



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

**TECH LAUNCH
ARIZONA**

Do You Think You Have An Invention?

The inventive process is fluid and dynamic. Sometimes, inventions, and their value, are obvious. Other times, it takes more investigation and research to determine what next steps to take. Contact Tech Launch Arizona (TLA) to ensure you are aware of the options available to develop the commercial potential related to your research. Our Tech Transfer staff, all highly knowledgeable about intellectual property (IP), can answer questions related to patentability, marketability, licensing options, UA policies and procedures and more. We collaborate with you, providing legal and business expertise, to help clarify exactly what exists, and what your best next steps can (or should) be.

What is an invention?

While abstract “ideas” and natural phenomena are not patentable, inventions can take many forms, from products and processes, to compositions of matter, software (including mobile applications), and content. If something is created here at UA and has possible value to others, TLA Licensing Managers work with the inventors to determine what next steps should be taken.

When should you contact TLA?

An invention with commercial applicability can occur anytime during the research process. We invite you to reach out to us anytime you have questions or concerns. However, one of the most important considerations is publication and/or verbal disclosure. Anytime a publication is either being considered or readied for submission – or the invention will be discussed in a public setting such as a conference, seminar, or industry meeting – it’s a good idea to consult with TLA to ensure that valuable intellectual property is protected prior to being made public.

Why should you submit an invention disclosure?

Although it is the responsibility of every inventor to report inventions, either to TLA or to the federal government on close-out reports, there are substantial benefits to reporting inventions, as well. The goal of technology transfer is to move the inventions made at UA into public use. Inventors share directly in the rewards of licensing inventions through the University’s [Royalty Distribution Policy](#).

When should you submit an invention disclosure?

An invention disclosure is simply the formal process of reporting a new invention to Tech Launch Arizona. The form, available [here](#), is relatively easy to fill out and submit. However, while an invention disclosure form can be filled out and submitted at any time, we recommend you contact the office to discuss your invention first.

What happens after disclosure?

After formal disclosure, the project is assigned to the appropriate Licensing Manager. That TLA team member will in short order contact the named “primary contact” inventor to discuss the invention and explain the entire process related to assessment, protection, marketing and licensing to a new or an existing company.

Who to call with questions:

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