Invention Disclosure

**Receive**
The commercialization process begins when the Technology Advancement Office (TAO) receives a signed Invention Disclosure Form (IDF). The IDF is recorded and funding sources reviewed for federal and third-party contractual obligations.

**Evaluate**
The evaluation includes discussions with the contributors; evaluation of patentability (whether the invention is novel and non-obvious) or other form of intellectual property protection by reviewing prior art (patents and public disclosures); and evaluation of commercial potential (industry need, market potential and competitive advantage).

**Recommend**
A recommendation is made and communicated to the contributors. Possible recommendations include:
- Do not protect
- Hold for data (up to one year)
- Protect via patent, copyright, trademark, tangible property or know-how
- Other
In addition, feedback will be provided on technology development needed to increase the commercial potential.

**Timeline**
The evaluation process requires extensive analysis of published scientific and patent literature, and analysis of the market needs and business model; TAO targets completion of the evaluation process and a recommendation provided to the contributors within 60 days from receipt of the IDF.

**Expense**
At times, patent counsel or other external vendors assist with disclosure evaluation. TAO pays associated out-of-pocket expenses for these services ranging from $0 - $1,000.