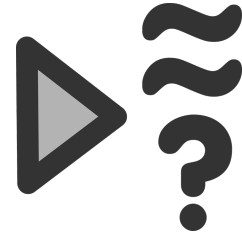


Invention Harvesting Best Practices Analysis

Best practices lead to superior performance. The purpose of the Best Practices Analysis is to illuminate the best practices associated with invention harvesting. We analyzed key questions using a number of IP program performance metrics to provide best practices guidance.



Following are the invention harvesting practices analyzed:

- Do inventors conduct formal and/or informal peer reviews before finalizing and submitting an invention disclosure?
- Is there a formal idea evaluation and approval process conducted prior to an inventor preparing an invention disclosure form?
- Are invention ideas/disclosures approved before inventors submit invention disclosures for formal review and/or filing decision to patent review board or legal department for review?
- Our company has clear guidelines for selecting what should be patented.
- How does your company harvest new inventions? (Dominant Method)
 - Online invention disclosure screen/system
 - Paper invention disclosure form (offline)
 - Email with invention idea
- How does your company harvest new inventions? (Method Used)
 - In-house patent attorney/agent meetings with engineers/scientists
 - Patent liaison meetings with engineers/scientists
 - IP reviews at stage gate exits
 - Invention harvesting group meetings
- Do inventors present their invention idea at the Patent Review Board (PRB) meeting?
- Company uses specific hard-and-fast quantitative criteria (scorecard) to guide our patenting decisions
 - No
 - Corporation-wide
 - Business specific
 - Corporation-wide and business specific

The performance metrics that we used to evaluate invention harvesting best practices and which show superior performance are:

- Percentage of invention disclosures (IDs) converted to priority patent applications
- R&D spending per ID
- R&D spending per patent application
- Percentage of patent applications scored as commercially significant/important value
- Percentage of sales protected by patents rights
- Percentage of products or services protected by patents rights
- Percentage of IDs of strategic importance/high commercial value
- IDs per \$1mm R&D spending
- Patent applications per \$1mm R&D spending

Contact Information