

UTokyo Intellectual Property Report 2025

--- Digest Version* (English) ---

*Full Version of the Report is available only in Japanese.



東京大学 知的財産報告書
2025
活用される東京大学の知的財産 — 社会実装の飛躍的拡大に向けて



UTokyo

1. Multifaceted and Seamless Support Programs for Overcome the "Devil's River," "Valley of Death," and "Darwinian Sea"
2. Invention Disclosures
3. Patent Applications
4. Patent holdings
5. The Role of UTokyo's IP in Startup Support
6. Direct IP Income
7. Direct IP Expenses

Division of University Corporate Relations
(DUCR)
The University of Tokyo

1. Multifaceted and Seamless Support Programs for Overcome the "Devil's River," "Valley of Death," and "Darwinian Sea"

Three Hurdles to Innovation

1. The Devil's River

-The Gap Between Research and Development-

This refers to the gap between academic basic research and applied research aimed at practical utility. It represents the difficulty of translating scientific discoveries into specific applications or establishing necessary manufacturing processes for societal implementation.

2. The Valley of Death

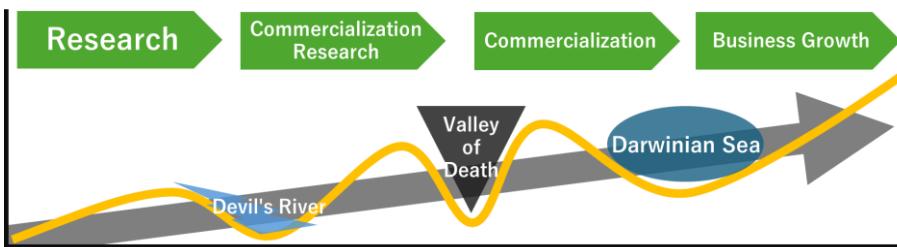
-Bridging to Productization and Commercialization-

This is the barrier encountered when bridging technological proof-of-concepts to marketable products. It is characterized by a lack of funding and business expertise required to scale laboratory results into mass-produced commercial goods.

3. The Darwinian Sea

-Survival and Competition in the Market-

This describes the intense struggle for survival and growth in the competitive market after a product launch. Companies must adapt to changing consumer needs and rival competition through business model innovation to ensure sustainability.



Support Programs

Entrepreneurship Education

- Entrepreneur Dojo
- Entrepreneurship Education Design D-School
- GTIE (For Researchers)
- Hongo Tech Garage (Technology Project)
- etc. (Providing over 50 other entrepreneurship-related programs.)

Commercialization Feasibility Support

- Commercialization Consultation
- Gap Fund, • T-Palette
- 1stRound, • FoundX

Early-Stage Startup Support

Startup Growth Support

- UTokyo IPC, • UTEC
- Incubator -Entrepreneur Plaza,
-Entrepreneur Hub,
-Entrepreneur Lab, etc.
- uTIE

Technology Transfer (Licensing of IP)

- TODAI TLO

2. Invention Disclosures

✓ Policy:

UTokyo succeeds to the right to obtain patents based on the research activities conducted by faculty members.

✓ Volume:

Approximately **500-600** invention disclosures have been submitted per year by members during the last 10 years.

✓ Composition:

30–40%: Sole inventions (UTokyo solely-owned)
60–70%: Joint inventions (Mainly with private companies)

✓ FY2024 Disclosure Counts:

Sole Inventions: 190

Joint Inventions: 360

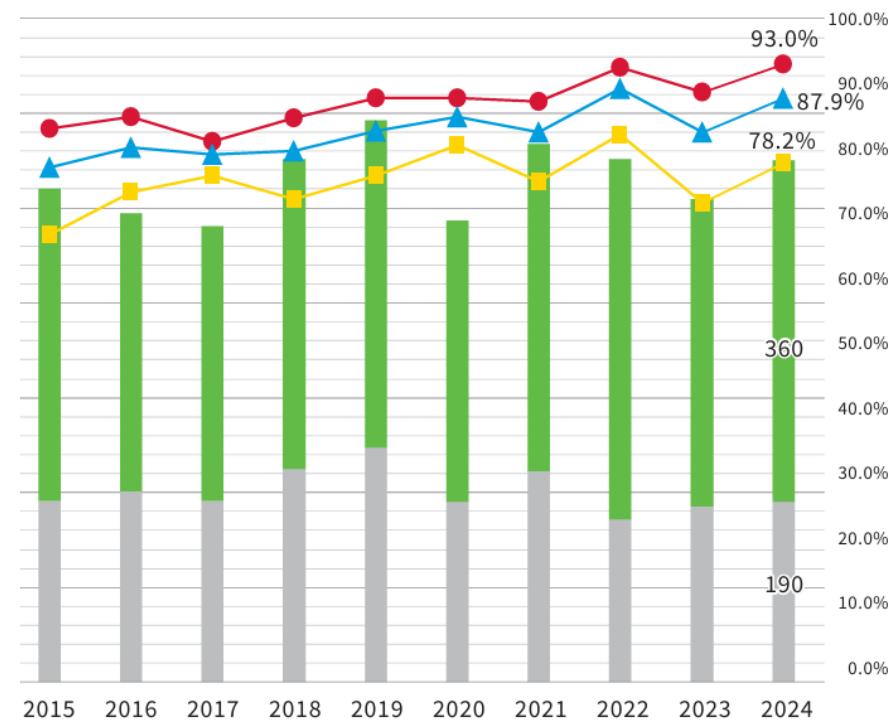
Total Disclosures: **550**

✓ FY2024 Succession Rates

Sole Inventions: 78.2%

Joint Inventions: 93.0%

Overall Rate: **87.9%**



3. Patent Applications

✓ FY2024 Application Counts:

Domestic applications were **510**, and foreign applications were **704** in total. Sole applications were **334**, and joint applications were **880** in total.

✓ Technological Fields:

Life sciences accounted for the largest share at **36%**, followed by manufacturing technology, nanotechnology/materials and information and communications.

✓ Designated Countries:

The US, the EU and China account for a large share.



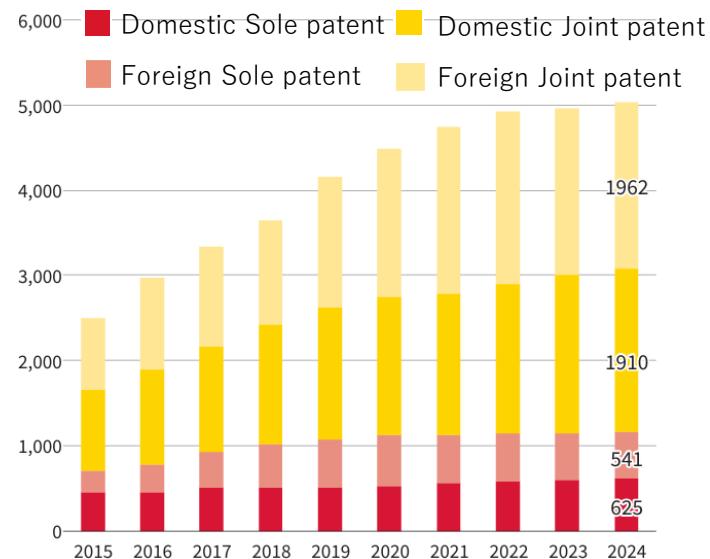
4. Patent holdings

✓ Total Holdings:

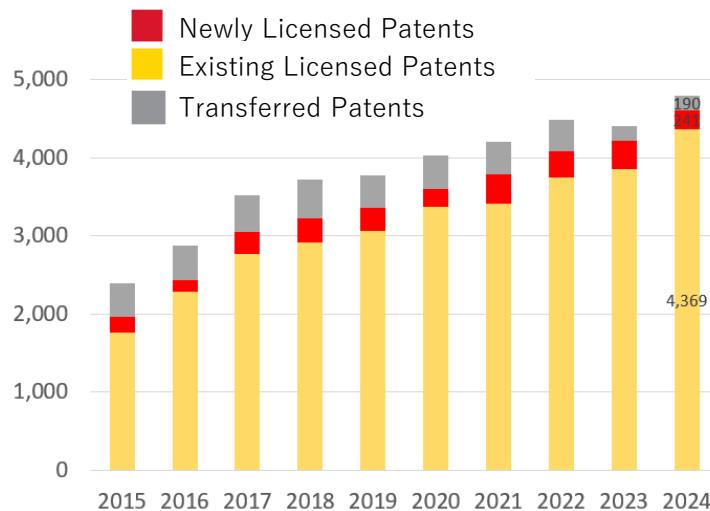
At the end of FY2024, the total number of patents held by UTokyo reached **5,038**. This marks the first time the number has exceeded 5,000. The number of domestic and foreign patents is roughly equal, at approximately 2,500 each.

✓ Trends:

In recent years, the number of sole patents has remained steady, while joint patents have shown a slight increase, leading to a slight upward trend overall.



Number of Licensed Patents



✓ Total Number (End of FY2024):

The total number of licensed patents (including assignments) reached **4,800**.

✓ Breakdown of FY2024:

Newly licensed: 241

Existing licensed: 4,369

✓ Ownership Ratio:

Sole patents account for over 30%, while joint patents make up over 60% of the total.

5. The Role of UTokyo's IP in Startup Support

✓ Patent Licensing to Startups:

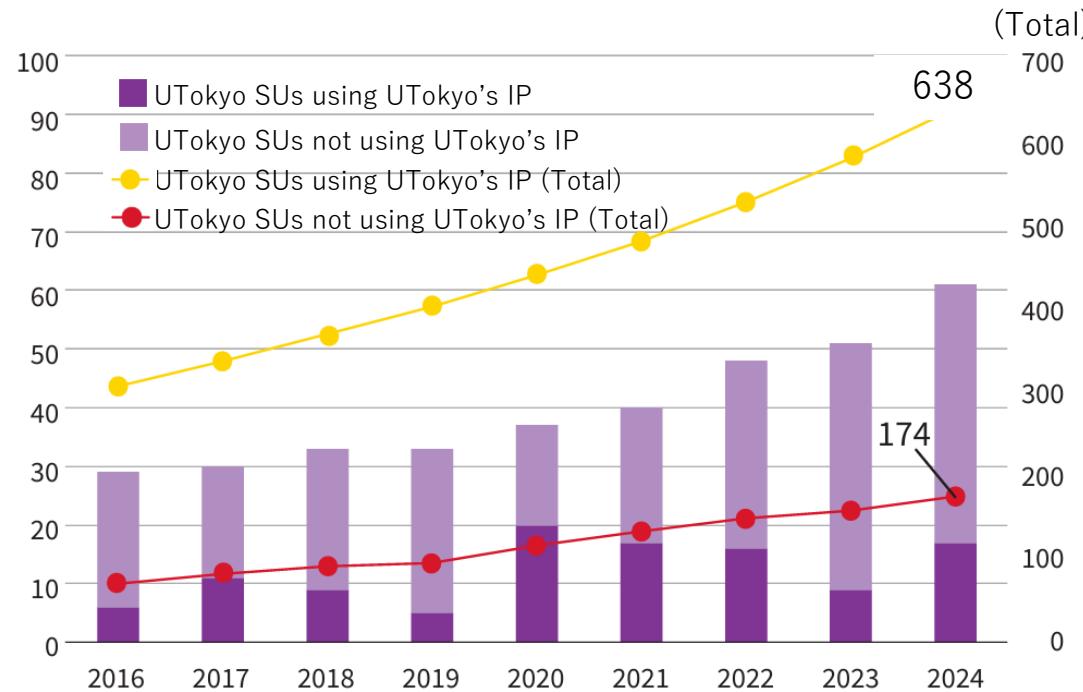
39% of UTokyo's patent licenses are granted to UTokyo startups. Furthermore, more than half of UTokyo's sole patents are licensed to startups.

✓ FY2024 Startup Counts:

The cumulative total of startups utilizing UTokyo's IP reached **174** by the end of FY2024.

✓ Support For Startups:

TODAI TLO, UTEC, UTokyo IPC, and DUCR are collaborating to provide seamless support to startups.



6. Direct IP Income

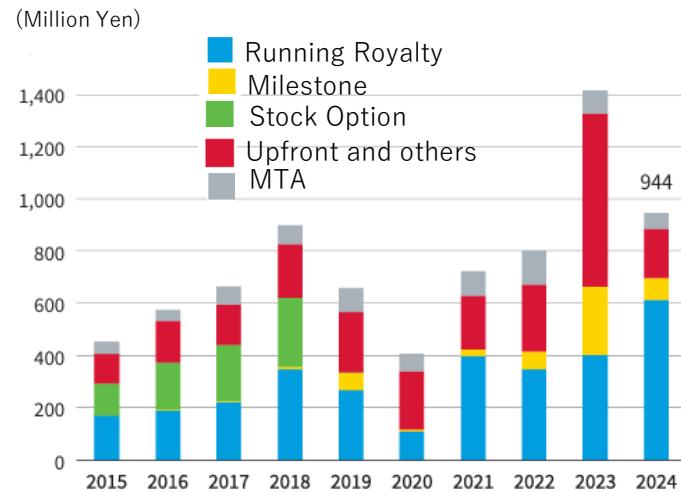
✓ **FY2024 Total:** 940 million yen

✓ **Source:**

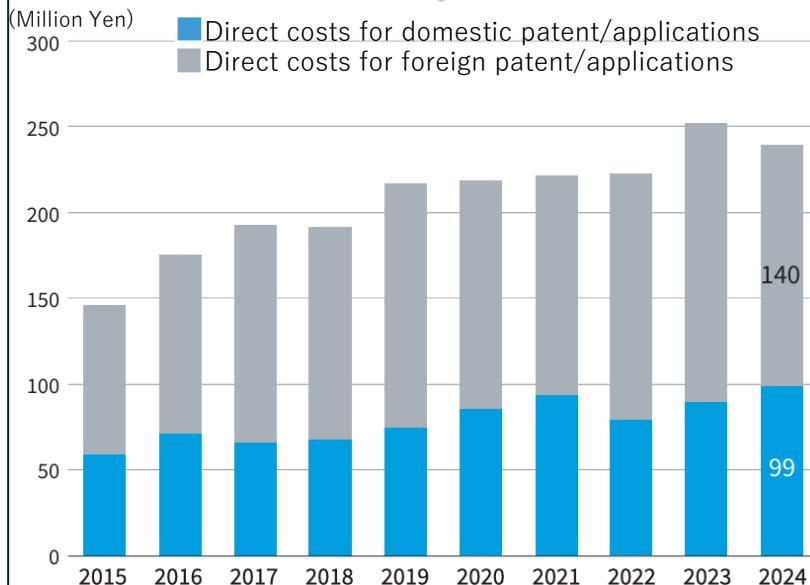
Over 80% of this income is generated from **patent licensing fees**.

✓ **Field:**

The **life sciences** field accounts for approximately 80% of the total IP income.



7. Direct IP Expenses



✓ **FY2024 Total:** 230 million yen

✓ **Primary Costs:**

Filing and maintenance fees for sole patents and joint patents with academia.

✓ **Cost Drivers:**

High costs associated with foreign patent acquisition (e.g., translation and agency fees).

UTokyo

Intellectual Property Report 2025

--- Digest Version* (English) ---

*Full Version of the Report is
available only in Japanese.



For inquiries, please contact:

<https://www.ducr.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/contact.html>