

# *Intellectual Asset Management*

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## ***Topics***

- Intellectual property at JPL
- New technology reporting process
- Commercialization at JPL
- Legal background
- Process/function chart
- “Guiding principles” for Cognizant Engineers
- Summary
- Contact information

## ***Technology Development***

- Any activity involved in the creation of something new, or the improvement of something that has already been developed
- Formulation of a technology concept or application, transforming the concept into hardware or software, and taking it to the point where it is proven to work in a controlled, relevant environment
  - Formulation of concept
  - Proof-of-concept validation
  - Module, component, and breadboard validation
  - End-to-end prototype demonstration
  - All improvements included to make the hardware or software functional or increase functionality

## ***Intellectual Property at JPL***

- There are two primary types of intellectual property (IP) that are developed at JPL: patents and copyrights
- Caltech has the right of first refusal for any invention developed at JPL; NASA can patent if Caltech declines
- Software is copyrighted when created
- In general, neither Caltech nor NASA patents software because the copyright allows Caltech to license the software, and NASA gets half of the royalties paid to Caltech for licensed software

## ***New Technology Reporting Process***

- Technology developed at JPL must be reported
  - The Prime Contract requires new technology be reported to NASA
  - Caltech needs to know technologies developed at JPL so that it can patent those technologies as appropriate
- Forms to report both hardware and software are at <http://ip>
- Document Review must approve disclosing technology developed at JPL externally. If there is no New Technology Report (NTR) number listed on the Document Review form, then they will refer the disclosure to the JPL Intellectual Asset (IA) Group so that the group can determine if a disclosure needs to be made. This will slow down the approval process for the dissemination, so it is best if the NTR is filed first

## ***NASA Invention and Contribution Board Awards***

- Contributors on NTRs are eligible for several NASA Invention and Contribution Board (ICB) awards
  - Tech Briefs (\$350); Publication in *Tech Brief* magazine, requires Technical Support Package for the NTR
  - Space Act Awards (up to \$100,000)
    - Caltech patents are automatically eligible for Space Act Awards
  - NASA Patent Award (\$350/\$500)
  - NASA Software of the Year (up to \$100,000)
  - Software available for public release (software that is developed for a customer) (\$500/\$1000)

## ***Software Legal Background***

- Caltech owns the copyright and title to software developed by JPL employees
  - This is acknowledged in the NASA Prime Contract in paragraph H-53, page 113
- Caltech licenses all its software that leaves JPL, so Cognizant Engineers need to be sure that the procedures found in *JPL Rules!* are followed

# *Process/Function Chart*

Administer Intellectual Property Subdomain

J. Rooney, Owner

Report New Technology

Software  
Dissemination

NASA ICB Awards

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Chief Technologist's Office

Les Deutsch, Acting Chief Technologist

Strategic Intellectual Assets  
Management Office

J. Rooney, Manager

Strategic IP

New Technology  
Reporting

NTR/Tech Briefs  
Admin.

## ***“Guiding Principles” for Cognizant Engineers***

- Technology developed must be reported
- External releases of information describing technology must go through Document Review
- The government has a license in technology (including software) developed at JPL
- Project releases of software must be in accordance with existing policies and procedures found in *JPL Rules!*
- All software should incorporate the Caltech copyright notice (found in the *Software Dissemination Policy*)
- Export considerations apply to releases of technology, especially software; the group works with the export office to make sure that technology is properly exported
- Releases through subcontracts are handled by the Acquisition Division

## ***Summary***

- Caltech and NASA have rights to technology developed here at JPL, and JPL has an obligation to protect those rights
- Technology developed must be reported at <http://ip.jpl.nasa.gov>
- Disseminating software can also contribute to exporting that software. Be sure to have the export office involved if there is any chance of exporting the software when giving it out
- Monetary awards are available to contributors for technology reported using the *Reporting New Technology Process* at <http://ip.jpl.nasa.gov>

## ***Contact Information***

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