About us

PROvendis promotes technology transfer between science and industry and works for universities and companies in the field of IP management and IP marketing. PROvendis is a subsidiary of 28 universities and since 2002 has been responsible for more than 30 universities and non-university research institutions as an IP service provider.
Your research results are your intellectual property. Property rights such as patents allow you to secure new devices, methods and compounds. The invention disclosure is the first step on the route to a patent: As soon as you think you have made an invention, you must report it to your university.

Germany’s Employee Invention Act (ArbnErfG) requires:
• Employee inventions must be reported in writing immediately after they arise.
• Are you planning to publish your results? Please note that if possible, your invention disclosure should be received by your university two months before publication.

The transfer office of your university provides forms for invention disclosure. At www.provendis.info you can download all forms of the NRW universities.

PROvendis evaluates your invention on behalf of the university. PROvendis innovation managers assess whether the invention is patentable and analyze the market potential.

Criteria for patentability:
• Novelty compared to the state of the art
• Inventive level
• Commercial applicability

Factors of economic usability:
• Demand
• Market potential
• Competitive context
• Unique features
• Technology readiness level

Based on PROvendis’ opinion, your university will decide as soon as possible, but no later than four months after receipt of the complete invention disclosure, whether it will claim your employee invention, i.e. apply for a patent, or release it.

PROvendis negotiates contracts on behalf of the university until contracts are ready to be signed. Your knowledge and cooperation are crucial throughout the process:
• Check the patent claims and the description of your invention carefully!
• Provide experimental results, diagrams, etc.!
• Support the technical exchange with potential licensees!
• Stay in touch with PROvendis throughout the entire patenting process with your technical expertise!

Your benefit of a patent:
• Remuneration for inventors in the amount of 30% of the income generated when licensing or selling your invention
• Basis for the acquisition of third-party funding
• Reputation for scientist and university
• Enhancement of your publication list

The patent provides protection against imitation and exclusive rights of use for 20 years.

There are two options for leveraging your invention:
> Licensing or purchase agreements with interested companies (often linked to R&D agreements)
> Founding a company (spin-off from the university)

You can find out more about the patenting process online at www.inno-up.info – a free information service by PROvendis GmbH.