

2022-04-28 **ALGOMA UNIVERSITY COMMERCIALIZATION FRAMEWORK**

On January 14, 2022 the Honourable Jill Dunlop, Ontario's Minister of Colleges and Universities, issued the province's Commercialization Mandate Policy Framework (CMPF). Algoma University (AU) is pleased to support the CMPF of the Government of Ontario by investing in supports for the commercialization of intellectual property (IP) to benefit Ontario, Canada, and the world. Within the context of AU's collective agreements and Senate policies, this document outlines AU's commercialization procedures and satisfies our commitment to the CMPF.

AU's Commercialization Framework

1. Commitment to the management and protection of IP
 - a. AU is committed to the management and protection of IP in a manner that maximizes commercialization opportunities, protects Ontario interests, and strengthens the Ontario economy.
 - b. Supports for protection and management of IP are under the purview of the Vice-President Academic and Research (VPAR). Members of all academic units at AU understand the importance of commercialization as a mechanism to translate the results of publicly-funded research into benefits for the province and its citizens.
 - c. The Research Office, under the direction of the VPAR, will provide guidance to researchers whose work has commercial potential, will assist those researchers to file patents and other forms of IP where indicated, and will provide guidance on the commercialization of IP where appropriate. AU does not have such expertise on staff; where indicated, external professional advice and support will be provided.
 - d. Commercialization may include finding opportunities for collaborative research with industry and may leverage industry funding with public sources of funding. This can benefit researchers and industry and specifically connects researchers and trainees (undergraduate and graduate) to industry-engaged research.
 - e. Commercialization may also include working with and for industry through research and service agreements.

2. Defined roles and responsibilities for relevant stakeholders within the institution to achieve this commitment:
 - a. The VPAR has overall responsibility for and leadership of commercialization.

- b. The Research Office will receive and evaluate any requests related to commercialization of discoveries created at AU to support the protection and commercialization of IP that might have commercial potential.
- c. The Faculty Academic Deans also support research activities within Faculties and may assist in connecting researchers who have developed IP with the Research Office, as indicated.
- d. Researchers at AU include faculty members, students, staff and administrators, who are key to creating new IP at the University.
- e. As required, the Office of Advancement will engage with industry, seeking funding for appropriate research collaborations.

3. Commitment to capacity-building:

- a. AU is committed to increase IP capacity through programming and related activities including access to IP policy resources for all relevant stakeholders.
- b. The *2022-27 AU Strategic Research Plan* will include capacity-building initiatives for researchers whose work has commercialization potential.

4. Invention disclosure process:

- a. All IP matters are governed by the *Intellectual Property Policy* (RE1) and in specific cases the respective faculty Collective Agreements.
- b. IP owners are required to disclose IP to AU before the University can evaluate the potential for commercialization support.

5. Net Benefit to Ontario:

- a. AU is committed to providing guidance for stakeholders regarding the commercialization of IP generated with the institution's resources in a manner that aims to generate economic and/or social value for the people of Ontario, the Ontario economy, and the Ontario research and innovation ecosystem.
- b. Contract research brings funding and student training benefits to Ontario.
- c. Commercialization with an Ontario company brings benefits to Ontario.
- d. Potential startups arising from faculty research can bring benefits to Ontario (related startup enterprises would usually be based in Ontario).
- e. Partnerships with local incubators, accelerators, and regional innovation centres are sought and supported.

6. AU is committed to providing guidance for relevant stakeholders regarding institutional engagement with the Ontario innovation ecosystem.

- a. AU engages with different stakeholders and partners in each of our three campus communities (Sault Ste. Marie, Brampton, Timmins), contributing to innovation in different regions of Ontario.
- b. Examples of existing partnerships/engagement include local Chambers of Commerce in each campus community, as well as such community partners as the Sault Ste. Marie Innovation Centre and NORDIK (SSM), Altitude Accelerator (BRAM), and others.

AU gratefully acknowledges the guidance of relevant CMPF policies at other Ontario universities.