



# ANNUAL NEWSLETTER FOR 2021/2022



# WELCOME

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After a challenging 2020 we are happy to say that the NIPMO team of 13 individuals did not falter in its commitment to serve the OTT community and implement the IPR Act efficiently and effectively!

We wish to congratulate Paballo Phiri and family of the birth of their third child in January 2021.

Jetane Charsley and Paballo Phiri are still acting Head: NIPMO until the appointment of the new Head later this year. Please include both in all your communication until the appointment of the new Head: NIPMO.

This year we tried something different with regards to the NIPMO news we share (tell us what you think).

Please remember to visit the NIPMO website for all NIPMO news and contact details. Do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions, queries or comments.

With warmest regards for a fabulous 2021!

## THE NIPMO TEAM

IP and SMEs:

# Taking your ideas to market

World Intellectual  
Property Day 2021  
**April 26**



# Get to know our NIPMO people...

## Interview with Ms Naomi Ngoasheng

*What kind of academic qualifications do you have?*

I have studied Office Management with Technikon Pretoria currently known as Tshwane University Technology. I have completed my legal qualification with the University of Johannesburg and trained in several IP Management courses.

*How did you join NIPMO?*

Prior to me joining NIPMO I worked for the Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office (CIPRO), currently known as Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) as a Trade Mark Searcher. I heard about the IPR Act and I was interested to be part of the new office. I also wanted to apply my mind to all aspects of IP and not just focus on a particular type of IP.

*How long have you been with NIPMO, and what do you do?*

Well, it's been 11 years now since I joined NIPMO. I would like to thank the NIPMO leadership for allowing me to explore my capabilities! I joined NIPMO as a IP disclosure analyst and grew within the office, through learnings and guidance from my managers, to become the IP Specialist in 2016.



*What are some of the challenges of your job?*

There is no "one size fits all" at NIPMO and that makes one think differently when dealing with different tasks.

*What single project or task would you consider your most significant career accomplishment at NIPMO?*

Creation of employment!!! Seeing people being employed and playing part in alleviating poverty which in my opinion is the most important goal of the National Development Plan.

*What skills do you bring to your position at NIPMO?*

Well as you know NIPMO deals with a lot of institutions which differ in culture and structures, I have therefore learned to be proactive and flexible so that I can adapt and relate to any culture.

*How much international exposure have you taken part through NIPMO?*

Let me not brag but the list is endless, I have attended trainings on IP management offered by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Japan Patents Office (JPO).

I have attended the SARIMA conference in Namibia and I represent NIPMO/DSI on two steering committees, namely SADC and BRICS.

### Did you know?

**Ms Naomi Ngoasheng is one of the employees that started with NIPMO when it was established in January 2011.**

# Highlights of 2020/21

During 2020/21 we had the following highlights:

**IP and TT survey** for the period 2014 to 2018 was finalised. To be published soon. Keep an eye on the NIPMO website!

## IP Fund

- Received 23 applications totalling R45.7 million.
- 50% rebate was provided for all qualifying claims.
- Disbursed just short of R21 million to 21 qualifying institutions.

## OTT Support Fund

- 6 new OTT Support Fund agreements concluded totalling R23 276 280 over a three-year funding cycle.
- 19 new and existing positions supported.

# From the NIPMO desk...

## Invention vs Innovation

*Written by Tshimangadzo Munyai*

People often use the terms "invention" and "innovation" interchangeably. This is incorrect. In its purest sense, invention can be defined as the creation of a product ("thing") or introduction of a process for the first time, whereas innovation means the implementation or putting in practice or use of this product/thing or process.

To better understand the difference between invention and innovation, it may help to consider some examples. Alexander Graham Bell (inventor) patented the telephone (invention) in 1876; however, IBM took the telephone and made it mobile (innovation) in 1992.

When Josef Schumpeter, the founder of innovation theory, introduced the distinction between invention and innovation, his main reason for doing so was "the realisation that what matters economically and societally is not the idea itself but its exploitation in the economic and social system".

The National Development Plan, South Africa's Vision for 2030, states that innovation "is the primary driver of technological growth and drives higher living standards". The 2019 White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) defines innovation as "the implementation of a new or significantly improved product (good or service) or process, or a new marketing method, or a new organisational model in business practice, workplace organisation or external relations".

While innovation alone does not guarantee faster economic growth, industrialisation and inclusive development, it remains a vital catalyst. This is recognised in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 9, which states that "without technology and innovation, industrialisation will not happen, and without industrialisation, development will not happen".

Inventions are a form of intellectual property, and can be protected by different means including patents, trademarks, copyrights and designs. These rights give an individual or organisation the right to use the intellectual property for a specific period while excluding others from using it.

While it is important to have an invention and protect it (where applicable), it is also important to be innovative, as innovation will determine how far the invention will go and what impact it will have in society. It is therefore important for an organisation to invest in both the creation of ideas/products/processes and in putting these into use in order to have successful innovations

## Did you know?

### NIPMO has :

- **Concluded 75 OTT Support Fund Agreements since 2011;**
- **Supported 31 institutions and 2 regional offices;**
- **Created/supported over 170 positions, associated training activities and institutional operational costs;**
- **Total contract value over R270 million.**

# From the NIPMO desk...cont

## *Invention vs Innovation*

As the world enters the Fourth Industrial Revolution, inventions and innovation will play an increasingly important part in solving South Africa's problems. Innovation is people orientated, and there will be a need to educate and motivate people to be problem solvers – in other words, to take inventions, be innovative and apply these to solve local problems.

To achieve this, we might need to change the way we educate our children, from an early age through to university level. Fostering an innovation/innovative mindset is one of the policy intents highlighted in the White Paper on STI.

Chief Albert Luthuli, in his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech of 1961, said that "scientific inventions, at all conceivable levels, should enrich human life". To this one could add that scientific inventions, put into practice, will lead to innovation that will drive technological growth and higher living standards and ultimately enrich human lives.

*IP advocacy and awareness is one of the key activities of NIPMO. For all NIPMO training sessions, please visit our website, <https://nipmo.dst.gov.za>.*

## Did you know?

### The top 5 most viewed innovations on the Innovation Bridge Portal are:

1. Mashsha Stoves by Sustainable Professionals
2. Zenzeleni Community Wifi Network Solutions by UWC
3. Noseta by WRC
4. Natural Biofertiliser from Kraalbos Extract by UWC
5. Spinetector Safety Vest by Inno R Solutions

# NIPMO deadlines

## IP7 status and commercialisation reports

**Due date:** The KIM System will be open for submission **until 30 April 2021** for the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021 **AND** open from 1 May 2021 **to 31 October 2021** for submission for the period 1 April 2021 to 30 September 2021.

**Website link:** Please refer to Practice Note 5 on the NIPMO website.

**Questions?** Please contact: Naomi Ngoasheng, copying Jetane Charsley

## OTT Support Fund applications

**Due date:** The KIM system will be open for applications from 15 May 2021 to 31 May 2021. **No applications will be accepted after 31 May 2021.**

**Website link:** Applications submitted must be in line with the provision of NIPMO Guideline 7 of OTT Support. Please visit the NIPMO website.

**Questions?** Please contact: Thabang Jase, copying Lungelwa Kula.

## IP Fund applications

**Due date:** Applications for the IP Fund will be accepted through hard copies, electronic copy (an excel and pdf version) of the IPF1 form submitted by email until 30 June 2021. **No applications will be accepted after 30 June 2021.**

**Website link:** Applications submitted must be in line with the provision of Guideline 2 regarding IP Fund applications. Please visit the NIPMO website for the latest version of the Guideline.

**Questions?** Please contact: Mantwa Kgarume, copying Paballo Phiri

## Cost projections for 2021/22 IP Fund

This financial year institution will not be required to submit cost projections.

**Due date:** **Not required**

**Questions?** Please contact: Mantwa Kgarume copying Paballo Phiri



# Highlights of 2020/21

During 2020/21 we had the following highlights:

## IP Wise™

- In line with the DSI vision - NIPMO is extending the reach of the IP Wise™ sessions to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges around the country!
- IP Wise™ sessions already completed at Gert Sibande TVET college...



# From the NIPMO desk...

## Why Every Organisation Needs An Office Of Technology Transfer

*Written by Thabang Jase*

Offices of Technology Transfer (OTTs), Technology transfer offices, Innovation Offices, Technology Licensing Offices – call it what you want - these offices are a must-have for any organisation.

**What is the purpose of this office, you might ask...** Jane Muir, 2014/15 President of Association of University Technology Managers had this to say about a need for OTTs: “Researchers come up with the best ideas, but unless those ideas are transformed into products and services, they won’t impact the lives of those around us. The OTT is important as it enables this process to run smoothly”.

The 2019 White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation describes an OTT as “focused on facilitating the identification, protection and use of intellectual property (IP) that emanates from research and development (R&D) for social and/or economic benefit. Researchers are the creators of this IP. By managing and protecting it appropriately, the technology transfer function helps researchers to translate their IP into useful and innovative products and services, creating an additional layer of impact for their research. It also gives industry access to this IP to further develop and use it commercially or otherwise”.

OTTs are therefore put in place to ensure ideas within an organisation are translated and transformed to make impact outside the organisation.

**Important elements to this office?** The most important elements needed to ensure the effective OTT are:

### • Structure

The three most common structures an OTT can assume is:

1. Department/Function within research office: The unit within a research office that manages IP on behalf of the institution at department level or an individual that takes care of the function;
2. Subsidiary Company of the institution: Institution holding company established to take care of IP management and technology transfer issues; or
3. Regional Office of Technology Transfer: Two or more institutions coming together to form an OTT for pooling of resources.

### • Mission

It is imperative for the OTT to align its mission with the institutions mission as well as applicable legislation. The mission will also, to a large extent, influence the overall strategy and approach of the OTT.

# From the NIPMO desk...cont

## *Why Every Organisation Needs An OTT*

### • Organisation

Buy-in of the OTT by the institutions' executives is crucial for its sustainability. The Chief Executive Officer/Director position is crucial and it should ideally be someone closer to top management. It is also crucial that an OTT is visible and easily accessible.

### • Staff

There are many functions that the OTT can (and should) perform, depending on the size and structure of the office. It is therefore essential that the OTT is staffed with qualified and well-trained personnel who would be able to assist the researchers in processing their ideas into tangible products.

### • Documentation management

It is imperative to ensure that information/document management systems are in place to capture and retrieve documents such as invention disclosure forms/presentations, patent specifications, licence agreements, non-disclosure agreements, material transfer agreements and any other information that is crucial in managing the OTT.

**Success factors...** A combination of various factors needs to be taken into consideration when an organisation is setting up an OTT that will be successful in the long term. A lot of support needs to be shown by management, researchers and OTT staff.

Some of the key success factors are:

- long-term commitment - it can take 7-12 years to realise first returns;
- commitment to recruiting, training and retaining staff;
- commercialisation training for researchers and IP managers;
- rewards for researchers;
- generation of quality IP with commercial potential;
- early-stage proof of concept funding; and
- commitment and buy-in from institutional management.

## Conclusions

The OTT is an enabling environment that fuels research advances and create impact in people's lives. Every year research yields discoveries with commercial potential. The OTT professionals exist in order to manage the complex process of shepherding ideas from the laboratories to the marketplace; from evaluating and protecting discoveries to commercialising the inventions through new and existing companies. It is for this reason that every organisation needs an OTT!

*For more information of OTTs, please visit the NIPMO website and download under best practices our OTT Framework entitled "Striving towards a technology transfer orientated nation".*

# Highlights of 2020/21

During 2020/21 we had the following highlights:

## **Innovation Bridge portal very active!**

- A total number of 424, 437 hits to date!!
- A total of 4 442 active users on the site for February 2021.
- Page Views: 24 656 (from 25 November 2020 – 25 February 2021).
- Social Media Following:
  - Facebook: 2636
  - Twitter: 402

## **DHET creative outputs (Innovations) – subsidies for patents/plant breeders' rights**

- 11 institutions submitted applications.
- 144.67 units awarded.

## **IPR Act amendment**

- Minister accepted the recommendations made by the NIPMO review panel in December 2020. Further actions to follow...

## **We are hiring!**

- Deputy Director: IP Attorney and
- Director: Advisory and Support advertised in February 2021.

## Did you know?

**As at March 2021, 35 of the 37 institutions have a dedicated technology transfer individual/office which assumes the role of the OTT.**

# Funding Opportunities

## OTT Support Fund Applications

Applications will be accepted this year for:

1. Institutions not previously funded by NIPMO as a priority on a three (3) year funding basis with an expectation that the institution will fund the outer two (2) years;
2. Institutions who have been previously funded, but do not have an active DSI/NIPMO agreement in place. Subject to the funding being for new positions (not existing positions) and the institution must be compliant with the requirements of the IPR Act

NIPMO reserves the right to make the final decision on which institutions receive the funding and to what extent such funding is provided. Applications submitted must be in line with the provision set out in NIPMO Guideline 7.1 of 2019: Office of Technology Transfer Support Fund. Please download a copy of the Guideline from the NIPMO website.

For further clarity on the OTT Support Fund submission on the KIM system, please contact Thabang Jase, copying Lungelwa Kula.

## IP Fund applications

Due to the difficulties experienced with the KIM system during the previous submission period, we will this year revert to the submission of electronic copies to NIPMO.

The electronic copy of the IPF1 form (in both excel and pdf version) should be emailed to Mantwa Kgarume and Paballo Phiri. Hard copies including the financial report signed off by the CFO/senior Finance personnel should be couriered to NIPMO office.

Applications submitted must be in line with the provision set out in Guideline 2.8 of 2021: Guidelines for Operation of the Intellectual Property Fund. Please visit the NIPMO website and download a copy of the Guideline.

For further clarity on the IP Fund submission, please contact Mantwa Kgarume, copying Paballo Phiri.

## DHET applications

The Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) has developed a policy on the evaluation of recognition of creative outputs and innovations. The purpose of the policy is to recognise and reward creative research outputs and innovations produced by public higher education institutions. The policy recognises Patents and Plant Breeders Rights (PBR) for the purposes of subsidy.

The deadline for the next round of applications is 30 November 2021. For further clarity please contact DHET or Lindiwe Mashimbye, copying Paballo Phiri.

## Innovation Bridge Portal

The Innovation Bridge Portal (IBP) is an online platform that aims to create linkages and networks between regional, national and international innovators, industry and public and private technology developers, commercialisation funding partners, and other relevant innovation players.

Please find the link for more information and funding opportunities available:  
<https://www.innovationbridge.info/ibportal>

## Did you know?

**You can create your own electronic brochure and personalise it with your institutions' colour pallet on the Innovation Bridge Portal.**

## DOWNLOAD BROCHURE

Generate a PDF brochure for: DNA Ligase Technology

### Customise your brochure

#### COVER PAGE INNOVATION IMAGE

Please tell us where you would like the image of your innovation to appear. (Not applicable if you do not have an image for your innovation)

On the left

#### PRIMARY COLOR\*

Please choose the color to be used for your brochure headings.

#004a89

#### SECONDARY COLOR\*

Please choose the color to be used for other special items on your brochure.

#4641b



# Upcoming events

## MARCH 2021: WIPO DL Courses

The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and NIPMO would like to invite all to enrol for the WIPO Academy Distance Learning (DL) courses.

These courses are offered under the framework of cooperation between the WIPO and Technology and Innovation Support Centres (TISCs) (i.e. all institutions/organisations that have entered into a TISC Hosting Agreement with NIPMO or are in the process of concluding such Agreement) and are aimed at enhancing the knowledge and skills in IP related topics.

Please register for these exciting training opportunities by end of March 2021. For further clarity on the WIPO DL courses, please contact Lungelwa Kula or Nodumo Maluleke.

## APRIL 2021: World IP Day

The World Intellectual Property (IP) Day is celebrated every year on 26 April. The theme for 2021 is **SMEs & IP: Taking your ideas to market.**

NIPMO would like to encourage all institutions to host IP advocacy and awareness events during the month of April 2021. For more suggestions on how you can get involved, please visit: <https://www.wipo.int/ip-outreach/en/ipday/>.

Download campaign materials at <https://trello.com/b/b8Ktpl0T/world-ip-day-2021-social-media-kit>.

For further clarity, please contact Thabang Jase.

## MAY 2021: WIPO Summer School

The WIPO Summer School on Intellectual Property and Transfer of Technology will again be organised by NIPMO, the Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC) as well as the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and will be hosted virtually from 18 to 27 May 2021.

Registration of this exciting event has been extended to 31 March 2021 - another bonus - its for free! **So dont delay - register today!!**

## JULY 2021: WIPO-NIPMO Workshop on IP Innovation Policy

This training course is offered by WIPO jointly with NIPMO for the benefit of developing countries to enhance the skills and knowledge of officials who deal with innovation policies and intellectual property strategies to enable their effective formulation and management. The workshop will be held in Cape Town from 19 to 30 July 2021.

Applications are open from 01 January to 29 May 2021. To register for the training please go to: [https://welc.wipo.int/acc/index.jsf?page=pdpCatalog.xhtml&lang=en&cc=WIPO-NIPMO#plus\\_WIPO-NIPMO](https://welc.wipo.int/acc/index.jsf?page=pdpCatalog.xhtml&lang=en&cc=WIPO-NIPMO#plus_WIPO-NIPMO)

For further clarity, please contact Thabang Jase

## 2021/2022: IP Wise Initiative

The implementation of the IP awareness sessions famously referred to by the NIPMO as *IP Wise™* initiative is intended to encourage researchers and research managers to work with their OTTs to ensure that IP generated from all publicly financed R&D activity is protected before publication as well as exploited through commercialisation thereby generating revenues for the institutions or enhancing local economic growth through IP utilisation and creation of start-up companies.

The DSI/NIPMO is from beginning of the 2021/2022 financial year taking the *IP Wise™* initiative to TVET colleges starting with Ekurhuleni East TVET College and its six (6) campuses.

Government officials as well as government agencies will be also be targeted whilst NIPMO's existing stakeholders i.e. universities, science councils and small enterprises will still enjoy our *IP Wise™* sessions.

## Did you know?

**NIPMO has entered into formal memoranda of agreement/partnerships with WIPO, CIPC, TIA, SEDA and CPSI.**

**We are further in negotiations with Mlab and City of Tshwane.**



# From the NIPMO desk...

## OTT SKILLS: WHY TAILORED MADE TRAINING IS REQUIRED

*Written by Lungelwa Kula*

Offices of Technology Transfer (OTTs) situated within institutions such as Higher education Institutions and Science Councils are established in line with Section 6 of the Intellectual Property Rights from Publicly Financed Research and Development Act (IPR Act). These offices are established to ensure that intellectual property (IP) created within their institutions is identified, protected (where appropriate), utilised and commercialised for the benefit of the Republic.

During 2020, the National Intellectual Property Management Office (NIPMO) commissioned a skills audit over the technology transfer (TT) space to understand the current skills within the OTTs, identify skills gap and provide suitable capacity building interventions that can mitigate the lack of identified skills and knowledge.

The results from the skills audit indicated that professionals within the OTTs generally have a Master's Degree qualification, with significant number of professional having 1 to 5 years' experience in the TT space. These findings are also in line with the results of the second national IP and TT survey (to be published in April 2021) which indicated that as at 2018, 99% of TT staff members had a tertiary qualification and 46% had between 1 to 4 years of TT experience.

The IP and TT survey further found that 76% of OTTs reported lack of certain skills within their office. Although these professionals hold postgraduate qualifications, very few have TT related qualifications. These professionals therefore require on the job and tailor-made training to ensure they are being equipped as they move along the various management levels.

The results from the NIPMO's Skills Audit as well as the IP and TT Survey emphasised the need for targeted training interventions for OTT professionals by comparing the competencies of the professionals at various levels within their careers.

During the skills audit, and as expected, it was noted that middle management had some level of skill in commercialisation, though still requiring to be enhanced as compared to senior management who were noted as experts in commercialisation amongst other skills such as strategic thinking.

It was also noted that early career professions still lack the skill in IP compliance as compared to middle management and senior management.

This clearly highlights that a blanket approach for training of TT professionals will not work because they require different types of training interventions at each level of their careers. This further emphasises the importance of tailor-made training for OTT professionals at various level within their careers.

NIPMO is in the process of developing and implementing a human capacity strategy that will address the interventions required for the development of OTT professionals at each stage in their careers. This strategy will be rolled out during the course of 2022.

*For more information on this initiative and others implemented by the NIPMO, please do not hesitate to contact us via the NIPMO website contact details <https://nipmo.dst.gov.za/contact>*

## Did you know?

**Over the past 5 years NIPMO received the following numbers of applications from OTTs:**

**IP1 Form: 176**  
**IP2 Form: 1**  
**IP3 Form: 0**  
**IP4 Form: 21**  
**IP5 Form: 12**  
**IP6 Form: 10**  
**IP7 Form: 1285**  
**IP8 Form: 33**