

IPR Policy

I. Intellectual Property Ownership

A. IITK Ownership

1. Intellectual property of any kind created by faculty, students, staff, project staff, visitors and others, such as trainees from other institutes, participating in IITK programs or using IITK funds or facilities, are owned by IITK when either of the following applies:
 - a) The intellectual property was created with the significant use of funds or facilities administered by IITK.
 - b) The intellectual property was created (i) as a part of the normal professional duty or (ii) work for hire.
 - c) The intellectual property was created in the course of or pursuant to a sponsored/consultancy research agreement with IITK. In such cases, specific provisions related to IP made in contracts governing such activity will determine the ownership of IP.
 - d) The intellectual property was created as a part of academic research and training leading towards a degree or otherwise.
2. All copyrights, including copyrighted software will be owned by IITK when it is created as a part of any of the academic programs of IITK or created pursuant to a written agreement with IITK, providing for transfer of copyright or ownership to IITK. More specifically:
 - a) IITK will be the owner of the copyright on all teaching materials created by IITK and non-IITK personnel for external agencies, institutions and industry under the continuing education and distance education programs of IITK. However, the authors will have the right to use the material for their teaching and research activities.
 - b) IITK will not claim ownership of copyright on books and scientific articles authored by IITK personnel. However, IITK will have the copyright if books and reports have been created using funds specifically provided for this purpose by IITK.

B. Inventor/Author Ownership

1. Inventors/Authors will own intellectual property when
 - a) None of the situation defined above for IITK-ownership of intellectual property applies.
 - b) It is created outside their assigned/normal area of research/teaching, for example, popular novels, poems, musical compositions, or other works of artistic imagination, without the use of significant institute resources.

2. Students will own copyright on theses/dissertation created as a part of their academic programmes. However, the student must grant to IITK 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.
3. Ownership of software code, patentable subject matter and other intellectual property contained in the theses/reports are subject to conditions specified under IITK-ownership and Inventor/Author ownership.

C. Third-Party Ownership

1. Ownership of intellectual property resulting from:
 - a) Funds provided partially or fully by a third-party to IITK will be governed by specific provisions in the contract between the third-party and IITK.
 - b) Exchange programs between IITK and other institutions will be governed by specific provisions in the contract between the third-party and IITK.
 - c) In case no such specific contract exists, IPR will remain with IITK.
2. In cases of all IP produced at IITK, IITK shall retain a non-exclusive, free, irrevocable license to copy/use IP for teaching and research activities, consistent with confidentiality arguments where ever entered by IITK.
3. In cases where an IP is created by IITK personnel, fully or as a part of the team, during deputation, official leave, or sabbatical, the concerned IITK personnel should officially communicate the IP to IITK. If the IP involves ideas/software developed, fully or in part, using significant institute resources, then the IP will also be owned by IITK fully or partially, as the case may be.

II. **Disclosures, Confidentiality and Assignment of Rights**

1. For sponsored and/or collaborative work the provisions of the contract pertaining to disclosure of IP are applied.
2. For all other IP produced at IITK, the inventors will be required to disclose their IP to the **IPEC** (Intellectual Property Evaluation Committee) at the earliest date using an **IPDF** (Intellectual Property Disclosure Form).
3. It will be mandatory for students to submit an IPDF, countersigned by their supervisor(s), at the time of filing their B.Tech. report, M.Tech. and PhD theses.
4. The inventor shall assign the rights of the disclosed IP to IITK before leaving the institute and will agree to the terms and conditions for the sharing of any financial benefits received by the institute by commercialization of such IP.
5. Having made the disclosure, the inventors, both IITK and non-IITK personnel, shall maintain confidentiality of the IP during the period it is pending with IITK for the

assessment of the possibility of commercialization and protection of IP, unless authorized in writing by IITK.

III. Evaluation of Intellectual Property

1. Evaluation of Intellectual Property will be done by the IPEC (Intellectual Property Evaluation Committee). Dean (R&D) will be the Chairman and the Head of the organization within IITK responsible for commercialization, will be the member secretary. The Director will nominate at least three additional faculty members with expertise or familiarity/experience in areas related to the IP.
2. Evaluation of IP means:
 - a) Assigning ownership of IP.
 - b) Determining whether an IP is innovative and fit for filing in India and foreign countries.
 - c) Determining whether the IP has a reasonable chance for commercialization.
3. After evaluation of IP, if IITK decides not to take the responsibility for the protection of the IP, then it will assign all the rights of the IP to the inventors.
4. Even in such cases, as in (3), IITK may take the responsibility of facilitating protection of the IP on case by case basis.
5. A decision on the annual renewal of IP rights will be taken by the IPEC. If IITK decides not to renew the IP, fully or partially, then it will assign the rights of the IP, wherever relevant, to the “inventors.”

IV. Contracts and Agreements

All agreements related to IP, including, but not limited to the following categories, undertaken by any IITK personnel and students need to be approved by the institute:

1. Allegiance, Affirmation and Confidentiality Agreement.
2. Evaluation Agreement.
3. License Agreement
4. Technology Transfer (Commercialization) Agreement
5. Alternative Dispute Resolution Agreement
6. Classified Information Non-Disclosure (specific) Agreement

The Dean (R&D), with specific approval of the Director, will be the authorized signatory in all categories of agreements listed above.

V. Commercialization

1. IITK 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.
2. 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.
3. If IITK is not able to commercialize the IP in a reasonable time then the inventor(s) may approach IITK for assignment of rights of the invention(s) to them.

VI. Revenue Sharing

1. The net earnings from the commercialization of IP owned by IITKanpur would be shared as follows:

Case	Net earnings	Inventor(s)	IITK's Share	Service Account*
1	For the first amount Q	65%	25%	10%
2	For the next amount Q	45%	45%	10%
3	For amounts more than 2Q	25%	65%	10%

* Money may be used for the promotion and upgradation of the invention. Unused funds from the service account will be used for promotion of commercialization, IP protection and any other related activities.

2. It is suggested that amount Q be initially fixed at Rs. 100 lakhs. 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 IITK at the time of disbursement.
3. Co-creators of IP shall sign at the time of disclosure, a 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.

VII. Infringements, Damages, Liability and Indemnity Insurance

1. As a matter of policy, IITK shall, in any contract between the licensee and IITK, seek indemnity from any legal proceedings including without limitation manufacturing defects, production problems, design guarantee, upgradation and debugging obligation.
2. IITK shall also ensure that IITK personnel have an indemnity clause built-into the agreements with licensee(s) while transferring technology or copyrighted material to licensees.

3. IITK shall retain the right to engage or not in any litigation concerning patents and license infringements.

VIII. Conflict of Interest

The inventor(s) are required to disclose any conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest. If the inventor(s) and/or their immediate family have a stake in a licensee or potential licensee company then they are required to disclose the stake they and/or their immediate family have in the company. Under these circumstances, it must be ensured by the inventor(s) that their entrepreneurial activities do not have an adverse impact on inventor(s) teaching, research and any other institutional responsibilities.

IX. Dispute Resolution

In case of any disputes between IITK and the inventors regarding the implementation of the IP policy, the aggrieved party may appeal to the Director of IITK. Efforts shall be made to address the concerns of the aggrieved party. The Director's decision in this regard would be final and binding.

X. Jurisdiction

As a policy, all agreements to be signed by IITK will have the jurisdiction of the courts in Kanpur and shall be governed by appropriate laws in India.