

Please complete all sections and submit an electronic version of this form to the Office of Research at research@mtsu.edu for routing to the Intellectual Property Committee for review and comments/suggestions. A final paper version of this Invention Report will be routed for final signatures upon completion of the review process.

REPORT OF INVENTION

1. Report Date:

2. Inventorship: (Identify all inventors below. In Section 2 (a), if all inventors are MTSU students, staff and/or faculty, place a checkmark next to the first item. If inventors include students, staff, and/or faculty external to MTSU, place a checkmark next to the second item. In Section 2 (b), list contact information for all inventors, identifying the primary contact person in Section 2 (b)(i))

- a. MTSU Only** **MTSU + External**
b. Inventors:

- (i) **Full Name** Main Contact Person:** _____
(ii) **Affiliation, College, Dept.:** _____
(iii) **Home Address:** _____
(iv) **Phone/Fax/Email:** _____
(v) **Citizenship:** _____
- (vi) **Full Name:** _____
(vii) **Affiliation, College, Dept.:** _____
(viii) **Home Address:** _____
(ix) **Phone/Fax/Email:** _____
(x) **Citizenship:** _____

3. Sponsorship: (Identify any and all sponsors below who have contributed cash and/or in-kind funding/assistance for the efforts associated with this invention. If none, write "n/a" in all spaces provided.)

- a. Sponsor Name(s):** _____
b. MTSU Contract/Grant No.: _____
c. Funding Period: _____
d. Principal Investigator (PI): _____

4. Title of Invention: _____

PATENT PRIMER

According to the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("USPTO"), patents may be issued for inventions that are novel, nonobvious, adequately described to allow one of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention, and claimed by the inventor in clear and definite terms. Patentable inventions include: process, machine, article of manufacture, composition of matter, and improvement of the preceding items. Such patents are defined as "Utility Patents". Patent protection is also available for: (a) ornamental design of an article of manufacturer ("Design Patents"), (b) asexually reproduced plant varieties ("Plant Patents"), and (c) business processes and models ("Business Patents"). Items that cannot be patented: laws of nature, physical phenomena, abstract ideas, literary/dramatic/musical/artistic works (which can be copyright protected.)

Pursuant to Intellectual Property Procedures of the Middle Tennessee State University, The Tennessee Board of Regents Intellectual Properties Policies, and all other MTSU policies and procedures, I/we hereby disclose details about the following invention:

5. **Invention Abstract:** *(Attach a one paragraph summary description of your invention. Identify whether invention is a new process, composition of matter, a device, software, one or more products, a new use for or an improvement to an existing product or process.)*

6. **Field of the Invention:** *(Describe to what field the invention relates.)*

7. **Description of Related Art:** *(Describe all known related, prior art, including published literature commercial products, and related patents and other forms of intellectual property, and conclude with a summary listing of all known related art.)*

RESOURCES FOR LITERATURE SEARCHING

TBR can do patent searches for you, and the law firm will do searches in the process of writing the patent. However, it is best to do a preliminary search yourself to make sure that the idea is patentable. The Office of Research and IP Advisory Committee can help.

Tutorial on searching: <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/engin/patent-tutorial/index.htm>

USPTO internet site <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/com/ip/index.htm>

US Patents <http://www.uspto.gov/patft/index.html>

Canada (usually US patent #) <http://patents1.ic.gc.ca/intro-e.html>

European patent databases <http://www.espacenet.com/access/index.en.htm>

Japanese patent databases http://www.ipdl.ncipi.go.jp/homepg_e.ipdl

8. **Detailed Description of the Invention:** *(Describe in detail the nature, operation, preferred embodiment, and applications of the invention. What technical problem does this invention solve, and for whom is this a problem? Include details of how this invention is nonobvious to those skilled in the art, novel, and useful – how does it differ from the prior art?)*

9. **Figures and Drawings:** *(Attach all related figures and drawings that help to describe the nature, operation, and applications of the invention.)*

- 10. Reduction to Practice:** *(Has invention been reduced to practice? If so, include or attach a copy of experimental/prototype data or photos/graphics – or reference such data's location.)*
- 11. Publication and Presentation:** *(Note that public disclosure of an invention initiates a twelve (12) month window in which to file for patent protection within the U.S. In general, any public disclosure or placement on sale precludes foreign filing rights.)*
- a. Prior:** *(Indicate details of any full or partial disclosure of this invention by any of the inventors, including but not limited to: manuscript, article, report, grant application, thesis/dissertation, abstract, demonstration, sales catalog, news release, or oral (private or public) presentation. Please indicate which you have available, and if possible, provide a copy to the Office of Research with this Invention Report. Include all relevant dates of disclosure and recipient names or those in attendance (for presentation.).)*
- b. Planned:** *(Indicate details of any planned disclosure of this invention by any of the inventors. Include all planned dates of disclosure, as well as recipient names or planned attendance)*
- 12. Regulatory Requirements:** *(Does this technology require approval by regulatory agencies EPA, USDA, FDA, OSHA, other? If yes, please explain.)*
- 13. Initial Market Assessment:**
- a. Potential Markets:** *(Briefly identify a few potential markets for this invention and how this invention addresses each market's specific needs.)*
- b. Competition:** *(Identify all known competing approaches to solving the problems addressed by this invention, as well as all commercial competitors and prospective competitors.)*

- c. **Potential Licensees/Assignees:** *(Identify any and all potential licensees/assignees of this invention. Reference any existing or expired partnership or other agreements with respect to this invention. Are such agreements still active?)*

14. **Personal Goals:** *(Check any and all that apply. It is important to note that the University, at its sole discretion, may commercialize its inventions in any manner consistent with its mission, objectives, policies, and rules and regulations; however, the personal goals of each inventor are important considerations in this process, and are therefore documented below.)*

I simply wish to document and file this invention report

I would like the University to consider prosecution of patent applications, in its name, for this invention in:

the U.S., because: *(Provide rationale for request)*

internationally, because: *(Provide rationale for request.)*

I would like the University to consider commercializing this invention via:

new company start-up without my direct involvement.

new company start-up with my direct involvement, in the role of president/CEO, CTO, consultant.

licensing/assignment to commercial entity in exchange for stock / equity royalties / licensing fees

Please add any other comments below, and attach any related drawings, publications, or materials:

15. **Profit-Sharing:** It is expected that co-inventors will receive an divide equally the inventor share of profits from the sale or licensing of the invention (after University costs for patenting and licensing are recouped), unless another agreement is documented in writing and signed by all inventors.

16. **Inventor Signatures:** *(By signing below, I acknowledge that I am one of the inventors of the invention reported herein. I understand that Middle Tennessee State University owns the rights to, and may obtain protection for, all intellectual property developed by its students, staff and faculty subject to the provisions*

of University policies and procedures. By signing below, I hereby agree to execute a formal assignment of all rights to the invention to the University, unless so noted below in Section 19 "Request for Waiver".)

(i) **Sign:** _____ **Date:** _____

Print: _____

(ii) **Sign:** _____ **Date:** _____

Print: _____

- 17. Signature of Person Witnessing This Disclosure:** *(Obtain the signature of a colleague knowledgeable in the subject matter of this invention, who has read and understands the concepts presented herein, and who may be called upon to support the claims herein throughout the patent process.)*

Sign: _____ **Date:** _____

Print: _____

- 18. Department Chairperson:** *(Obtain the signature of your department's Chairperson to acknowledge his/her understanding of this disclosure and the interrelationship between this invention, any related sponsored research, potential conflicts of interest, and University duties.)*

Sign: _____ **Date:** _____

Print: _____ **Dept.:** _____

- 19. Office of Research Signature and Date Recorded:**

Sign: _____ **Date:** _____

Print: _____

- 20. Inventor Request for Waiver:** *(Optional: If you believe that the invention was made outside the general scope of your University duties, conceived without the use of University time, facilities, staff, materials, University information not available to the general public, and without the use of funds administered by the University, check the space below, sign and date where shown (in addition to signing above), and provide a short explanation of the circumstances under which the invention was made and developed, resources employed, and your University duties at the time of the making of the invention. If you would like the University to consider patent prosecution of this invention in its name, check the appropriate space below as well.)*

I/we hereby request a waiver of University rights to this invention

I/we would like the University to consider prosecution of patent applications *(I/we understand that assignment of my/our rights will be required)*

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

Please provide a list of MTSU/TBR faculty members with research interests in this field who might be qualified to serve on a technical review of this invention. If none are suitable, list others. A Confidentiality Disclosure Agreement will be used to protect your idea during the review process

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.