



UNIVERSITÉ
LIBRE
DE BRUXELLES

ULB PhD Day

6 February 2026



PROTECT YOUR RESEARCH RESULTS !

Patrick Di Stefano, PhD



ULB PhD Day 2026



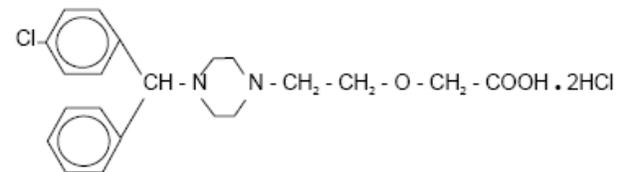
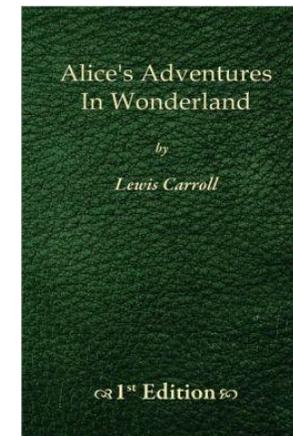
Intellectual property (rights) : (An attempt to) Definitions



Intellectual property (rights): (an attempt to) definitions

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY: REFERS TO « CREATIONS OF THE MIND »,
THE PRODUCTS OF HUMAN INTELLIGENCE

- Creations of the mind to which is given any material form whatsoever
- Covers inventions, literary and artistic works, symbols, names, images and designs used in commerce (WIPO)



Intellectual property (rights): (an attempt to) definitions



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) RELATE TO THE FACT THAT CERTAIN INTANGIBLE PRODUCTS OF HUMAN INTELLECT SHOULD BE AFFORDED THE SAME PROTECTIVE RIGHTS THAT APPLY TO PHYSICAL PROPERTY.

- “Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.”
(Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Art. 27)
- “Countries have laws to protect intellectual property [...] to promote, as a deliberate act of Government policy, creativity and the dissemination and application of its results and to encourage fair trading which would contribute to economic and social development.”
WIPO Intellectual Property Handbook

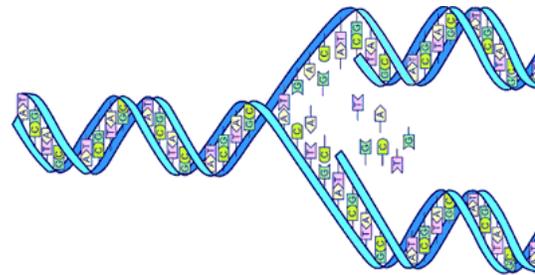
Some (very) high value IPR



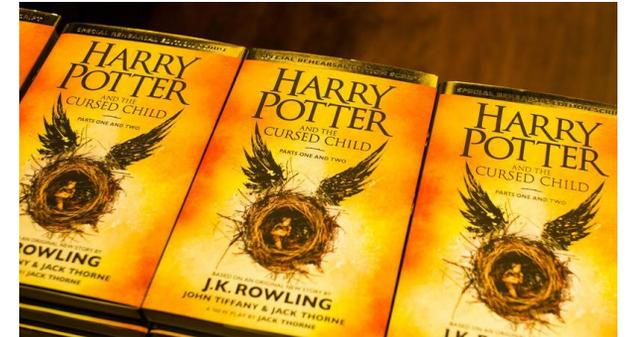
Coca-Cola®



Apple®



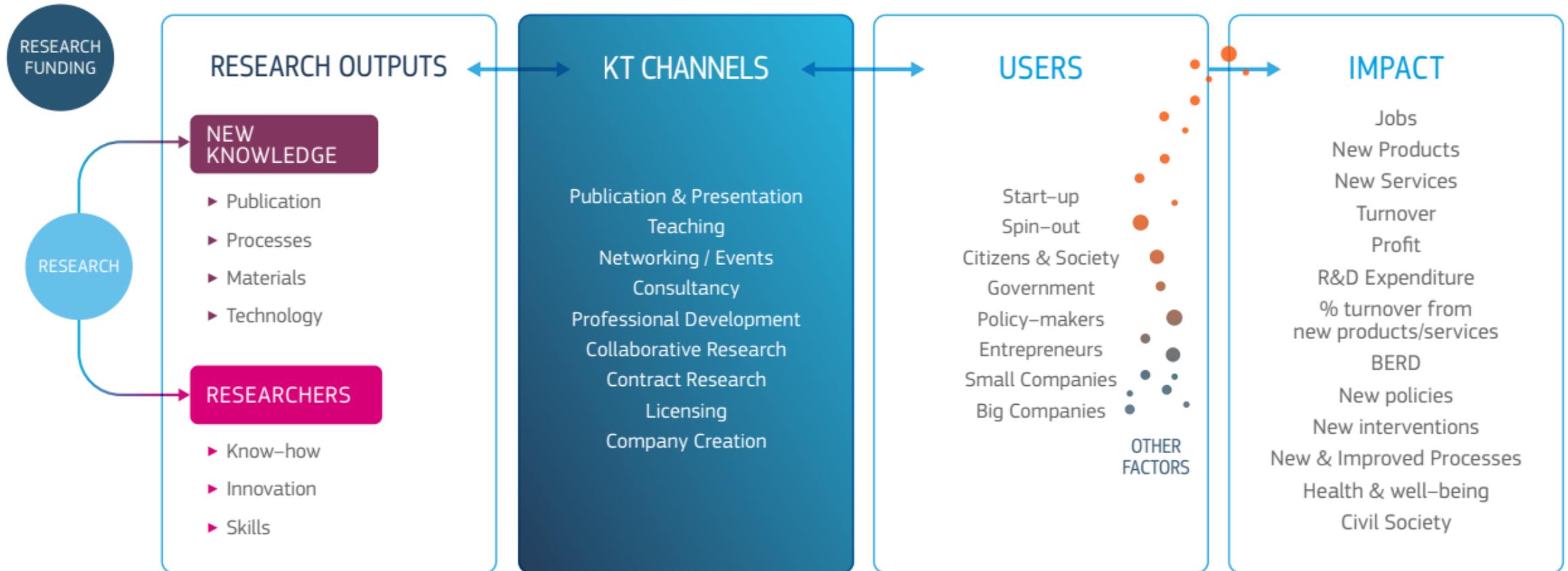
PCR



Harry Potter

Impact of research on economy and society

Application and/or exploitation of research results involves many stakeholders for various impacts



How to protect intellectual property?



Several means of protection

Copyright

Trademarks

Designs,
Models

Trade
Secret

Plant variety
certificates

Patents

Example: IPR involved in one single product, a smartphone

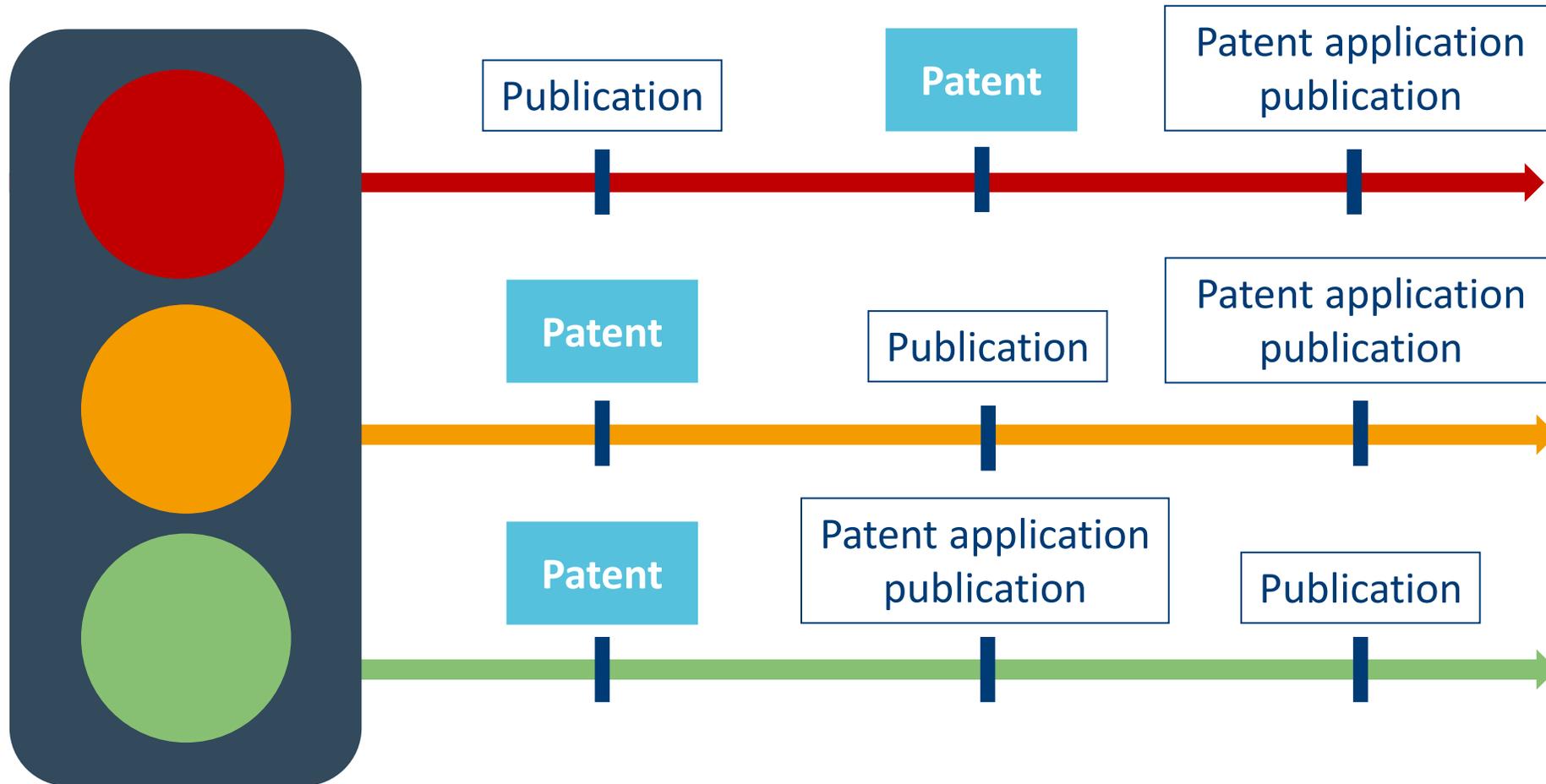




Academic Research and IP Policy: A long story of Misunderstandings, Prejudices and False Debates!

Protect vs. Publish: a false debate!

It's a mere question of timing





Quality of science vs. protection: Yet another false debate!



Yves Chauvin

Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2005 – Discovery of the mechanism of the metathesis reaction (with Bob Grubbs and Dick Schrock)

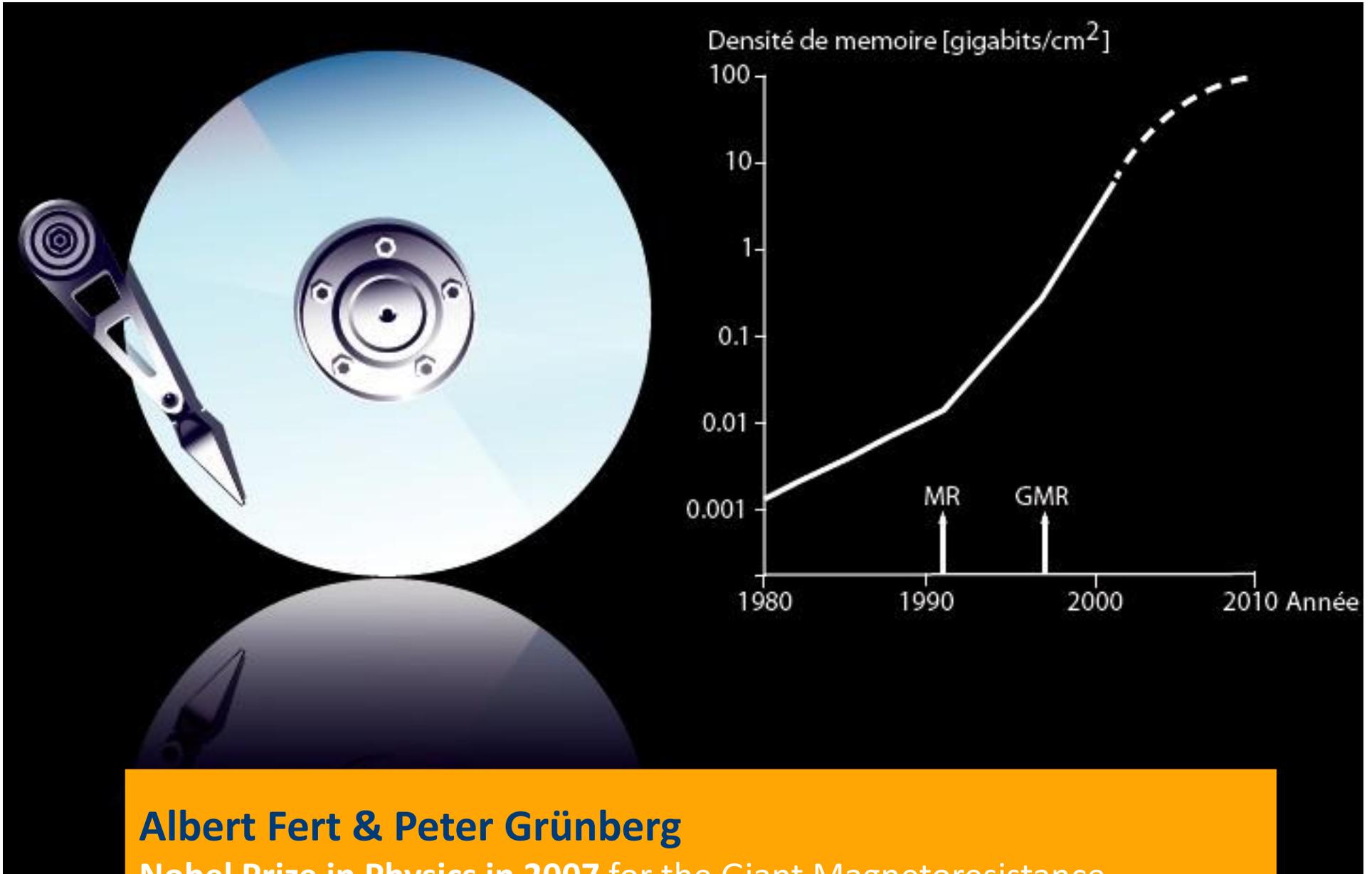
117 patents



Kary Mullis

Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2003 for the discovery and development of the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)

Technology sold to Hoffmann-La Roche in 1991: 300.000.000 USD (225 M€)



Albert Fert & Peter Grünberg

Nobel Prize in Physics in 2007 for the Giant Magnetoresistance



Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano & Shuji Nakamura
Nobel Prize in Physics in 2014 for the invention of blue light-emitting diodes (LED)

Why should you protect
the results of you research?



Why should you protect the results of you research (as well as every creation you might make) ?

- ▶ To preserve your rights as a creator
- ▶ To prevent others to exploit your invention without prior consent
- ▶ To increase economic development via technology transfer
- ▶ To facilitate partnerships
- ▶ Possible leverage effect to get funding
- ▶ Possible financial returns

What ULB can do
for your research projects?



OUR MISSIONS AS A KTO

2024

Foster collaborations with companies and accompany researchers in projects setup

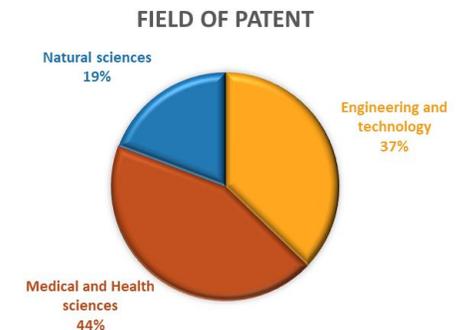
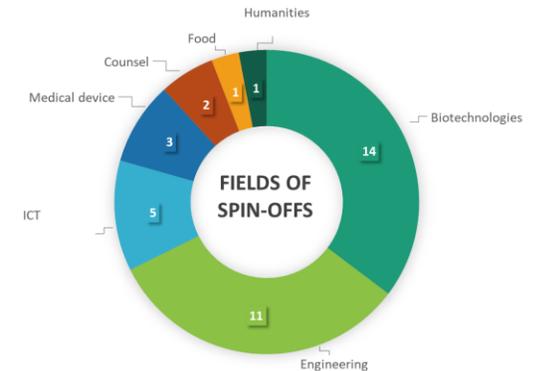
IP management and patent portfolio

Technology transfer: Licensing, spin-off

60+ M € allocated to applied research managed by the KTO: around 25% of ULB research budget

- > 76 active patent families
- > 30 other active technologies
- > 8 patent priority applications
- > 18 I-depots

- > 80 technologies transferred
- > 15 new technology transfer contracts
- > 37 active spin-offs



What ULB-KTO can do for your projects

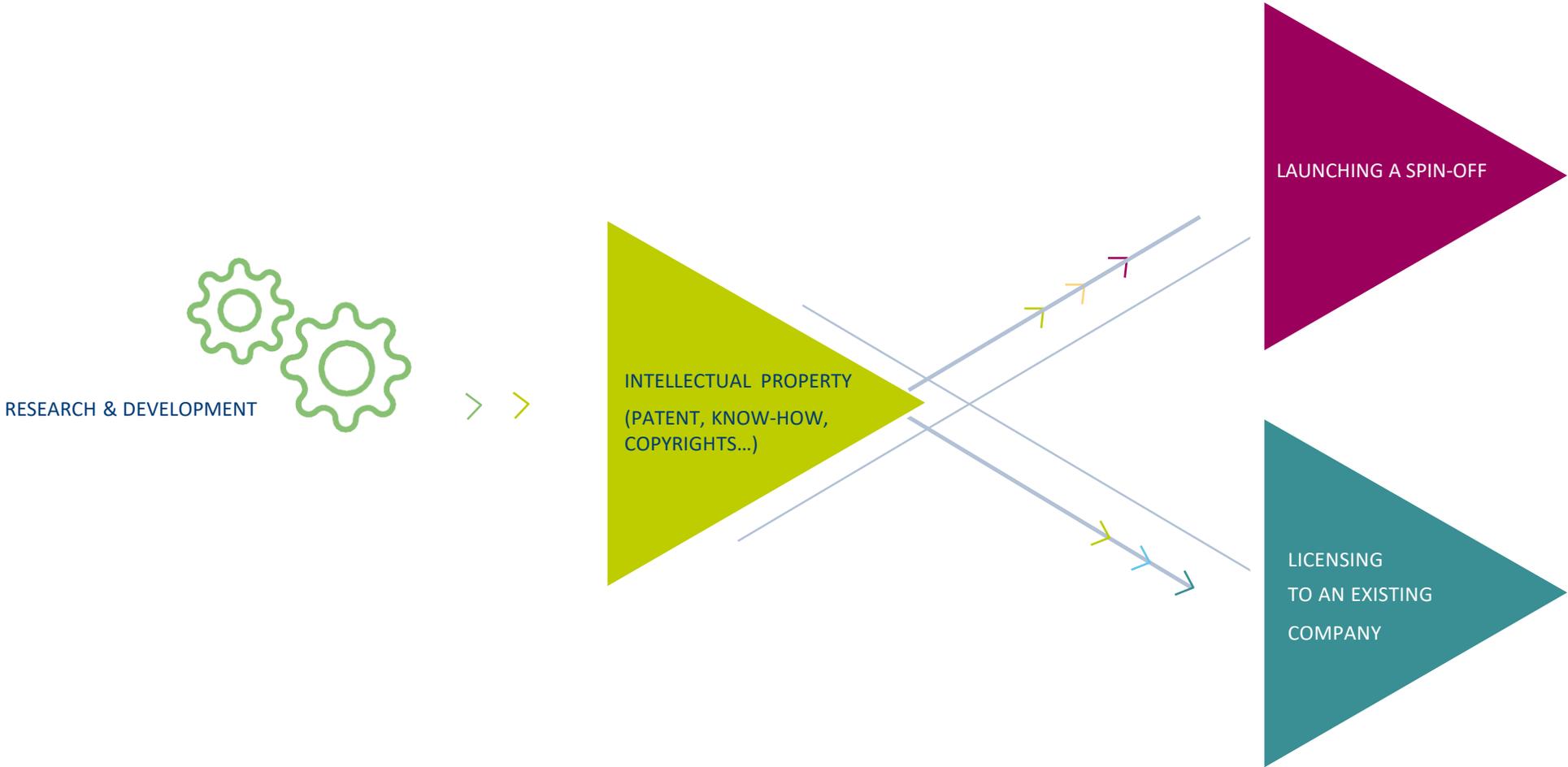
SETUP OF A PROJECT

- > Explanation of eligibility criteria and understanding of the guidelines and interfacing to funders
- > Identification of potential partners and participation to matchmaking events
- > Proofreading of your proposal (letter of intention and full proposal) and the budget
- > Setup of a knowledge transfer and regional impact strategy
- > Advice on ethical issues
- > Manage/help with paper and/or online submissions and gather required official documents (host institution letter, partnership agreements...)
- > Briefing for oral submission
- > Legal assistance (consortium agreements, confidentiality agreements, sponsorship agreements, collaboration agreements)

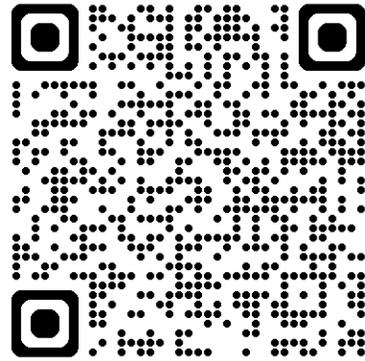
FOLLOW-UP OF A PROJECT

- > Participation to monitoring committees
- > Identification of transferrable results
- > Management of intellectual property and its costs
- > Strategy of protection and transfer of results (patent filing, licensing negotiation, spin-off creation)

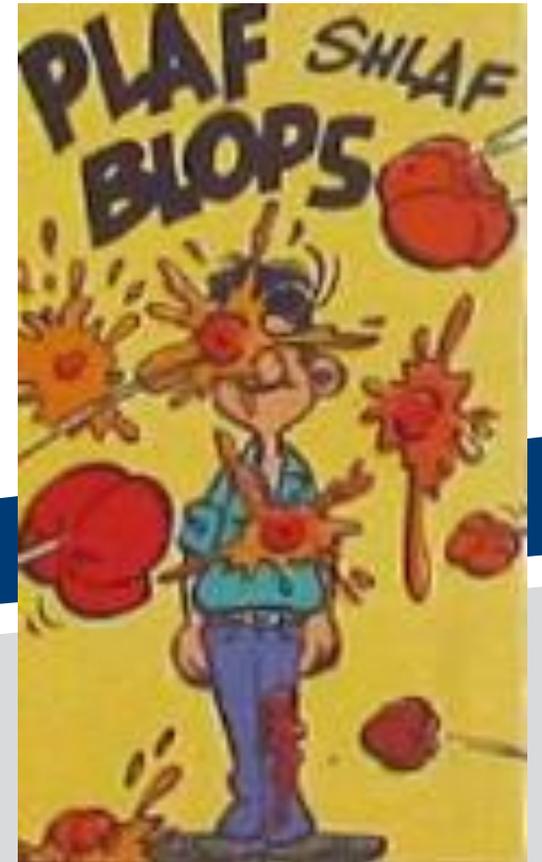
PROCESSES: KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



More info and contacts: portail.ulb.be/en/research



QUESTIONS?

