



AUTM U.S. LICENSING ACTIVITY SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS: FY2010

For nearly two decades, the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM) has been the leader in soliciting, compiling and publishing academic technology transfer data – making the AUTM U. S. and Canadian Licensing Activity Surveys some of the association’s most valuable resources.

The highlights, presented below, offer a preview of the data found in the 2010 report and provide a glimpse into the current state of the field. The more comprehensive *AUTM Licensing Activity Survey Summary: FY2010* will be published in the fall of 2011 for both the U. S. and Canada. These detailed reports will be available free of charge to all FY2010 survey participants. They will also be available to nonparticipants for a fee, with AUTM non-participating members receiving a significant discount.

U.S. HIGHLIGHTS

Despite continuing difficult economic conditions, university and research institute licensing and startup activity remained very strong. Startup formation and the number of licenses and options executed to startups showed healthy increases over FY2009, as did the number of startups that remained active at the end of the fiscal year. FY2010 also saw a significant increase in total research expenditures and the highest increase in patents issued since AUTM began collecting this data 17 years ago.

About the U.S. Survey

The 2010 survey was sent to 307 U.S. institutions (236 universities and colleges, 65 hospitals and research institutions, two national laboratories, and four third-party technology investment firms). Of these 307 U.S. institutions, 183 responded, for a response rate of 59.6 percent compared to 181 respondents in 2009 at a rate of 56.5 percent. The respondents in 2010 included 155 universities, 27 hospitals and research institutes, and one third-party technology investment firm while in 2009 they included 153 U.S. universities, 27 U.S. hospitals and research institutes, and one third-party patent management and investment firm. There were 146 recurrent universities, 25 recurrent U.S. hospitals and one recurrent third party management firm between 2009 and 2010.

Products, Startups and Licenses/Options

The number of startups formed increased 10.6 percent. In addition, the number of licenses/options executed to startups increased 14 percent. The total number of licenses and options executed remained essentially flat, increasing only 0.6 percent. The number of licenses executed decreased two percent, whereas the number of options increased 13 percent. However, there was a strong 15 percent increase in the total number of active licenses and options through the close of 2010.

- 657 new commercial products created
- 4,284 licenses executed
- 1,078 options executed
- 398 executed licenses containing equity
- 38,528 active licenses and options
- 651 startup companies formed, 498 of which had their primary place of business in the licensing institution's home state
- 3,657 startups still operating as of the end of FY2010

Research Expenditures

Research expenditures continued to increase from 2009 levels; total research and development spending increased 9.6 percent, federal expenditures increased a robust 17.3 percent, and industrial spending increased 5.6 percent.

- \$59.1 billion total sponsored research expenditures
- \$39.1 billion in federally funded sponsored research expenditures
- \$4.3 billion in industry-sponsored research expenditures

Intellectual Property Management

The number of invention disclosures received in 2010 increased 1.6 percent over the 20,309 received in 2009. Total U.S. patent applications filed increased 2.7 percent while new patent applications increased 1.4 percent. The number of foreign filings was down 15.6 percent, reversing last year's large increase. Patent/legal spending decreased 5.8 percent and legal reimbursements declined 6.6 percent.

Disclosures

- 20,642 disclosures

Patent Filings and Patent/Legal Expenditures

- 18,712 total U.S. patent applications
- 12,281 new U.S. patent applications
- 1,116 non-U.S. patent applications
- \$323.2 million external legal fees paid
- \$155.7 million legal fees reimbursed

Issued U.S. Patents

- 4,469 issued U.S. patents

License Income

Total license income increased 3.0 percent from 2009 to 2010. Running royalties (royalties earned on sale of products) decreased 14.6 percent, while cashed-in equity from hospitals and research institutes increased 160 percent. All other sources of income (e.g., license issue fees, payments under options, termination payments, annual minimums not supported by product sales) increased 25 percent to help offset the decrease in the running royalties category.

- Total income: \$2.4 billion
- Running royalty: \$1.4 billion
- Cashed-in equity: \$63.4 million
- Other income: \$452.3 million

More International Data Coming Soon!

To further its mission to support and advance technology transfer globally, AUTM recently developed a universal licensing survey for use worldwide. The Association of European Science and Technology Transfer Professionals (ASTP) adopted this survey to collect 2009 data within Europe. This international data provided by ASTP will soon be available through the AUTM STATT database, which contains licensing data AUTM has collected over the past 17 years.