

Invention Disclosure
to
William Marsh Rice University

1. **Title** *should be sufficiently descriptive to aid in identifying the invention:*

As you provide the following information, please keep in mind that your disclosure will be considered by the University Patent Committee. The committee must consider factors such as market potential, technical feasibility, degree of development required, interest by potential licensees, commercial impact, and related criteria. Since most of the committee members are not experts in your area of research, your efforts to help them understand your invention on the basis of the above criteria are paramount. Thus answers that simply say “see attachment” (a paper) are more difficult for the committee than short, concise answers to each question. Please attach additional materials to provide details and which might be of value to the patent attorney to whom your case is assigned.

2. **Description of the invention:**

a) **General purpose** *Is the invention a new process, composition of matter, a device, or one or more products? A new use for, or an improvement to, an existing product or process?*

b) **Technical description** *A detailed description that will be a primary source of information for the patent attorney as an application is being prepared.*

c) **Utility** *What are the possible uses for the invention (in or outside your particular field or application area)? What problems does it solve? How is the invention used to obtain this utility? In addition to immediate applications, are there any other uses that might be realized in the future?*

d) **Novelty** *What are the advantages and improvements over existing methods, devices or materials? What features are believed to be new?*

e) **Steps involved** *If the invention is a composition of matter, a device, or a product, how is it made? If the invention is a process, what are the steps involved?*

f) **Limitations** *Does the invention possess any disadvantages or limitations? Can they be overcome? How? Are there competing ways to solve the same problem(s)?*

g) **Variations** *Discuss possible variations and modifications that can be envisioned.*

h) **Status** *What best describes the status or development stage of this invention: conceptual, proof of principle, prototype, or bench scale?*

i) **Additional Work Planned** *Describe all of the work planned for the further development of the invention. Include the timing of the planned work.*

j) **References (relevant literature/patents)**

3. **Grant or Contract Number:** *If the invention was made in connection with **any** sponsored research or grant, provide the names of all sponsors, including government, corporate and foundation sponsors. This is important because sponsored research contracts frequently obligate Rice with respect to intellectual property which results from the sponsored research. This may include fellowships which paid for work performed that is associated with this invention or the inventors. Provide the full applicable grant or contract number(s), including the R-fund number. If not sponsored, please indicate by "None."*

Sponsor(s):

Grant or Contract number(s):

R-fund number(s):

4. **Material Transfer or Software Agreement(s) Used:** *(please select one) Were any of the materials or software code used in this research acquired from another institution via a material transfer or software agreement? If yes, indicate the name of the institution providing the name of the material and agreement number if known. This includes software code.*

Yes No

Institution(s):

Agreement number(s):

5. History of the Invention: *Please record the history of the invention, giving attention to the legally important events of conception (5a), the first actual reduction to practice (5d), and the establishment of a publication bar (5e,f). In the United States a patent application must be filed no later than one year after the publication describing the associated invention. In most other countries, filing must take place before the invention is known or available to others or published. Copies of signed and dated notebook pages validating the dates cited will be valuable attachments.*

a) Date invention first conceived by inventor(s):

b) Date first sketch of invention prepared:

c) Date first written description prepared:

d) Date of first successful demonstration, if any:

e) Date of first external oral presentation or disclosure which describes the invention, if any. Attach copies of presentation materials if possible.

f) Date of first publication containing description of invention, if any. Attach copies:

g) If not previously disclosed orally or in writing, are their plans to do so? What are the dates of planned disclosures?

6. Potential Licensees: *Has the invention been described to industry representatives? When and where did the description take place? Was the invention described in a specific or in a general fashion? Did they express any interest? Name companies and specific individuals and their titles, if possible. Do you know of other firms that might be particularly interested? Include as many possibilities as you can.*

----Cut and paste to repeat the following table for each inventor----

----Each inventor must have his/her own signature page----

7. **Inventor Signature Page** *Identify all inventors. An inventor is an individual who has conceived an essential element of the invention either independently or jointly with others, during the evolution of the invention concept.*

Full Name:		Citizenship:
Institution <i>for Rice inventor, also list department/center affiliation</i>		Title
Work Phone:	Fax Number:	e-mail address (and alternate) Primary: Alternate:
Work address including MS #		Home address and home phone. <i>Certain documents that must be filed with patent applications require the inventor's home address. Students should provide their permanent address.</i>
Percent contribution to invention <i>The percentages should be agreed among the inventors prior to signing this document; in the absence of this information it will be assumed that each inventor made an equal contribution to the invention.</i>		___%
Inventive steps made by this inventor <i>List the specific contributions made by this inventor to the overall invention.</i>		
<p>This disclosure is made in compliance with Rice Policy No. 333-99 on Patents and Software. As an inventor under such policy, I hereby agree to cooperate in the filing of patent applications and to make any assignments of ownership that may be required by Rice.</p> <p>Inventor's Signature Date Signed</p>		

Please submit the completed disclosure to:

Campus Mail Address:

Office of Technology Transfer

MS-705

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