



Start-ups Hit Record High in Academic Research Environment, Survey Shows

WASHINGTON, DC – Nov. 9, 2018 – An annual survey of 193 universities, hospitals and other research institutions nationwide shows that academic research is fueling impressive economic gains with the formation of a record 1,080 start-up companies in 2017, according to findings released today in the AUTM 2017 US Annual Licensing Activity Survey.

Among the report's key findings:

- 1,080 start-ups were formed in 2017, making a direct impact on local economies, with more than 72.4 percent of the new businesses remaining in their institution's home state.
- 7,459 US patents were issued in 2017, the most ever reported in the Survey, as research institutions invest and protect intellectual property arising from academic research.
- Consumers and businesses benefited from 7,947 new products created over the past decade.

According to the survey, the 1,080 start-ups formed in 2017 are up 5.5 percent from the 1,024 formed in 2016, and up 32 percent from the 818 start-ups formed in 2013. In addition, in 2017, 6,050 start-ups were still operational, a 43.8 percent increase compared to 2013.

“We’ve seen tremendous growth in starts-ups, the result of expanded interest by universities in promoting economic development in their own backyards,” said Ragan Robertson, Chair of AUTM’s US Licensing Activity Survey. “Today’s data shows the crucial role technology transfer plays in fueling the innovation ecosystem.”

To read the full report visit: autm.net/licensingsurvey

Every year, universities around the globe develop inventions – more than 380,000 in the last 27 years – from lifesaving drugs to strawberry varieties. These innovations are licensed by university technology transfer offices to companies for commercialization, and are the genesis of thousands of new companies, resulting in both benefits to society and solid economic wins.

With 27 years of collected data, the AUTM Licensing Survey provides the definitive benchmark for measuring the impact of academic research innovation.

“The Survey highlights the evolution of the tech transfer profession from a predominantly patent-licensing field to a comprehensive economic and societal development engine, as evidenced by the dramatic increase in start-up companies in recent years,” said Stephen J. Susalka, AUTM CEO.

During a 20-year period, academic patents and the subsequent licensing to industry bolstered US industry gross output by up to \$1.3 trillion and US GDP by up to \$591 billion, and supported up to 4.3 million jobs, according to an [independent study](#) commissioned by AUTM and the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO).

About the Survey

The AUTM US Licensing Activity Survey gathered data on a broad sample of US research institutions including 167 universities, 25 hospitals and one technology transfer firm. The report has been conducted annually by AUTM for the past 27 years and is available on the [AUTM website](#). Also available is AUTM’s [technology transfer infographic](#) on driving the innovation economy.

About AUTM

AUTM is the non-profit leader in efforts to educate, promote and inspire professionals to support the development of academic research that changes the world and drives innovation forward. Our community is comprised of more than 3,000 members who work in more than 800 universities, research centers, hospitals, businesses and government organizations around the globe. To learn more about AUTM, visit www.autm.net.

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