

## The Commercialization of Research Findings Documented in Grey Literature

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The problem of economic efficiency of science has traditionally attracted much attention from both the society and the state in Russia. The reason is that the target task of bridging the gap between science and industry has not been achieved and realized. The problem existed and was widely discussed in the Soviet Union and is here to stay in Russia of today. It is quite true that Russia has always been well known for its world level of basic research and scientific achievements but it is evident as well that the industrial implementation of innovations in Russia has always been lagging behind the world standard.

But several other aspects of this permanent problem occurred in a more acute form during the post-Soviet transformation period that has mainly been preoccupied with political unrest however economics and science were also badly damaged by general disorder. The economic efficiency of science emerged on the government agenda again for the following reasons.

First, the budget for scientific research and development decreased dramatically so there was an urgent need for allocating and distributing the “scientific” money most effectively. Second, an overwhelming majority of scientific research and development was (in the Soviet Union) and still is (in Russia) state-funded. This factor is important to be understood when comprehending a different role of the Russian state in intellectual property production and rights distribution as compared to the Western situation. Because of this difference it has not been possible to directly implement the experience and legislation on intellectual property borrowed from abroad, say, from the USA or Europe.

When in the early nineties most of research and development and production organizations and enterprises were almost or completely deprived of the state financial support they were given a relative freedom to be in command of their intellectual products concluding direct agreements to sell or license their technologies, know-how or high-tech products. Several branches of science and industry (e.g. in the areas of aviation and space, nuclear technologies, titanium alloys) have been quite competitive internationally and some of their products were sold abroad directly without even the knowledge of higher state departments to say nothing of observing the state interests both financial and strategic.

So, the problem turned out to be twofold: the bulk of scientific results achieved in the Soviet Union and later on were not commercialized and left uninvolved in real economy (the situation has not been improving - according to the well-informed Moscow newspaper “Industrial Weekly” N 40, November 3 - 9, 2003 due to the existing legal confusion only 0,02% of the total intellectual property volume has been involved in economic operation in Russia now) while some intellectual products, if even a minor part of them, were commercialized but with no participation of the main investor - the state.

In order to improve the situation some important normative documents concerning intellectual property and scientific results were adopted by the legislature and government in the late nineties - early two thousands. To mention but the most significant acts:

- The Decree of President of the Russian Federation N 863 of July 22, 1998 “On the national strategy for involving scientific and technical activity results and intellectual property objects in economic operation”;
- The Enactment of the Government of the Russian Federation N 982 of September 2, 1999 “On the use of scientific and technical activity results”;
- Recommendations of the Parliament Hearings “On the legal support to the intellectual activity” of April 8, 1999 and “The problems of the government protection of intellectual property in the Russian Federation” of May 23, 2000;
- The Conception of the national strategy for involving government-funded scientific and technical activity results in economic operation, published in the leading journal in the field “Intellectual Property” N 7, 2000;