

A black and white portrait of a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored collared shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The portrait occupies the left side of the page.

**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY



# **EASY ACCESS IP**

AN INTRODUCTION FOR  
INDUSTRY PARTNERS

August 2015

# EASY ACCESS IP AT WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY

**Western Sydney University is dedicated to the discovery and dissemination of knowledge and to delivering impact from research.**

Effective partnerships between Western Sydney University and industry provide opportunities to put University research generated intellectual property to good use; however, we also recognise that there are often many barriers that limit industry-academic collaborations and prevent University IP from being taken to the market. Western Sydney University already has a reputation for being good to do business with, and now, through Easy Access IP, doing business with us has become even easier.

University technology is often at a very early stage of development and requires significant investment in order to release its inherent value and deliver impact. Universities have limited resources to develop IP to a stage of significant commercial value, and we recognise that industry partners are better placed to bring these technologies to market. The Easy Access IP model provides a mechanism for the University to release a proportion of our technology portfolio for free to those who can develop it and put it to use.

In return for a free license to Western Sydney University Easy Access IP, we ask our industry partners to:

- Demonstrate how you will create value for society and the economy
- Acknowledge Western Sydney University as the originator of the intellectual property
- Report annually on the progress on the development of the Easy Access IP
- Agree that if the IP is not exploited within three years, the licence will be revoked
- Agree that there will be no limitations on Western Sydney University's use of the IP for the University's own research and teaching.

## WHAT IS EASY ACCESS IP?

Whilst Western Sydney University will still protect and commercialise some IP through more traditional revenue-based licensing or start-ups, we will offer some of our IP to industry partners and entrepreneurs for free to increase the take-up of IP, accelerate the development of these opportunities and to encourage new collaborations and research engagement opportunities with business. IP in the Easy Access Portfolio is no less valuable than other inventions but may have a path to market that is more difficult for the University to navigate by traditional methods. Easy Access IP aims to make it easier for industry to work with us by reducing the barriers to investment in the development of the IP by offering it for free and using quick and simple agreements, removing the need for lengthy, costly negotiations.

In order for us to decide on the most appropriate licensee, those interested need to tell us how they will use the IP to benefit the economy or society.

## BENEFITS TO EASY ACCESS IP

Easy Access IP is intended to provide industry with greater opportunity and incentive to develop products and services that will lead to economic, environmental and social benefits. We believe there are some significant benefits to Easy Access IP for our industry partners:

- Easy Access IP is free – there are no royalty or milestone payments regardless of how successful the end product is
- You gain easy access to cutting edge science, technology, design and innovation
- Simple template license agreements means no lengthy and expensive negotiations and legal costs
- A generous period of time to develop and commercially exploit the IP
- Ready access the researchers that developed the IP and the opportunity to collaborate on the development of the IP.

## ACCESSING EASY ACCESS IP

Western Sydney University will regularly release IP that is available for licensing through Easy Access IP and publish them on the Western Sydney University website at [westernsydney.edu.au/redi/easyaccessip](https://westernsydney.edu.au/redi/easyaccessip)

To apply for an Easy Access IP licence, we ask our prospective partners to provide a short Statement of Intent, which will form the basis of the Easy Access IP licence. The Statement of Intent should answer some of the following questions in relation to the specific IP you wish to licence:

- What is the market or social need and your ability to address that need?
- How will you use the University IP to better address that need?
- How do you intend to engage with the University for the development of the IP?
- Will you need any ongoing IP protection?
- What are the critical milestones you intend to achieve over the next 3 years?
- What are the total resources you will invest in developing the IP?

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **IS ALL WESTERN SYDNEY UNIVERSITY IP AVAILABLE FOR FREE?**

No, the University will continue to offer IP under more traditional investment or revenue-based licensing if we think it is the most appropriate way to derive impact from the IP.

## **DOES GIVING IP AWAY FOR FREE MEAN IT IS OF LOW VALUE?**

Western Sydney University recognises that IP derived from our research is often at a very early stage, and whilst it may have potential commercial value, the resources and investment required to derive that value are beyond the limited resources available to the University. The commercial decision to invest in technology development is influenced by many factors, and there can be barriers to making that decision if the perceived risk is too high. Easy Access IP helps to reduce these risks.

## **WHO PAYS FOR ANY PATENT COSTS?**

Whilst Western Sydney University may have already filed patent applications at our own cost, the ongoing prosecution and maintenance of patents is at the discretion of the licensee. The licensee is expected to cover all patent costs if they decide that patent protection is of commercial value.

## **WHO MAKES DECISIONS ABOUT MAINTAINING THE PATENTS?**

Maintaining the patents is at the discretion of the licensee, the licensee can elect to extend or stop paying the patent costs at any time. We do ask to be kept informed of these decisions.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF MORE THAN ONE COMPANY IS INTERESTED IN THE SAME IP?**

We will review the Statements of Intent provided by all interested companies and at Western Sydney University's discretion we will select the company that we believe is best suited to deliver impact from the IP.

## **WHAT HAPPENS IF THE LICENSEE DOES NOT DEVELOP THE IP AS DESCRIBED IN THE STATEMENT OF INTENT?**

The Easy Access IP license provides the licensee with 3 years to develop the IP, if the licensee has not made reasonable efforts to achieve this then the University may revoke the Easy Access IP license.

## **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE 3 YEAR DEVELOPMENT PERIOD?**

If the licensee has demonstrated that they have honoured the Statement of Intent and made reasonable efforts to commercialise the IP, they can request to have the IP assigned to them.

## **ARE THE RESEARCHERS THAT CREATED THE IP ABLE TO KEEP USING IT FOR RESEARCH?**

Yes. Western Sydney University will always retain the rights to continue to use the IP for research and teaching. In many cases the licensee will want to collaborate with the researchers that created the IP, deriving further value from the IP and the relationship with the researchers.

## **WHERE DID EASY ACCESS IP COME FROM?**

The Easy Access IP movement originated at the University of Glasgow; it and similar models are now in use by universities around the world.

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RESEARCH ENGAGEMENT | DEVELOPMENT | INNOVATION



## ENQUIRIES

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