

the Technology Transfer Center

Project Description

The International Federation of Inventors Associations (IFIA) is an international association with the objective of being a forum for exchanging ideas and collaborations between national inventors associations. Founded in 1968, members now include more than 110 inventor's organizations from more than sixty countries.

IFIA is developing a centralized web-based platform for technological exchange of information. This new platform titled Technology Transfer Center, TTC, will serve as a means for exchanging information between all member associations within IFIA, why the international perspective is vital.

The primary goal of the TTC is to provide channels for inventors to quickly and easily reach out with their inventions/ideas and more efficiently find manufacturers and funding, both regionally and internationally. A coordinator for each member country will be locally responsible for finding the appropriate contacts when an inventors request is received by the TTC central board.

Since the TTC will manage large amounts of information, it is of great importance that the system relies on both simplicity and logic structure. Within the platform, information must be easily identified, edited, added and removed. This will be achieved through advanced search functions, classification of information in different categories, and the use of keywords (so-called "tags" or "keywords").

The TTC is situated at the Stockholm Innovators Association (STIK) office in Stockholm Sweden. The office will be managed by three (3) administrators

A brief example of the working process with the TTC

Stage 1.

A local inventor has contacted his or her national association with a request to be processed. The coordinator reviews the request and considers it sufficiently interesting to submit. The coordinator logs in to the TTC. Once logged in, the coordinator is able to enter new requests. The coordinator fills in a number of predefined fields with information on the new request, clicking "Add" for submitting.

The request is now immediately added into the system. The TTC central coordinators will instantly be notified of the new request received. The central coordinator will evaluate the request and approve it. Once approved the request becomes visible to all member state coordinators logged in to the TTC. The request in question will be visible both as a searchable topic and will also top the list of "active requests".

With the request, the national coordinator has entered what is inquired (manufacturer, license partners, investments etc.). All coordinators connected to the TTC will see this information and have the opportunity to respond directly through the system. The result in this case will be a number of responses with various proposals on stakeholders. The local coordinator will be automatically informed through e-mail each time there is a response to a request. The coordinator selects the appropriate responses and then submits the marked request as closed for further response. However, the closed request will remain archived in the system for future reference and statistics.

Stage 2.

As soon as the inventor, in agreement with the co-coordinator, has chosen which of the offers he or her wishes to pursue, the co-coordinator sends out a second request to the TTC-central. The form for this second stage includes more specific information about the inventors' requests and project details, such as patent information. Before any additional information will be sent to the chosen interested party, the central coordinator first sends a NDA (non-disclosure agreement) to the interested party. When the NDA is signed by the interested party, the information from the inventor will be submitted.

Stage 3.

If and when the interested party responds that they wish to advance to negotiating, the central coordinator exchanges the contact data between the inventor and the interested party. The inventor is now free to take direct contact with the interested party and the case will be closed.

Stage 4.

If the inventor needs professional help in the future, either further contacts or negotiating support, this may be offered by national or international consultants, registered and approved by the TTC center.

Summary of the TTC Functionality

The following list is simply a proposal on the targeted functionality. The list needs to be both supplemented and made more comprehensive and detailed. The primary purpose of the list below is to serve as the basis for further discussions between the system developers and IFIA.

- Personal login for all the national co-coordinators.
- Possibility for coordinators to add new requests in the system
- Possibility for co-coordinators to respond to active requests.
- Possibility to search for requests and co-coordinators.
- Ability to list all active requests and sort them by country of origin or type of information requested.
- Possibility for administrators to through the TTC add, delete and edit requests and coordinators.
- Primary language: English. Support for multilingualism is not a problem.

Financing

The continuous operation of the TTC will be financed through interchange fees. For a request to be added into the system the inventor is charged a suggested registering fee of USD 20. When the inventor receives a satisfactory reply to proceed on, the TTC coordinator will open communication channels to the responding party. For receiving the respondents contact details the inventor is charged an additional \$100. From this stage, the communication and possible negotiations is a matter for the inventor to carry out visa the responding party.