

# Introduction to Patent Portfolio Building and Management

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## **Introduction**

There are numerous factors for university technology transfer offices to consider when devising a strategy for managing a patent portfolio. One solution does not fit all cases. This is particularly true because most offices have limited patent-expense budgets. If the technology is likely to be licensed by a startup company, the strategy may be more complicated and expensive than if the technology will be licensed nonexclusively to a number of major corporations.

Likewise, if the invention is the result of industry-sponsored research, there will likely be some rights granted back to the sponsor, which can impact and/or obligate a specific patent-filing strategy. In the ideal case, where the technology is the platform for an entirely new field, then using the strategy of filing a first foundational application with an eye toward future filing should be considered. Unfortunately, sometimes with brand-new field technology, it's difficult to determine if the field is really going to be worth patent protecting.