WHERE TO GET STARTED?
Visit us online at k-state.edu/tech.transfer to learn more about the Research Foundation and our services. Or, contact us at 785-532-5720 or tech.transfer@k-state.edu.
If you're ready to disclose your idea, you can find the intellectual property disclosure forms at k-state.edu/tech.transfer/forms.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?
The Research Foundation connects researchers with resources to protect and promote the university’s intellectual property.

WE DO THIS BY:
• Providing oversight and leadership to ensure inventor and university rights are protected. This includes inventions, software, copyrights, seed and plant varieties, and proprietary materials.
• Assisting researchers in preparing invention disclosures. This is the first step in disseminating new and useful knowledge for the public benefit.
• Evaluating a technology’s potential to be protected and generate commercial interest.
• Expanding and transferring technology to industry through negotiating agreements for sponsored research, material transfer and licensing.
• Distributing licensing revenue to inventors and their departments according to the university IP policy.
WHAT IS AN INVENTION?
An invention is a novel device, method, process, machine, composition or any improvement thereof. Inventions can occur in any field and may cover many areas. This can also include software and plant varieties.

WHAT MAKES IT PATENTABLE?

NOVELTY — new and previously unknown. To be new, the invention can’t have been published, sold or used prior to the filing date of a patent application. The U.S. allows a 12-month grace period following publication.

USEFUL — invention must be a process, machine, manufacture, composition or improvement thereof.

NONOBVIOUS — requires an invention to be sufficiently inventive and not obvious to one with “ordinary skill” in the art. Watch for surprising or unexpected results.

WHEN SHOULD I DISCLOSE?
BEFORE you publish!
BEFORE you submit an abstract.
BEFORE your conference presentation.
BEFORE your poster session.

To maximize the potential value of an invention, a patent application must be filed prior to ANY disclosure to obtain worldwide protection. Work with the Research Foundation to develop a publication strategy to go hand in hand with the patent application.

CRITICAL — Submit a disclosure and an enabling description of the technology no less than two business days prior to any public disclosure or statutory deadline. After filing a patent application, you may publish or present without the loss of any protection.

HOW DO I DISCLOSE?

COMPLETE an Invention Disclosure that includes a written, enabling description of the technology whenever you feel you have discovered something you believe to be unique with possible commercial value. Disclosure forms can be found at k-state.edu/tech.transfer/forms.

ENABLING DESCRIPTION — Explains to someone of skill in your field how to make or use your invention.

PRIOR ART — The body of knowledge that currently exists on a subject defining what has previously been done in the field. It helps determine whether the innovation — or parts of the innovation — meets the requirements of being new and nonobvious.

PRIOR ART SEARCHING — Innovators are uniquely able to conduct an effective prior art search because of subject matter familiarity. To begin a prior art search, follow the Seven Step Strategy from the U.S. Patent Office at http://www.uspto.gov/products/library/ptdl/services/.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED PUBLIC DISCLOSURE?

WRITTEN DISCLOSURES NOT PROTECTED BY CONFIDENTIALITY
Includes grant proposals, thesis, publications, posters, abstracts, private correspondence, etc.

ORAL PRESENTATIONS NOT PROTECTED BY CONFIDENTIALITY
Includes thesis defense, seminars, meetings, etc.

WHY SHOULD I CONTACT THE RESEARCH FOUNDATION?

STRATEGY — Our staff will help develop a strategy to protect your innovation and give it the best chance to reach the marketplace.

SPONSORED RESEARCH — Discussing your invention with industry can lead to opportunities for additional sponsored research to further advance your invention.

TRANSFORMATION — The Research Foundation believes K-State’s world-class research and discoveries should be shared with the widest possible audience through commercialization of new products and global solutions to benefit society.

COLLABORATION — Working together drives long-term mutually beneficial relationships with companies and the research community.

SUPPORT — The Research Foundation strives to protect all rights through confidential disclosure, material transfer and other agreements to assure your invention is safely shared.