

The role of IP in the technology transfer process

The 21st Century has been called the Knowledge Century in several fora, so, producing Knowledge is a worldwide spread fact that several types of organizations (institutions, companies, countries,...) are trying to do better than others. The key is then what to do with that knowledge? The big question is, how can that raw knowledge be capitalized for the benefit of the producer? It is very difficult to find any technical field where the IPR's are not taken into account. Nanotechnology (with its broad technical coverage) is not different. Industrial Property Rights have become a cornerstone of any R&D and Commercial strategy. In the process of internationalization every company must prepare a thorough strategy to make the best out of their investment, any conflict on IPR's can weak the project and eventually stop it. It is no surprise how competing companies fight their way out into the markets using IPR's either as a defensive or attacking weapon. In the Technology Transfer process, when the knowledge travels from laboratories to markets IPR's are regarded as one of the key elements to accomplish such journey. IP also brings new perspectives to R&D as patent protected cross-border technologies are public, standard, classified and structured. A better knowledge of IPR's legal basis can help to strengthen the companies position in the market.