

## **Quick Guide to Patenting and Commercialization of CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY (CMU) Intellectual Property**

1. As soon as you make a discovery/invention that you think may have commercial potential submit an invention disclosure form to the Office of Research and Graduate Studies (ORGS), signed by departmental chair(s), dean(s), and inventors. Remember that a provisional patent can only be filed within a year of making a public disclosure (paper or presentation); if you don't allow sufficient time for review it will not be possible to protect your invention.
2. The Central Michigan University Research Corporation (CMURC) will do a commercial assessment of your invention.
3. You will be invited to a meeting with the CMU Vice President for Research (VPR), President of CMURC, and Dean to discuss the invention (if the invention involves multiple colleges multiple deans will be involved).
4. After the meeting, the VPR will decide how to proceed based on input from CMURC and your college. Any investments required (e.g., to develop prototype) are generally jointly funded by ORGS and the college(s). The decision may vary from encouraging you to continue to develop the concept to a provisional application for a patent (note there is no such thing as a provisional patent, but rather a provisional filing that can be converted into a full patent within a year).
5. If CMU decides to fill a provisional application for a patent, you will be asked to work with a patent attorney to prepare the application. The provisional application is simpler to file and less expensive than a full patent application, which has to be filed within a year of the provisional application. This gives CMU and CMURC a year to identify potential commercial partners to license the invention and take it to market.
6. Before the deadline for filing a full patent application you will be invited to another meeting with the VPR, President of CMURC, and Dean(s) to discuss any additional progress on the invention and the commercial prospects.
7. After the meeting, the VPR will decide how to proceed based on input from CMURC and your college. If there appears to be good commercial potential you will be asked to work with a patent attorney to prepare the application for a full patent.
8. Because of the cost of filing patents in multiple countries, CMU generally only seeks patent protection in the US.