusive licensing with enforcement rights
- assignment of ownership under limited conditions and
- Open-source licensing



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The institute encourages the development and Commercialization of NITT IP by an Industry for public use. A non-exclusive license allows several companies to exploit an Invention and ensures it meets wider public requirements. Hence, the institute would prefer to grant a non-exclusive license. However, in some cases, an exclusive license may be necessary to provide an incentive to the industry to undertake commercial development and production of such Inventions. The decisions will be taken on a case-by-case basis and will be subject to the government of India's restrictions.

14. ASSIGNMENT/TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

Being a publicly funded university, NITT does not encourage complete transfer of ownership in India. However, outside India, although NITT prefers to grant an exclusive license as per or if required an exclusive license with all substantial rights, including litigation rights, at times industry might want complete transfer of ownership, such as for instance for the option of cross licensing or better enforcement of rights in jurisdictions outside of India. Therefore, based on the situations outlined below, NITT may consider assignment/transfer of ownership of Sole NITT IP or Joint IP as follows:

14.1. IP Generated from NITT-funded projects (NITT in-house Projects): For IP that is filed in India, transfer of ownership shall not be possible; however, for IP filed outside India, transfer of ownership may be considered under the following situations:

- Licensee is ready to invest substantially in the development of the IP or
- Licensee is likely to be the only practical user of the resulting inventions or
- Licensee is going to provide its proprietary IP that would combine with NITT IP to add more value.

14.2. IP Generated from GOI projects: The Commercialisation terms of all IP generated under GOI funded Projects shall be subject to the terms and conditions of GOI policies or the agreement executed with GOI or its agency. If government policies or contracts allow NITT to commercialise the IP, then such IP shall be considered as NITT-funded IP and commercialised in accordance with NITT IN-HOUSE PROJECTS

14.3. IP Generated from Industry-funded Projects

14.3.1. NITT sole IP: For NITT sole IP, ownership in India shall NOT be assigned. Outside India, NITT may consider sharing/complete transfer of Ownership in one or all of the following situations. This can happen when the industry:

- is interested in making a substantial investment in the development of the technology that is the subject of the NITT's research (A pharmaceutical company that has expended resources to validate through clinical studies an NITT-developed drug is an example) or



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- is likely to be the only practical user of the resulting inventions or
- has provided proprietary information, technology, or
- has provided material which is the basis of the research and becomes the Background IP.

14.3.2. Joint IP: Ownership rights held by NITT shall not be transferred/assigned in India. For countries outside India, NITT may consider the transfer/Assignment of NITT shares in the ownership in one or all of the following situations. This can happen when the industry:

- is willing to bear expenses that NITT cannot. NITT may agree to transfer the ownership to the industry sponsoring the Project in the countries where NITT cannot bear the expenses, and
- is interested in making a substantial investment in the development of the technology that is the subject of the NITT's research (For eg: A pharmaceutical company that has expended resources to validate through clinical studies an NITT-developed drug) or
- is likely to be the only practical user of the resulting inventions or
- has provided proprietary information, technology, or
- has provided its Background IP, which is the basis of the research and becomes part of the Foreground IP.

14.4. Remuneration terms for transfer or sharing of Ownership rights

14.4.1. Industry's request for complete transfer of Ownership or Assignment will be considered. Fees will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Industry will be responsible for maintaining the IP. These will be greater than that for an Exclusive License.

14.4.2. In cases when the Sponsor acquires Ownership of IP, NITT will continue to retain a royalty-free license right to use the Intellectual Property for any non- commercial purpose, research and teaching purposes and may retain the right to sublicense for non-commercial, research and teaching purposes.

15. INFRINGEMENTS, DAMAGES, LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY

In any contract between NITT and the licensee, NITT shall seek indemnity from any legal proceedings. This includes manufacturing defects, production problems, design guarantees, debugging, and content issues. NITT reserves the right to pursue litigation related to intellectual property and infringements

16. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The inventor is required to disclose any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest. If the inventor and/or their immediate family members have a stake in a licensee or potential licensee company, then they are required to disclose the stake they and/or their immediate family



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members have in the company. Under these circumstances, it must be ensured by the inventor(s) that their entrepreneurial activities do not have any adverse impact on their teaching, research and any other institutional responsibilities.

17. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

1. In the event of any dispute between NIT Tiruchirappalli and the inventor(s) relating to the implementation or interpretation of the Institute's Intellectual Property Policy, the aggrieved party may prefer an appeal before the Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli. All reasonable efforts shall be made to address and resolve the concerns of the aggrieved party. The decision of the Director in this regard shall be final and binding on the parties.

2. In the event of any dispute relating to the ownership of Intellectual Property, a five-member Committee shall be constituted comprising three senior-most faculty members of the institute with experience in Intellectual Property and commercialisation, one alumnus/alumna with relevant expertise, and one legal expert possessing knowledge in Intellectual Property laws. The dispute shall be examined and resolved in a transparent, fair, and unbiased manner. Where the circumstances so warrant, an external faculty member with substantial experience in the relevant field may also be appointed.

3. If the disputes and differences are not settled through mutual discussions and negotiations within a period of thirty (30) days, the same shall be referred to arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996. The arbitration shall be conducted by a sole Arbitrator appointed by the Director, NIT Tiruchirappalli. The award of the Arbitrator shall be final and binding on both parties. The seat and venue of arbitration shall be Tiruchirappalli.

18. JURISDICTION

As a matter of policy, all agreements executed by NIT Tiruchirappalli shall provide that any dispute arising out of or in connection with the agreement shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Hon'ble District Court at Tiruchirappalli and the Hon'ble Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court, and shall be governed by the applicable laws in force in India.

19. AMENDMENTS TO THE POLICY

The IP & TT Policy of NITT has been approved by the BoG. If required, the policy may be amended at any time, submitted to the BoG for approval, and shall be updated every six months to incorporate relevant government schemes and to strengthen innovation initiatives. Subsequently, changes to the administrative mechanisms and bodies shall be made to adapt to the revised administrative procedures