

INVENTION HARVESTING, SELECTION, AND IP PROTECTION DECISIONS BEST PRACTICES

A Study of Methods, Tools, Techniques, Trends, and Best Practices

A vital phase of the intellectual property (IP) program is the process of identifying, articulating, and capturing invention ideas and determining how the asset will be processed and made part of the IP asset portfolio. This workflow begins at the time an idea is identified, and runs through the steps of invention articulation, assessment, and patent review committee evaluations and determinations.

The results of this **Invention Harvesting, Selection, and IP Protection Decision Practices** study shows companies utilize multiple methods to capture their inventions. It's evident companies balance driving an increase in invention disclosure submissions, while managing quality. Multiple vetting practices are standard operating procedures, including review procedures prior to invention disclosure submission, prior art searches and multi-role patent review committees that meet regularly.

In this comprehensive study, innovation-driven companies shared effective invention harvesting methods, invention disclosure review and selection practices, use of prior art searches, IP protection decision factors, patent review committee responsibilities, patent portfolio pruning criteria, and performance metrics.

This groundbreaking report will assist you to evaluate your invention harvesting, selection, and IP protection decision practices and provides insights using statistically valid, quantifiable data to identify:

- Primary and most effective methods for capturing invention ideas
- Usage of accelerated examinations
- Assessment and criteria for IP protection
- Frequency and responsibility of conducting patent prior art searches
- Stakeholders involved in IP protection decisions
- Role of a patent review committee for IP decisions
- IP scorecard solutions and alternative assessment methods

This report includes a thorough executive summary that provides key highlights and observations. The full report provides descriptive charts and more than 43 pages of detailed statistics as well as best practices analysis.

Benchmark Report at a Glance

Number of Companies
47 Participants

Information Type
Graphics
Metrics
Ratios
Key Findings

Main Results
Segmentations by Revenue
Best Practices Analysis

Report Length
135 pages

Report Structure and Organization

Table of Contents - Summary

1. Executive Summary
2. Key Findings
3. Participants Background
4. Invention Capture and Pre-filing Reviews
5. Accelerate Patent Application Preparation and Filing/Fast Path
6. Prior Art Searching
7. Patent Review Board/Committee
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Analysis: Revenue

Book 2: Detail Results - Companies Segmented by Annual Revenue

Section 2.1: Detail Results Filtered – Less Than \$1 billion

Section 2.2: Detail Results Filtered – Between \$1 billion - \$5 billion

Section 2.3: Detail Results Filtered – Greater Than \$5 billion

Invention Harvesting and Protection Decision Considerations

- What invention harvesting methods are used, predominant and most effective for capturing high value inventions?
- Do companies incorporate a pre-invention disclosure submission review process?
- Do inventors get manager approval to submit an invention for patent protection consideration?
- How often do companies use an accelerated patent application preparation process? And why?
- When (during the development and patenting process) do companies conduct patentability or freedom to operate searches?
- Who conducts patentability or freedom to operate searches?
- How much time it allocated or budgeted for conducting prior art searches?
- Do companies have a patent review committee and which key stakeholders participate?
- What is the patent committee charter and responsibilities?
- How often does the patent committee meet?
- Who leads the patent committee meeting?
- What key factors are used to approve IP protection?
- Do companies use an IP scorecard to guide patent protection or maintenance decisions?
- What factors are considered for divesting or pruning a patent asset from the company portfolio?
- What percentage of the patent portfolio is pruned annually?
- Which stakeholders decide to divest a patent?

Who Can Benefit From This Report

- Chief Intellectual Property/Patent Officers
- Chief Legal Officers/General Counsel
- Chief Financial Officers
- Chief Technology Officers
- Intellectual Property Directors

Best Practices Analysis

Best practices lead to superior performance. This section's purpose is to illuminate the best practices associated with invention harvesting. We analyzed a number of metrics to provide best practices guidance. 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 or of important value, percentage of sales protected by patents rights, percentage of products or services protected by patents rights, percentage of ID of strategic importance/high commercial value, IDs per R&D spending, and patent applications per R&D spending.

Practice Effectiveness

- 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 (documented) 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 his/her invention idea/disclosure 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

More on ipPerformance Group

ipPerformance Group, Inc. (www.ipperform.com) is the leading intellectual property advisory company. We enable our clients to apply best practices and measure IP performance by drawing upon our knowledge of more than 550 intellectual property management benchmarks, all from Global 1000 companies. Armed with this knowledge, you will be able to solve complex intellectual property business problems and measurably enhance your ability to build value, manage risk, and improve performance in an intellectual property-driven enterprise.

Custom analyses

When benchmarking peer and internal information, it is essential to understand the context of the data, as much as the factors that can influence a divergence in benchmark results. In addition to benchmarking activities for evaluating best practices, at **ipPerformance**, we have also developed a comprehensive capability maturity model that will allow for a true assessment of your program. For more information, please call Rob Williamson on 630-216-9673 (rwilliamson@ipperform.com).

Other Benchmark Reports and Best Practice Guides Available:

- Inventor Rewards and Recognition Programs
- Strategic Intellectual Property Management—Comprehensive View of End-to-End Processes—Evaluation of Program Proficiencies
- Patent Intelligence (Research and Analytics—People, Processes, Tools and Services)
- IP Strategy Development Practices and Performance Measures, Driving Business Results
- IP/Patent Department Operations & Metrics (Staffing Roles & Responsibilities, Internal & Outside Counsel Costs)
- Intellectual Asset Management Software Satisfaction
- Intellectual Property Training Best Practices
- Intellectual Property Management Guidelines—Standard Operating Procedures
- Best Practice Templates
- Intellectual Property Technology Valuation Guidelines
- IP Training Courses
- Patent Preparation and Prosecution Quality Practices
- Foreign Patent Prosecution Practices
- Translation Approaches
- Trademark Management Practices

Contact us to learn about additional topics.

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