Collaborating with industry: Technology Transfer at EPFL

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EPFL’s three missions according to the Federal Act

- **Education**
  - of scientists, engineers & architects

- **Research**
  - Advanced, fundamental & applied

- **Technology Transfer**
  - to industry & society
Legal framework

- Ordonnance du Conseil des EPF sur les biens immatériels dans le domaine des EPF (RS 414.172)
- Ordonnance EPF sur le personnel du domaine des écoles polytechniques fédérales (RS 172.220.113.40) (RS 172.220.113)
- Directive on Technology transfer
- Directive on Finance
- Directive on Conflict of interests
Technology Transfer Office - Missions

- Research agreements with industry (negotiations / approval)
- Intellectual property: evaluation, protection & management
- Stimulate and support demonstration of new techn. (ENABLE)
- Negotiate, conclude and manage licenses and TT agreements
- Interactions with start-up's: equity, access to facilities, COI, ...
- TT & IP policies
- Practical course for PhD students
Technology Transfer - Skills

Multidisciplinary and professional service to researchers and companies
Elements for successful relations with the economy

• Proximity of TTO with researchers and faculty
• No compromise on quality of research, recruitment at the best level worldwide
• Collaboration with industry and TT recognized as important mission of the institution
• Active involvement of highest management for strategic partnerships with companies and for major initiatives
• High level of autonomy for the institutions (higher authorities shall not impose detailed laws and regulations but define general principles and trust the academic institutions)
• Delegation of decisions in order to have an efficient and responsive TT
• Reasonable role of lawyers, acceptance of risks (both sides)

Technology Transfer is people's business
Thank you