Licensing Policy

The "Recommendation on the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities and Code of Practice for universities and other public research organisations" of the European Commission serves Kiel University as a guideline for setting reliable frameworks for licensing, too. If the legal framework conditions, particularly EU state aid regulations, can be adhered to, a benefit for the society has a higher priority than financial gain. The principles of fairness when balancing the interests of all parties involved must be adhered to, from the initial idea through to utilisation.

Kiel University holds its own intellectual property rights, which, on the one hand, could be part of an IPR strategy in research areas and, on the other hand, can be obtained specifically for commercial utilisation.

Within the framework of utilisation, rights can be transferred in terms of licensing or selling. In principle, intellectual property rights should be provided to the widest possible range of potential users to be able to attain market-driven conditions. In addition, the conditions must be oriented towards market conditions, which ensure a general fairness in all agreements. If intellectual property rights are not intended to be provided on the market, the market value must be determined by an independent assessor for reasons of competition. This valuation forms the basis of licensing negotiations.

It is possible to issue options to obtain intellectual property rights of relevant research findings and inventions which emerge during cooperation, so that Kiel University does not have to make a decision about its licensing until after use.

Special guidelines for start-ups are in preparation in Kiel University’s Zentrum für Entrepreneurship (Centre for Entrepreneurship, ZfE).