

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy for Research

Effective Date: 01 January 2023

Introduction

This Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy for Research outlines the guidelines and procedures related to the ownership, protection, and management of intellectual property arising from research activities conducted at Maritime Research Center. This policy aims to foster innovation, encourage collaboration, and ensure fair and equitable distribution of benefits from the creation and utilization of intellectual property resulting from research efforts.

Scope

This policy applies to all researchers, employees, students, and external collaborators involved in research activities conducted within or in association with Maritime Research Center.

Definitions

- (a) Intellectual Property (IP): IP refers to intangible creations of the mind, including inventions, patents, copyrights, trademarks, trade secrets, and any other original works produced as a result of research activities.
- (b) Inventor(s): Inventor(s) refers to individuals who contribute to the conception and reduction to practice of an invention eligible for patent protection.
- (c) Creator(s): Creator(s) refers to individuals who produce original works eligible for copyright protection, such as literary, artistic, and software creations.

Ownership of Intellectual Property

- (a) By default, intellectual property created by individuals within the scope of their employment or under the direct support of Maritime Research Center shall be the property of the organization.
- (b) Exceptions to the default ownership may be made on a case-by-case basis through separate written agreements, contracts, or funding arrangements. Such exceptions must be approved in writing by the relevant authorities and must be consistent with the Maritime Research Center's strategic objectives.
- (c) If research involves collaborative efforts with external entities, ownership of intellectual property shall be governed by the terms agreed upon in the collaborative research agreements.

Disclosure and Reporting

- (a) Researchers, employees, and students involved in research activities must promptly disclose any potential intellectual property to the designated Intellectual Property Committee at Maritime Research Center.
- (b) Disclosure should be made in writing and include sufficient details for the assessment of novelty, potential commercial viability, and any relevant prior art.
- (c) Failure to disclose intellectual property may result in forfeiture of rights to the invention or creation.

Intellectual Property Protection

- (a) The Intellectual Property Committee shall evaluate each disclosed intellectual property for its novelty, inventiveness, and commercial potential.
- (b) If deemed appropriate, Maritime Research Center may seek legal protection for valuable intellectual property through patents, copyrights, or other relevant mechanisms.
- (c) Decisions regarding IP protection, including the initiation and funding of patent applications, shall be made on a case-by-case basis with consideration of the potential economic benefits, strategic goals, and available resources.

Commercialization and Licensing

- (a) In cases where Maritime Research Center holds the rights to intellectual property, the organization shall actively explore opportunities for commercialization through licensing agreements, spin-off ventures, or other appropriate means.
- (b) Revenue generated from commercialization shall be distributed in accordance with Maritime Research Center's revenue-sharing policy, ensuring fair and equitable participation for all involved parties.

Open Access and Publications

- (a) Maritime Research Center encourages the timely and responsible dissemination of research findings through open-access publications, where possible and compatible with intellectual property protection.
- (b) Researchers are expected to adhere to copyright and licensing agreements when publishing their research outputs.

Conflict Resolution

In case of disputes related to intellectual property ownership, protection, or commercialization, Maritime Research Center will follow a defined conflict resolution process, involving relevant stakeholders and legal counsel, if necessary.

Policy Review

This IPR Policy for Research shall be reviewed periodically every year by the organisation to ensure its relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with Maritime Research Center's goals.

By following this Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy for Research, Maritime Research Center seeks to foster an environment of innovation, collaboration, and responsible utilization of intellectual property to advance knowledge and benefit society.

Dr (Cdr) Arnab Das

Director, Maritime Research Center, Pune

01 January 2023