

## Hacettepe Technology Transfer Center (HT-TTM)

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Hacettepe Technology Transfer Center (HT-TTM) fosters scientific and technological innovation by building a bridge between industry and academia. About a year after its inauguration in June 2008 under the auspices of Hacettepe Technopolis Inc., HT-TTM, has spun off into an independent company.

HT-TTM is one of the first three Technology Transfer Offices established in Turkey. Since 2009, it has coordinated more than 350 R&D projects, with its staff of 15 experts from different disciplines and more than 200 academic consultants.

It has strong relationships with governmental bodies, as well as research and innovation funding agencies in Turkey, such as TUBITAK and SMIDO. Since 2013, HT-TTM has been funded by TUBITAK under the program “TEYDEB – 1513”, as one of the most successful TTO’s in Turkey.

HT-TTM has signed collaboration protocols with many Organized Industrial Zones in Ankara and many contracts not only with individual SMEs but also unions of SMEs. The main field of operation of HT-TTM is contracted research, commercialization of university inventions, intellectual property rights support (patenting, licensing), university-government-industry collaborative research and entrepreneurship.

### Departments of HT-TTM

#### Project Office

HT-TTM, being the Project Office of Hacettepe University, provides direct support and advisory assistance to academicians to secure funding

opportunities available via either national research programs (such as TUBITAK-ARDEB, TUBİTAK-TEYDEB, Ankara Development Agency–Financial and Technical Supports, Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology – Support Programs) or international research funds (such as Horizon 2020, EuropeAid, National Agency).

Its dedicated team guides academicians to facilitate access and participation in funding programs. Together with academicians, HT-TTM staff evaluates project ideas to align these with the right funding resources and assists them in initiating, preparing and submitting project proposals including finding potential project partners.

Since 2013, HT-TTM has submitted 43 projects for funding through national and international research programs. To date, HT-TTM has participated as a project partner in variety of projects funded by TUBITAK-KAMAG, TUBİTAK-ISBAP and EU programs.

HT-TTM also supports industry and academia in the preparation of project applications, and bringing together the necessary resources including academic know-how, laboratory infrastructure, etc.

Until now, approximately 100 national/international funds have been obtained and allocated to academy and industry.

#### University Industry Collaboration

HT-TTM aims to encourage the development of university-industry collaboration, support the activities to ensure industry to develop competitive

products for international markets, and contribute to Turkey's economic & technological development and competitiveness.

HT-TTM transfers the academic know-how and the technological infrastructure of universities, in particular, of Hacettepe University, into the use of industry in order to provide solutions to their technical problems, meet their R&D needs cost-effectively. So far, more than 350 contracts have been signed with industry; which corresponds to a total turnover of 10 M€.

### Patent Office

Concerning the innovations of the academics, HT-TTM provides expert support in issues related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and commercialization processes as the Patent Office of Hacettepe University. The mission of the Patent Office is to provide expert consultancy on the protection of academic inventions with suitable IP types—particularly patents—and also to determine the commercial value of academic inventions, direct them into most efficient commercialization route and coordinate the whole process.

Patent Office team of experienced patent attorneys and specialists provides technical support on Industrial Property Rights and also funding thereof. Patent Attorneys first make an evaluation of new ideas and innovations according to the patentability criteria. Then, an authorized committee established under HT-TTM evaluates the patents in terms of commercialization criteria.

HT-TTM also financially supports inventions of academicians, which have potential in commercialization. On the other hand, Patent Office coordinates the funding program of Hacettepe University for the patents. So far, HT-TTM has amassed 38 dossiers in its Intellectual Property portfolio 23 of which are national patents, 10 are international patents, 3 are utility models and 2 of them are industrial designs.

In 2014, HT-TTM Patent Office has become a member of Patent Information Center (PATLIB) of EPO (European Patent Office).

### Other Services and Principle Notions of HT-TTM

In 2012, HT-TTM has started to employ “**Project Assistants**” for academicians who have sustainable R&D collaboration with industry and are productive with multiple industry projects. In order to

alleviate their huge work load and increase their performance, HT-TTM allocates Project Assistants to them. Mission of the assistants is to provide support for the project management and also assist in technical works. This practice not only improves the quality and quantity of university-industry collaborative projects but also supports graduate and undergraduate students, financially. So far, two Project Assistants have been employed.

Since its foundations, HT-TTM has embraced the notions of cost effectiveness, confidentiality, strong coordination and acted as an interface between university and industry. HT-TTM's notions are summarized below:

#### Ability to Work Interdisciplinary

Working interdisciplinary has crucial role in providing success. Hacettepe University has expertise in various disciplines including, but not limited to, medicine, engineering, physical sciences, managements, and pharmaceuticals. HT-TTM had practiced numerous interdisciplinary studies by gathering relevant branches together.

#### Cost Effectiveness

Biggest advantage for decreasing expenses comes from the Law on Technology Development Zones. According to this Law, all university faculty members' salaries, whom works for designated projects are exempt from taxes. In addition to these, HT-TTM brings only necessary resources together so that redundant costs are avoided.

#### Results-orientation and Strong Coordination

R&D projects require bringing together a large number of resources. HT-TTM considers each technical request as a separate Project and, depending on the nature of demand, determines the most effective and rapid solution to achieve the expected results. Processes such as bringing together the relevant resources, implementation of each phase of the Project according to the budget and the schedule are all successfully coordinated by HT-TTM.

#### Confidentiality

Working with HT-TTM means that confidentially—a basic and crucial element in R&D projects—and it is ensured by means of legal protection measures such as confidentiality agreements and patent applications.