Step-by-Step Guide for Inventors

INVENTION
Your invention or research discovery may take the form of a new idea, experiment, observation, software, or data.

PRIOR TO PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
It is very important for you to contact the Polsky Center before making your discovery public (i.e., through a presentation or publication).

INNOVATION REPORT
You submit a confidential Innovation Report to document your invention and we will set up a meeting to discuss various commercialization options with you.

EVALUATE
We evaluate your submission and assess the commercial potential of the invention.

FORM A STARTUP
FIND A PARTNER

PATH TO MARKET
We identify the best path to market either through licensing to an existing company or creating a startup.

PROTECT
We select and pursue the best protection strategy for the invention (i.e., patent, trademark, copyright, or by other means).

START

LAUNCH
Once a startup is created, we work with you to license the invention to your startup.

MARKET
We market your technology to find a commercial partner interested in your invention.

LICENSE
Once a commercial partner is identified, we negotiate the terms of a license agreement for the IP.

COMMERCIALIZATION
The company turns your innovation into a product or service and brings it to market.

LICENSE
We license the IP to your startup using the UCGo! Startup License or a negotiated agreement.

VENTURE SUPPORT
We provide training, mentorship, opportunities for funding, and other resources to support your startup as it grows and seeks revenue, partnerships or an acquisition.

REVENUE
Revenues from the licensee are distributed to you, the inventor, and the University of Chicago.