

Technology Transfer Office as a Business

Unit

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Introduction

In 2001, the University of Pittsburgh restructured the Office of Technology Management (OTM) as a business unit to provide technology transfer services to commercialize new technologies developed by members of the university community in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The OTM staff includes a director, three licensing managers, a marketing associate, a business manager, a documents manager, two full-time accountants, one part-time accountant, two full-time administrative assistants, and one part-time secretary. The university provides the operating budget. The OTM director reports to the provost and the senior vice chancellor, health sciences.

Philosophically, the university believes that, to be a successful business unit, OTM must provide superior service to both the faculty and staff and to its potential industrial partners.

For the university community, the services that OTM provides include:

- managing the intellectual property and completing good business deals with startup ventures and other licensees
- providing education and counseling on intellectual property and technology transfer

For industry, the services that OTM provides include:

- acting as a bridge between science and business
- providing access for the business community to intellectual property assets of the University of Pittsburgh