

# **Invention Management in a Major Japanese University and its Implications for Innovation**

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## **Introduction**

This chapter describes the system of technology management in the University of Tokyo and the dominance of joint/sponsored research as the main mechanism of technology transfer that gives large, established companies privileged access to university discoveries and inhibits startup formation. The University of Tokyo is Japan's most important university, accounting for approximately 12 percent of all Japanese university research and development (R&D). Its faculty and administrators have played important roles in shaping changes in the Japanese system university-industry collaboration, and it serves as model for other universities. Nevertheless, practices do vary and some of the descriptions in this chapter do not apply to other universities. I try to indicate when this is the case, as well as aspects that are common to most universities, such as the legal framework summarized next.