

Foreword

Technology and Innovation Support Centers (TISCs) and Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) in developing countries, least developed countries and transition countries play a key role in enabling local innovators to reach their innovation potential.

Typically located in patent offices, universities, research centers, and science and technology parks, TISCs enable researchers and inventors to get local support in accessing and using technological information from more than 150 million published patent documents and scores of scientific and technical publications. In recent years, many TISCs have started developing additional innovation support services in patent analytics, technology transfer, intellectual property (IP) management and commercialization to adapt to the needs of innovators.

TTOs and other technology transfer structures such as techno-parks and IP hubs facilitate connections between innovation stakeholders by bridging the gap between research and practice and by supporting the transfer of knowledge and technology from academia to industry.

Created and managed by the IP for Innovators Department (IPID) in the WIPO IP and Innovation Ecosystems Sector (IES), the TISC program and technology transfer projects support WIPO's mission to help member states develop their IP and innovation ecosystems and to support researchers and innovators in using the IP system for innovation promotion, technology transfer and economic growth.

With the vision to evolve continuously and adapt to the needs and challenges of innovators, the program also strives to expand its portfolio of resources to support TISCs and TTOs in building their capacities to meet the demands of the innovators they serve. Examples of such resources that will gradually be added and offered to TISCs and TTOs include support for patent drafting, support for IP commercialization and valuation, and advice on how to use IP as collateral to secure financing.

“South Africa started its TISC journey in 2014 with WIPO as our dedicated partner, leading us toward a future where we experience and think of innovation in our daily lives. Our TISC journey has not just been about accessing resources, it has been about inspiring everyone on the endless possibilities of IP, unlocking the potential of our people and ultimately playing a catalytic role in the transformation of ideas into tangible assets that will make an impact in our communities!”

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