INL Licensing Process

Licensing Agreements

Licensing INL technologies allows a business to reproduce, manufacture, sell, or use INL-developed or owned intellectual property. INL licenses intellectual property on much of the same terms as universities, other research organizations and industrial firms. Our licensing opportunities are available to both small and large businesses—from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies.

Process

The licensing agreement process basically includes seven steps. Here is a basic flowchart of the process:

INL is committed to working through these steps in a timely manner. Negotiation time is the most variable step of the process.

1. Identify and Qualify Opportunity

To identify an opportunity, a company can browse the [technologies available for licensing](#). Contact information for INL’s Commercialization Managers is also listed and can assist you in learning more about INL technologies. INL’s Commercialization Managers can also assisting you through the process.

When an opportunity has been identified, INL then asks the company to provide information to assess its resources, capabilities, and commitment to commercialize the technology. We use the following document to request the Licensee’s basic information:

[INL’s Program Participant Form](#)

The company must provide this information, so INL can evaluate whether a licensing agreement would be beneficial for both the lab and the company. If the licensing opportunity meets these qualifications, we ask the potential licensee to review our mandatory license clauses to see if they’re acceptable before investing time in the development of a license. If the company finds them acceptable, negotiations may begin.

2. Assess Need for Nondisclosure Agreement

At the beginning of the negotiation process, INL and the company will assess whether they need a nondisclosure agreement.

3. Negotiate Terms

The next step involves negotiating the business terms of the license, such as field of use, the intellectual property that is being licensed, fees, royalties, milestones, and restrictions.

4. Develop Draft License Agreement

After the company and INL agree on the terms, INL will draft a license agreement. INL’s Commercialization Manager will draft the initial agreement and present terms and conditions that are appropriate for the technology. The following fact sheet provides an overview of our standard terms and conditions:

[Licensing INL Technologies](#)

5. Negotiate License Language

The company then reviews and comments on the license agreement draft. If needed, the company and INL negotiate the license's language. Many aspects of INL licenses are negotiable, but some are not. Nonnegotiable items include some
provisions required under our operating contract with the U.S. Department of Energy. We’re also sometimes limited on our flexibility with other items.

6. Execute License

When the negotiation process ends, INL and the company execute the license under the terms of the agreement.

7. Manage Commitment

Both INL and the company manage their performance milestones for achieving the license’s commercialization goal.

Timeline

The timeline varies greatly depending on the complexity of the license agreement and the types of grants desired. Our goal is to execute nonexclusive licenses within 90 days of commencing term sheet discussions.

Sample Agreements

Here you’ll find INL’s licensing agreement templates. Licensing terms may be negotiated or modified from the sample agreements. Terms will vary depending on the number of patents licensed, the demand for the technology and the exclusivity of the license. These documents are available as PDFs.

Example of INL Exclusive License Agreement

Example of INL Non-Exclusive License Agreement

Contact

To submit company information, or if you have any general questions about the licensing process, contact Jason Stolworthy at 208-526-5976.

INL’s Senior Commercialization Managers

Energy & Environment – David Anderson 208-526-0837

National & Homeland Security – Mark Kaczor 208-526-0360

Nuclear Science & Technology – Gary Smith 208-526-3780

Ombudsman

INL strives to quickly resolve any issue or concern you may have regarding its technology partnership agreement activities. To learn more about our informal resolution process, see information about INL's Technology Transfer Ombudsman.