

TTC - Technology Transfer Center

Project Description

The International Federation of Inventors Association (IFIA) is an international association with the objective of being a forum for exchanging ideas and collaborations between national inventors associations. Founded in 1968, members now include more than 110 inventor's organizations from more than sixty countries.

IFIA is developing a centralized web-based platform for technological exchange of information. This new platform titled Technology Transfer Center (TTC) will serve as a means for exchanging information between all member associations within IFIA, why the international perspective is vital.

The primary goal of the TTC is to provide channels for inventors to quickly and easily reach out with their inventions/ideas and more efficiently find manufacturers and funding, both regionally and internationally. A coordinator for each member country will be locally responsible for finding the appropriate contacts when an inventors request is received from the TTC central board.

Since the TTC will process large amounts of information, it is of great importance that the system relies on both simplicity and logic structure. Within the platform information must be easily identified, edited, added and removed. This will be achieved through advanced search functions, classification of information in different categories, and the use of keywords (so-called "tags" or "keywords").

The TTC is situated at the Stockholm Innovators Association (STIK) office in Stockholm Sweden. The office will be administered by at least three administrators.

A brief example of the working process within the TTC

Stage 1

A local inventor has contacted his or her Node/national coordinator with a request to be processed. The coordinator reviews the request and considers it sufficiently interesting to submit. The coordinator logs in to the TTC. Once logged in, the coordinator is able to enter requests. The coordinator fills in a number of predefined fields with information on the new request, clicking "Add" for submitting.

The request is now immediately added into the system. The TTC central coordinators will instantly be notified of the new request received. The central coordinator will evaluate the request and approve it. Once approved the request becomes visible to all member state coordinators logged in to the TTC. The request in question will be visible both as a searchable topic and will also top the list of "active requests".

In the request, the national coordinator has entered what is inquired (manufacturer, license partners, investments etc.). All coordinators connected to the TTC will see this information and have the opportunity to respond directly on-line within the system. The result in this case will be a number of responses with various proposals on stakeholders. The local coordinator will be automatically informed through email each time there is a response to a request. The coordinator selects the appropriate responses and then submits the marked request as "closed".

It is not possible to further respond to a closed request. However, the closed request will remain archived in the system for future reference and statistics.

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Stage 2.

As soon as the Inventor, in agreement with the co-coordinator, has choose out with which of the offer he or she wants to pursue, the co-coordinator sends a second request to TT-center. The form for this second stage includes more specific information of the Inventors' wish and project, such as patent information. Before any additional information will be submitted to the chosen interested party, the central coordinator first sends a NDA (Non-disclosure agreement) to the interested party. When the NDA is signed by the interested party, the information from the Inventor will be forwarded.

Stage 3.

If and when the interested party confirms their wish to commence to negotiations, the central coordinator will provide both parties with the adequate contact information. The inventor is now free to make direct contact with the interested part and the case will be closed.

Stage 4.

Should the Inventor require professional help in future contacts or with negotiation support, this can be offered by national or international consultants registered and approved by the TT center

Summary of the TTC Functionality

The following list is simply a proposal on the targeted functionality. The list needs to be both supplemented and made more comprehensive and detailed. The primary purpose of the list below is to serve as a basis for further discussion between the system programmers and IFIA.

- Personal login for all nodes/national co-coordinators.
- Possibility for coordinators to add new requests in the system
- Possibility for co-coordinators to respond to active requests.
- Possibility to search for requests and co-coordinators.
- Ability to list all active requests and sort them by country of origin or type of information requested.
- Possibility for administrators to, through the TTC add, delete and edit requests and coordinators.
- Primary language: English. Support for multilingualism is not a problem.

Financing

The continuous operation of the TTC will be financed through interchange fees. For a request to be added into the system, the inventor is charged a suggested registering fee of USD 20. When the inventor receives a satisfactory reply to proceed on, the TTC coordinator will open communication channels to the responding party. For receiving the respondents contact details the inventor is charged an additional USD 100. From this stage, the communication and possible negotiations is a matter for the inventor to carry out directly towards the responding party.

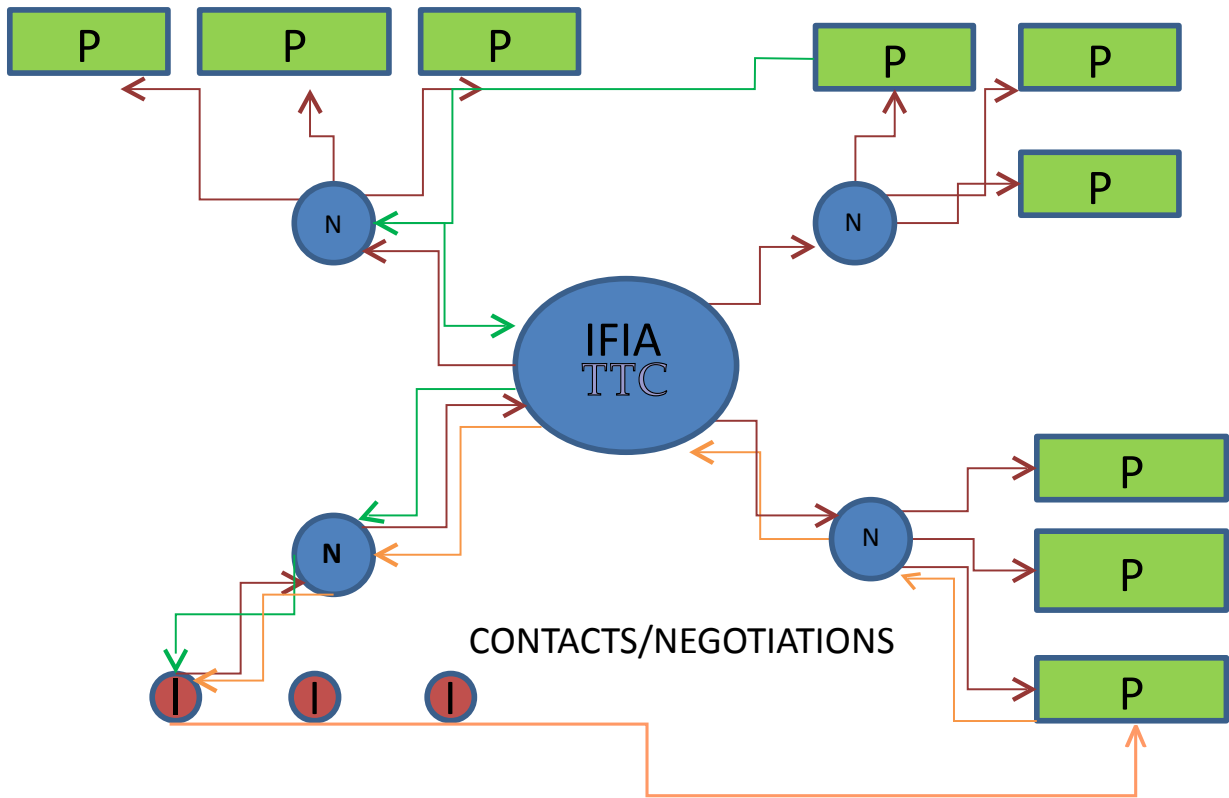
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TTC Working structure



IFIA TTC – IFIA Technology Transfer Center

N – Node/National Coordinator

I – Inventor/Innovator

P – Potential partner



Request for assistance



Proposals from potential partners