

## Summary of IP Policy & Commercialisation Policy

The University recognises that the Intellectual Property (IP) created by its staff, students and visitors is a valuable commodity with two key benefits:

- It contributes directly to the financial position of the University and the creators of the IP;
- It improves the University's reputation as a socially relevant, world-leading research and teaching organisation.

As such, Aston University has developed an ***IP Policy*** and a ***Commercialisation Policy*** to capture and commercialise the IP created as part of its day-to-day activities. This is for the mutual benefit of the University, the creators of the IP, and wider society.

These documents form part of the conditions of study and employment at Aston University. Hence, any member of staff, student or visitor involved in creative work is advised to read the documents to understand their obligations and responsibilities.

Importantly, any person working at Aston University must inform the IP Team in the Business Partnership Unit (BPU) if they suspect that they have created any new IP *before telling anyone else or publishing.*

It is also important to realise that IP is more than just patent protection of new inventions. IP also includes methods, protocols, computer programs, reports, designs, trademarks, databases, films, videos, notebooks, multimedia works, and know-how.

Other obligations include keeping full records of the development of their work, assisting the University in the protection and exploitation of the IP, and declaring any potential or actual conflicts of interest.

Aston University will usually own the IP created by its staff (see section 4.1 of the IP Policy) and visitors (see sections 4.2 and 4.4 of the IP Policy). Students usually own their own IP, except in certain circumstances described in the IP Policy (section 4.3).

In either case, the University will share the financial benefits of the exploitation of the IP with the creators of the IP according to the following schedule:

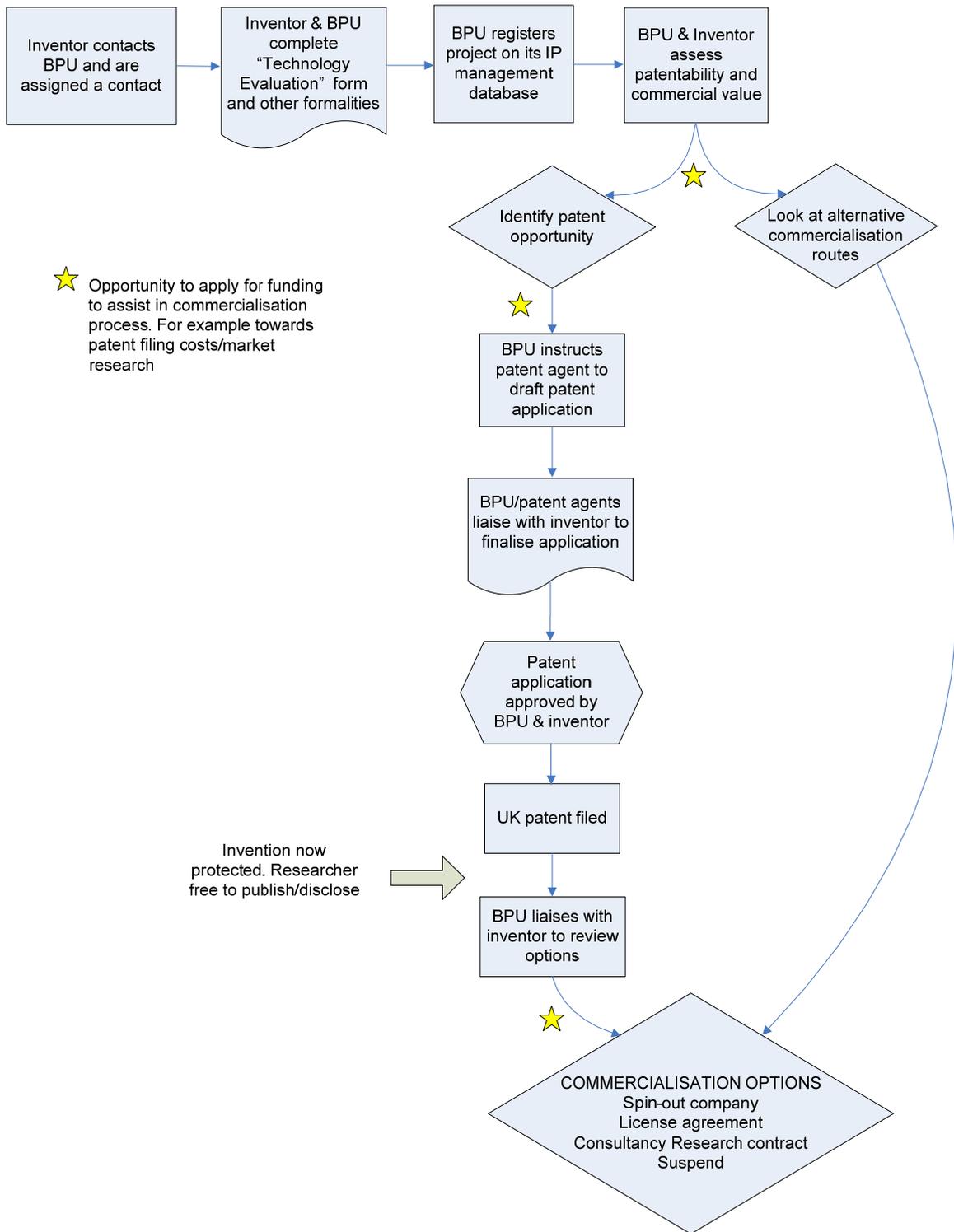
<i>Net Revenue<sup>1</sup></i>	<i>Allocated to the Creators<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Allocated to University Central Funds</i>	<i>Allocated to Creator's School of Study</i>	<i>Allocated to support University commercialisation activities</i>
First £25,000 of Revenue	100%	-	-	-
Next £50,000 of Revenue	60%	25%	10%	5%
Revenue above £75,000	35%	25%	25%	15%

Once an Inventor has contacted the BPU, the IP Team will follow the process illustrated below to ensure the suitable protection and commercialisation path for the IP. The individual steps are explained in more detail in the Commercialisation Policy document.

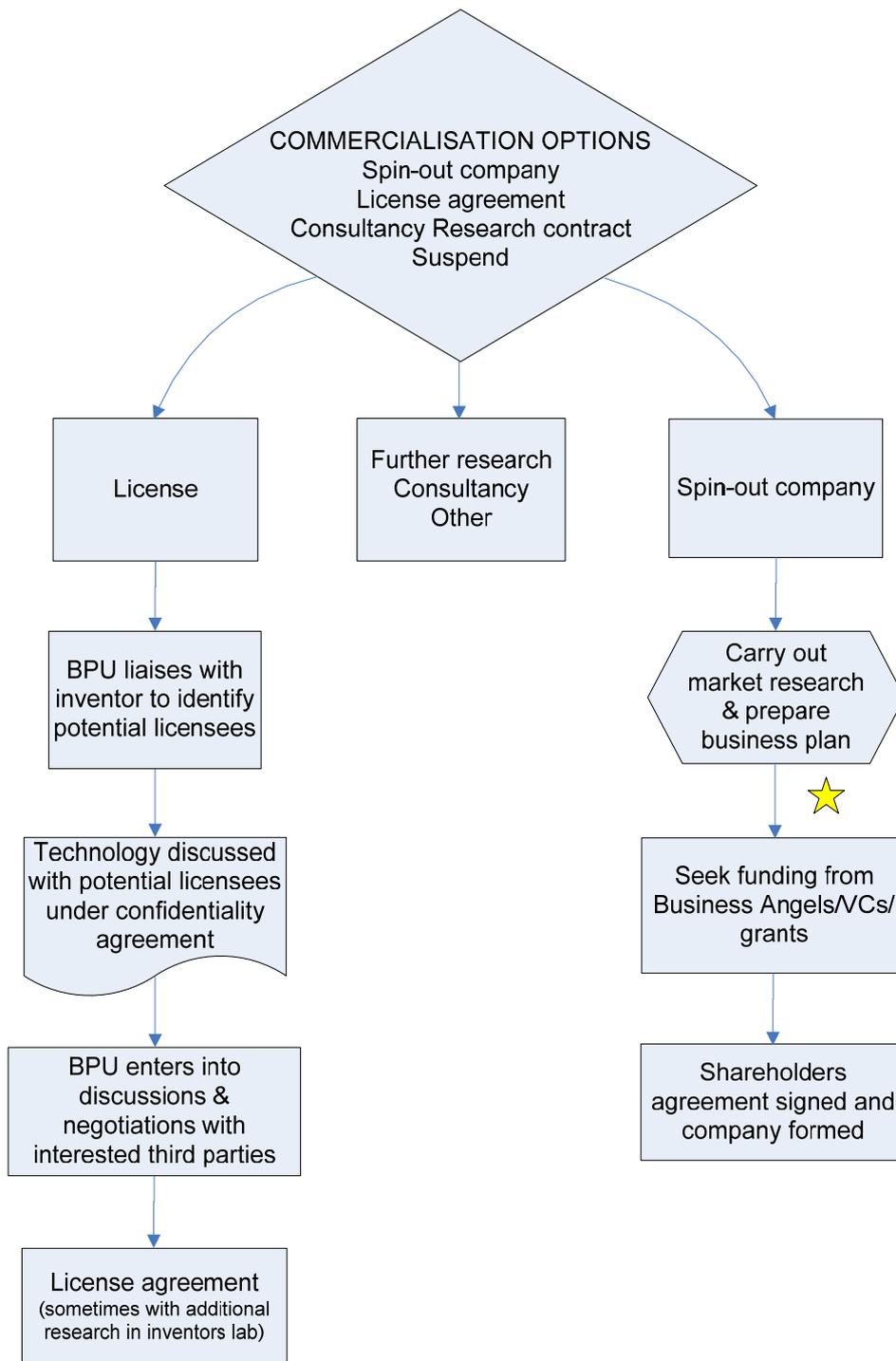
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<sup>1</sup> The University will always seek to recoup all patent costs from licensees. Where this is not possible, some deductions will be required to cover patent costs before royalties are paid to Creators.

<sup>2</sup> Allocated to all Creators together. The University will deduct any tax and NI obligations on the payment.



**Figure 1: Process for protection of IP**



**Figure 2: Different commercialisation routes available**

If you think that you have developed IP during your time at Aston University then you are invited to contact the BPU to discuss your work.