

## Invention Disclosure for Inventions of ETH Zurich employees

**Title of the Invention** (Please provide a general title that is descriptive of your invention)

Every year ETH Zurich celebrates the most promising invention of the year based on a thorough evaluation of its originality, patent strength and commercial potential. The winner(s) will be presented with the Spark Award as a symbol of the inventive spirit and the innovative strength of ETH Zurich's scientists.



Your invention will automatically be reviewed for the annual "[Spark Award](#)".

This **Invention Disclosure** form requests inventors to specify all details of the invention and the commercial value that we consider necessary to evaluate the invention. Please answer all the questions as your answers will help us in its initial assessment of the invention. This form will then form the basis of a more detailed subsequent individual discussion.

Please complete this form and send it to: [ip-disclosure@ethz.ch](mailto:ip-disclosure@ethz.ch)

**This invention disclosure can be signed electronically.**

Should you have any questions, please call us on 044 632 29 63 or write an e-mail to [ip-disclosure@ethz.ch](mailto:ip-disclosure@ethz.ch). Further information is also on our [Protect Intellectual Property](#) web page.

**Send the fully signed document to**  
**[ip-disclosure@ethz.ch](mailto:ip-disclosure@ethz.ch)**

## A INVENTOR(S)

Inventor is the person who conceived the invention. Please note that being present during a meeting, providing research support, or performing or setting up experiments, while valuable to the research process, does not indicate a contribution to the conception of the invention. This definition is different and stricter than that of co-authorship of a scientific publication. Failure to correctly name inventors might in some cases lead to the loss of the protection right. Name in this form also all external inventors. If you have any doubt regarding inventorship please [contact us](#).

This section should be completed in full by each person who conceived the invention. The Invention Disclosure must be signed by all inventors and the responsible professor(s) in Section H "SIGNATURES OF INVENTOR(S) AND PROFESSOR(S)".

**Note:** The order of the inventor names listed below does not necessarily correspond to the order of the inventor names in a future patent application. The order has no relevance to a patent application and is subject to change without notice. In patent law, all inventors are treated equally. Furthermore, our office may not influence the order chosen by the Patent Office.

PERSONAL DETAILS	Inventor 1	Inventor 2	Inventor 3	Inventor 4
First Name				
Middle Name				
Last Name				
Gender				
Title				
Nationality				
E-mail				
Phone number				
ETH Zurich Role <sup>1</sup>				
Affiliation <sup>2</sup>				
PRIVATE ADDRESS <sup>3</sup>				
Street and Number				
Post code				
City				
Country				
Private E-mail				
INVENTION SHARE <sup>4</sup>				
	%	%	%	%
CONTACT PERSON <sup>5</sup>				

<sup>1</sup> At the time the invention was conceived, select from the drop down menu, if you were an **ETHZ student** (master or bachelor student), an **ETHZ employed person** (PhD Student, academic researcher, professor or ETHZ employed person) or an **external person**.

<sup>2</sup> Responsible Professor/Institute or, if external inventor, please detail name and address of the employer.

<sup>3</sup> The private address is needed by the patent offices.

<sup>4</sup> Contribution of the inventor to the invention. Must add to 100% for all inventors together.

<sup>5</sup> Contact person for any questions. Only one inventor can be selected and should be an **ETHZ employee**.

## A INVENTOR(S) (continuation)

Inventor is the person who conceived the invention. Please note that being present during a meeting, providing research support, or performing or setting up experiments, while valuable to the research process, does not indicate a contribution to the conception of the invention. This definition is different and stricter than that of co-authorship of a scientific publication. Failure to correctly name inventors might in some cases lead to the loss of the protection right. Name in this form also all external inventors. If you have any doubt regarding inventorship please [contact us](#).

**Note:** The order of the inventor names listed below does not necessarily correspond to the order of the inventor names in a future patent application. The order has no relevance to a patent application and is subject to change without notice. In patent law, all inventors are treated equally. Furthermore, our office may not influence the order chosen by the Patent Office.

PERSONAL DETAILS	Inventor 5	Inventor 6	Inventor 7	Inventor 8
First Name				
Middle Name				
Last Name				
Title				
Nationality				
E-mail				
Telephone				
ETH Zurich Role <sup>6</sup>				
Affiliation <sup>7</sup>				
PRIVATE ADDRESS <sup>8</sup>				
Street and Number				
Post code				
City				
Country				
Private E-mail				
INVENTION SHARE <sup>9</sup>				
	%	%	%	%
CONTACT PERSON <sup>10</sup>				

<sup>6</sup> At the time the invention was conceived, select from the drop down menu, if you were an **ETHZ student** (master or bachelor student), an **ETHZ employed** person (PhD Student, academic researcher, professor or ETHZ employed person) or an **external person**.

<sup>7</sup> Responsible Professor/Institute or, if external inventor, please detail name and address of the employer.

<sup>8</sup> The private address is needed by the patent offices.

<sup>9</sup> Contribution of the inventor to the invention. Must add to 100% for all inventors together.

<sup>10</sup> Contact person for any questions. Only one inventor can be selected and should be an **ETHZ employee**.

## B DETAILS OF THE INVENTION

We will use this document to obtain a preliminary overview of the invention and may perform an initial patent search. The details of the invention that you send us should therefore be as comprehensive and complete as possible.

The description of the invention should highlight the essential new feature(s) of the invention. You should also specify precisely how this invention solves a technical problem.

In this regard, the description of an invention and the content of a possible patent application differs substantially from a scientific publication. Lengthy and fruitless prior experiments as well as an explanation of the scientific basis may be included as secondary constituents of the invention disclosure. Although neither of these represents the core of a patent application, they can nevertheless help to provide an explanation of the invention.

<b>[1] Summary</b>	(max. 30 words)
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<b>[2] Keywords</b>	Describe your invention with keywords (for searches in patent databases).
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<b>[3] Description of the Problem</b>	Explain in detail what problem(s) does your invention solve? Why was the invention needed? Please provide numbered Figures, Schemes, Formulas etc. in a separate document, and refer to them in the text.
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<sup>11</sup> The description of the invention should not exceed two A4 pages.

<sup>12</sup> Please explain abbreviations, acronyms, shortened terms, etc. if necessary. A separate and more detailed description of the invention (copies of any manuscripts, photographs, drawings, tables etc.) may be added to this form, but should not replace this description.

<b>[4] Description of Invention<sup>11</sup></b>	Describe the important features of your invention <sup>12</sup> . How does your invention work? Detail the novel feature(s) (e.g. parts, classes of ingredients, process steps) of the invention that solve(s) the problem(s) identified in paragraph [3]. At least one example should describe the best method or embodiment you are aware of for operating/preparing the invention. Please provide numbered Figures, Schemes, Formulas etc. in a separate document, and refer to them in the text.
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<sup>11</sup> The description of the invention should not exceed two A4 pages.

<sup>12</sup> Please explain abbreviations, acronyms, shortened terms, etc. if necessary. A separate and more detailed description of the invention (copies of any manuscripts, photographs, drawings, tables etc.) may be added to this form, but should not replace this description.

<b>[4] Description of Invention<sup>11</sup> (continuation)</b>	Describe the important features of your invention <sup>12</sup> . How does your invention work? Detail the novel feature(s) (e.g. parts, classes of ingredients, process steps) of the invention that solve(s) the problem(s) identified in paragraph [3]. At least one example should describe the best method or embodiment you are aware of for operating/preparing the invention. Please provide numbered Figures, Schemes, Formulas etc. in a separate document, and refer to them in the text.
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<sup>11</sup> The description of the invention should not exceed two A4 pages.

<sup>12</sup> Please explain abbreviations, acronyms, shortened terms, etc. if necessary. A separate and more detailed description of the invention (copies of any manuscripts, photographs, drawings, tables etc.) may be added to this form, but should not replace this description.

[5] **Alternative Features**

Explain what alternatives to the above mentioned features of your Invention may be employed, and which features are essential (e.g., are there different parts, ingredients or process steps that could be employed with your invention even if they are not optimal?).

Please provide numbered Figures, Schemes, Formulas etc. in a separate document, and refer to them in the text.



[6] **State of the Art**

State how the problem(s) described above (paragraph [3]) were addressed prior to your invention (what did people do before your invention?). Please provide references (see below) including short statements pointing out the differences between every below cited document and your invention.

[6] **State of the Art (continuation)**

Have you searched the publicly available literature for articles and patents that are relevant to the problem (paragraph [3]) or to your invention (paragraph [4])?

No

Yes; Please list below any relevant publicly available literature, patents, etc. relating to previous solutions to said problem(s), or to your invention:

**Patent documents:**

**Scientific Literature:**

**Other:**

<b>[7] Technical Improvement</b>	What is the technical improvement of your invention compared to the state of the art technology (e.g. faster, more sensitive than existing solutions, less manufacturing steps). Please explain briefly below:
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<b>[8] Dependencies</b>	Is this invention dependent on an earlier ETH Zurich invention that was applied as a patent? No Yes; Please specify the Patent Application Number or the ETHZ internal reference: Other; Please specify:
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## C COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION

We do not file patent applications for all inventions we receive due to the high costs of the first and subsequent filing(s)<sup>13</sup>.

If possible, it is desirable to have an interested potential licensee before committing to patent filing. If no licensee is known in advance, we evaluate the commercial potential and analyzes the market potential of the invention to justify filing. Only inventions with a good commercial potential, reasonable market size and clear competitive advantage are filed by us.

Inventors can and should look for potential licensees of their invention during every phase of the technical development and the patenting procedures.

You may also specify whether you plan to set up a Spin-off company in order to market the invention by yourself.

<b>[9] Development Status</b>	Please specify the development status of your invention. The invention exists as:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>An idea</li><li>Plans, drawings, calculations</li><li>An experiment</li><li>A sample or prototype</li><li>Other:</li></ul> <p>Will the invention be further developed?</p> <p>Remarks:</p>
<b>[10] Competitive Advantages</b>	What are the competitive advantages or the potential disadvantages of your invention compared to the available products on the market (e.g. cheaper, easier to scale, etc.). Please explain briefly below:

<sup>13</sup> For the first application (priority application) we estimate a cost around 10'000 CHF. Every subsequent application costs more than 10'000 CHF.

[11] **Use of the  
Invention**

How and in which product can your invention be commercially used?

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[12] **Interested  
Companies**

Which specific companies/partners could be interested in exploiting the invention?

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In case you have already been in contact with some of them, please add the name and function of your contact person.

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[13] **Market  
Assessment**

Assessment of market potential:

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To strengthen your assessment above, please try to estimate the market potential (e.g. by number of sold pre-existing products or by number of potential end users or by estimating the market size in CHF).

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[14] **Founding a Spin-off**

Do you wish to exploit the invention yourself by founding a Spin-off company?

No

Yes

If yes, please provide a short paragraph about your planned business. Please answer the following questions:

*What are you going to sell?*

*Who will be your customers?*

*How much investment will be needed to enter the market?*

*What are the next milestones for your business after filing of a patent application?*

## D ORAL DISCLOSURES AND PUBLICATIONS

Any piece of information disclosed regarding your invention could destroy the novelty or jeopardize your invention, making it impossible to patent the invention.

Every written or oral declaration made outside the laboratory (i.e. in a circle that goes beyond an internal group seminar) and without an obligation to confidentiality is regarded as a publication. If a publication is planned, you must specify the realistic time of publication, as a patent application should in any case precede a publication.

<b>[15] Publication</b>	<p>Has the invention or parts of it already been disclosed in writing or orally?</p> <p>No, this invention was not disclosed at all, not even partially.</p> <p>Yes, Date submitted<sup>14</sup>: Date placed online: Date published in print:</p> <p>In case of oral disclosure, date of disclosure:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="475 779 1161 869"><tr><td>Was the submission or the oral disclosure confidential?</td><td>No Yes</td></tr></table> <p>Remarks:</p>	Was the submission or the oral disclosure confidential?	No Yes
Was the submission or the oral disclosure confidential?	No Yes		

<p>Is any publication, in writing or orally, planned?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes, Planned date of submission<sup>15</sup>: Planned date of online placement: Planned date of published in print:</p> <p>Remarks:</p>
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<p>Is any submission of a PhD Thesis planned?</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes, Planned date of submission to the <b>Doctoral Administration Office</b> of the deposit copies of your PhD thesis:</p> <p>Expected defense presentation date:</p> <p>Remarks:</p> <p><b>Important!</b> The submission to the <b>Doctoral Administration Office</b> of the deposit copies of the PhD thesis or the public defense of your work can be “novelty” destroying for the invention. In case of doubt, please contact us.</p>
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<sup>14</sup> The earliest disclosure of the invention is relevant for us. Please enclose the publication.

<sup>15</sup> The publication should be submitted to the editor or orally disclosed only if the confidentiality of the content is guaranteed. We must be informed at least 3 months before the publication is submitted. Should the content of the invention be disclosed before the patent is filed, then the novelty of the invention is destroyed.

[16] **Other disclosure**

Yes No Not sure

Has there been a sample/prototype provided to anyone under an NDA<sup>16</sup> or MTA<sup>17</sup>?

Has the invention been demonstrated for or used by anyone other than in your laboratory?

If you have answered "Yes" to any of the above questions, please provide detailed information below regarding the relevant dates and circumstances:

<sup>16</sup> Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA).

<sup>17</sup> Material Transfer Agreement (MTA).



## E FINANCIAL SUPPORT AND RIGHTS OF THIRD PARTIES

This section serves to elucidate if ETH Zurich has any obligations to a third party.

To assess the ownership and the rights of use of the invention it is mandatory to know if the invention was conceived within a project with a third party or funded by a third party, or the inventor salary was paid with third party funds, or for the invention was used material/information from third parties for which an agreement exists. In such a case, these third parties may claim rights to your invention.

**We request the responsible professor(s) to add the following information.**

- [17] **Was the invention conceived in a project with a third party or with external financial contributions?<sup>18</sup>**
- Yes, the invention was made in a project with a third party or with external financial contributions.**  
Please specify here the collaboration partner(s), funding source and the agreement details (ID number, project number, title, etc.):
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Note: Please provide a copy of the agreement(s) with this document.**
- [18] **Was the salary of an ETH Zurich inventor paid with external financial contributions?<sup>19</sup>**
- Yes, the inventor's salary was paid with third party funds.**  
Please detail the funding source and the agreement details (ID number, project number, title, etc.):
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Note: Please provide a copy of the agreement(s) with this document.**
- [19] **Have you used any material for the invention from a third party?**
- Yes, we have used material from a third party**  
Please detail which kind of material, the agreement you signed (e.g. MTA, NDA or Purchase Agreement) and the agreement details (ID number, project number, title, etc.):
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Note: Please provide a copy of the agreement(s) with this document.**
- [20] **Have you used any idea and/or information for the invention a from third party (e.g. under an NDA, consulting agreement, visitor agreement)?**
- Yes, we have used ideas and/or information from a third party.**  
Please detail which information/ideas you used and, if any, the agreement details (ID number, project number, title, etc.):
- \_\_\_\_\_
- Note: Please provide a copy of the agreement(s) with this document.**

<sup>18</sup> If external inventors have contributed significantly and in an inventive way, please name the external inventors in Section A Inventor(s).

<sup>19</sup> EU funds; SNF; Innosuisse; funds from foundations; funds from collaboration agreement with industry; etc.

## **F GENERAL REMARKS/COMMENTS**

## **G ENCLOSURES**

- (a) Separate description of the invention and figures
- (b) Inventor's own papers/publications in the domain of the invention
- (c) Copy of agreements according to section E.
- (d)
- (e)

## H SIGNATURES OF INVENTOR(S) AND PROFESSOR(S)<sup>20</sup>

By submitting this invention, I accept the obligation to keep confidential both the contents of this document, as well as the entire subject matter of the scientific project surrounding the invention. The breach of said confidentiality could compromise the patent application and I will not publish any information without consulting both, the responsible professor and ETH transfer.

If ETH Zurich applies for a patent, I accept the obligation to provide all the necessary signatures for the patent procedures and accept to make myself available should my support be required during the course of the patent procedure, e.g. in order to answer scientific questions of patent examiners. I will to the best of my ability participate actively in the search for licensees and I will support IP & Licensing Group in their search for licensees.

Inventors are normally entitled to a share of one third of the net income, in case a patent is licensed to a third party. The individual share will be calculated according to the below percentage.

**I am aware that my share will be paid to my salary account as long as I am employed by ETH Zurich. In order to guarantee payments, any changes of private address (including e-mail) have to be reported within 30 days, with the internal reference number (e.g. 2025-xxx), to:**

**ETH Zurich, IP & Licensing Group HG E 36, Raemistrasse 101, 8092 Zurich (Switzerland)**

**I hereby confirm that I have read the complete invention disclosure and agree with it.**

	Name	Share	Place	Date	Signature
Inventor 1					
Inventor 2					
Inventor 3					
Inventor 4					
Inventor 5					
Inventor 6					
Inventor 7					
Inventor 8					

**Approved by Professor(s):**

**Place:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

Once the document has been signed, changes to the document are limited.

<sup>20</sup> This form can be signed individually by each inventor and professor(s). The name of the inventor and the share of the invention will be automatically copied from Section A (please complete first Section A).