

The Technology Transfer Center of Georgia

The Technology Transfer Center of Georgia (TTCG), as the Innovation and Technology Transfer Department of Sakpatenti, since January 1, 2014 is actively working on transfer of technologies. In Particular, the department reviewed the database of national patent applications of Sakpatenti and out of over 6000 patents made a new revised database where all the patents were at first stage classified according to the patent status (whether they were in force, revoked or canceled, etc.). On the second stage, patents were separated and sorted according to the sectors, for example agriculture, physics, mechanics, etc. that later was analyzed by the team and looked through each document to define, weather the technology was outdated or not, were they relevant to modern requirements, were they business oriented or research oriented etc.

After finishing the classification, TTCG prepared abstracts on each selected patent, translated them into English and uploaded them on its website and Facebook page for promotion and advertisement purposes.

Unfortunately most of Georgian patents are not market oriented and they barely answer demands of a modern Georgian business environment, therefore, TTCG gave guidance to scientists and researchers on business aspects of their inventions by filling out special questionnaires. By doing this the Center helped them to understand pros and cons of their patents, business and market needs, the value of their invention and compatibility analyses, specific results and the proof that their inventions are really working.

The analysis revealed that most of the researchers and scientist are in need of creating prototypes at least to measure the marketability of the patent. There is the necessity of the changing the approach of the scientist to their inventions, raising their awareness to meet the requirements of the modern challenges; to help them understand what is technology transfer and what is the main key point of its commercialization.

From the other side TTCG began meetings with different business association and signed Memorandums on partnership. Individual meetings with the businesses were conducted to find out what were the business needs at present and to potentially match patents to their requirements. These meetings revealed one very crucial element that even though business is in some need of innovations and new ways of resolving their existing problems, they still are not ready to invest in local R & D projects. After several rounds of meetings with business sector it became clear that:

- There is no trust in local knowledge, institutions, possibilities and research results;
- Lack of understanding on the importance of local R & D projects and their influence on the business sector;
- Non existing communication between business and academia.

Based on the information TTCG came up with a strategy to start a matchmaking exercise between businesses and researchers. Our managers are drafting business plans for the inventions in order to make it more business oriented and understandable for the private sector after which series of presentations with the business sector will follow on specific inventions that are relevant to the Georgian reality.

Certain Aspects of National/Regional Patent Laws

Exceptions and limitations of the rights

1. Products put into economic circulation by, or with consent, of the patent owner.
2. Private use for non-commercial purposes.
3. Certain uses concerning marine, air and land transport facilities which temporarily or casually enter national territory.
4. Use in natural calamity, catastrophe, epidemic or other emergency situation.
5. Continued prior use by a person who, before the filing date (priority date), used the invention, or had made preparation for that purpose.
6. Compulsory licenses (pending legislative changes).