

SUBMISSION FORM

University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation
MUSP 407

This form is to be submitted with any Board of Regents item whereby a campus seeks the approval of an agreement with or arrangement regarding an employee pursuant to 20-25-109 MCA and Regents Policy 407.

When the submission concerns matters of trade secrets or confidential business information, or any other matter entitled to privacy under state or federal law (e.g., the federal statute known as Bayh/Dole) the submitting campus may request consideration of the submission, in whole or in part, in executive session.

The submitting campus should also provide the Commissioner a copy of the contract(s) that form the basis for the cooperative arrangement for which approval is sought. Submission of the contract does not indicate a conclusion that all or part of the contract is a public document and the question of whether it is in whole or in part protected from public disclosure will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

1. Summarize the nature of the intellectual property that was developed by the employee seeking approval. Indicate the sources of funding for the research that resulted in this invention.

Dr. Kumar Ganesan has developed ceramic based metallic filters to remove mercury from coal fired power plants. Montana Tech received a patent on this technology on January 1, 2008, Patent No. 7,314,507 B. The above mentioned work was developed through research efforts conducted at Montana Tech of The University of Montana. The research was performed under Federal US DOE funding and the grants from the Montana Board of Research and Commercialization Technologies (MBRCT.)

2. a. Name(s) of the university employee(s) involved.

Dr. Kumar Ganesan

-
- b. Name(s) of business entity (ies) involved.

None involved at present; a new company, Energy and Environmental Research and Technology (E2RT) is formed in Butte, by the inventor.

3. The university and employee(s) are seeking approval for (check as many as appropriate):

- a. The employee to be awarded equity interest in the business entity.

b. The employee to serve as a president of the board of directors or other governing authority of the business entity.

c. The employee to accept employment from the business entity.

4. How will approval of this relationship contribute to the objectives of the university's technology transfer and intellectual property development programs?

The benefits to Montana Tech and the U of M and the State of Montana arising from current and proposed research activities are:

- The ceramic-based metallic mercury removal filters have been protected with the U.S. patent. It has not been licensed to any company thus far. The new company, "Energy and Environmental Research and Technology (E2RT)" to be located in Butte, will be the first Montana Tech-based spin-off company. E2RT will request the Board of Regents and the University to license the above mentioned invention to develop the technology into a commercially marketable system, thus fulfilling the mission of economic growth to the state of Montana from the research conducted on University campuses.
- The primary goal of technology transfer is to use the University system as a research engine to drive economic development and to transfer valuable technology into the commercial markets where it can have broad application. The commercial development of this University-owned intellectual property by E2RT will provide an example of application of this model to other university faculty members.
- The use of coal as a main source of fuel to generate power faces many hurdles, one of which is cost effective mercury control devices. This particular technology will help to stimulate the use of coal and also fuel the economic engine of Montana.

By allowing this University-private sector relationship, the intellectual property established and developed by the University faculty can be used to grow a "faculty spin-off company", it will set an example for other entrepreneurs from the University looking for opportunities for commercialization of their innovations and creations, and it will generate revenue and goodwill for the University and its employees, in addition to the Montana private energy and environmental research domain and related regional business development sectors.