



From Idea to Success

*How to protect and market
your inventions and research findings*

Reporting



Evaluating



PROvendis gives recommendation

University decides

✓ Claim ✗ Release

Property Rights



PROvendis manages legal protection process for findings via:

- Patent
- Trademark
- Copyright
- Design

Marketing



PROvendis finds industrial partners and handles negotiations for:

- Nondisclosure agreements
- Material transfer agreements (MTAs)
- Option agreements
- Licensing agreements
- Purchase agreements

**Researchers support process
with technical expertise**



New research findings?

Have you come across something new in your research? Are you considering entering the market with a new invention? PROvendis offers advice early on regarding every aspect of securing and marketing intellectual property (IP). Our services are free of charge to members of the association NRW Hochschul-IP, funded by the State of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Reporting

Reporting your results to your university is the first step on the route to transferring them to society. Under Germany's Employee Invention Act (Arbeitnehmererfindergesetz, ArbNErfG), technical inventions must be reported in writing as soon as they are made.

Your university's transfer office provides the necessary forms for the disclosure of inventions as well as for other marketable findings, such as new products, innovative processes, biological products, software, and specialized know-how.

Please note:

If you intend to patent your invention, secrecy is vital. A conference abstract, a lecture or even a job advertisement in research projects can put patenting at risk. The invention may only be published after a patent application has been filed.

Evaluating

PROvendis evaluates your research findings on behalf of your university. Our innovation managers examine whether your findings can be secured with property rights and analyze their marketing potential. Depending on the property rights there are different criteria to examine. Technical inventions are largely protected by patents, with the key criteria being novelty compared to the state of the art, inventive step and industrial applicability.

Factors of economic usability:

- Demand
- Market potential
- Competitive context
- Unique selling points
- Technology readiness level

Based on PROvendis' recommendation, your university will promptly, but no later than four months after your reporting of your research results, decide whether it will claim your findings, i. e. register property rights, or release it.

Learn more about IP and property rights with our free e-learning offering at www.ip-fuehrerschein.de (German language only)

Securing and Marketing

If your findings are claimed, PROvendis will take over their protection by patent, copyright, trademark or design in cooperation with expert attorneys.

How you benefit from a patent, the essential property right for technical inventions:

- Inventors' remuneration in the amount of 30% of any revenues from the licensing or sale of your invention
- Basis of third-party acquisition and establishing of partnerships
- Reputation for scientist and university
- Enhancement of your publication list

A patent provides protection against imitation and exclusive rights of use for up to 20 years.

PROvendis finds suitable industrial partners and handles contract negotiations through to signing. There are two options for leveraging your research findings:

- Licensing or purchase agreements with interested companies (often associated with R&D agreements)
- Founding of a company (spinoff from the university)

Your knowledge and cooperation are crucial throughout this process:

- Supply experimental findings, diagrams, etc.!
- Support the technical exchange with potential licensees!
- Stay in touch with PROvendis throughout the entire process with your technical expertise!



PROvendis GmbH

PROvendis promotes the transfer of technology between science and industry and works for universities and businesses in the field of IP management and IP marketing. PROvendis GmbH is the subsidiary of 28 universities and since 2002, has been responsible as an IP service provider for over 30 universities and non-university research institutions.

NRW Hochschul-IP

Together, 29 universities in the state of North Rhine-Westphalia and PROvendis GmbH form the NRW Hochschul-IP association. The Association for Intellectual Property (IP) of the NRW universities promotes the professional transfer of knowledge and technology to industry and society. The University of Münster has been commissioned to act as the network coordinator together with PROvendis. The network is funded by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The funding body is the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Industry, Climate Action and Energy.

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