Office of Research Innovation & Commercialization (ORIC)

In this era of knowledge economy where technologies are growing exponentially and industries are becoming dependent on technology based solutions; universities being the epicentres of research and development have become important players in the process of invention, innovation and commercialization. University of Engineering and Technology Peshawar is playing a strong role in the socio-economic development of the country with its engineers working actively in different fields of research, design and development for sustainable development of Pakistan.

Faculty and students at UET Peshawar conduct dynamic research and provide indigenous solutions to problems in different fields. Centers of Excellence have been developed to conduct research in the fields of earthquake engineering, urban infrastructure planning, climate change, green technologies, intelligent systems and networks, telecom engineering, alternate energy resources, mining engineering, mechatronics and industrial engineering. The following centers have world class equipment to conduct international standard research and outputs in the form of products and services for the benefit of community.

- Earthquake Engineering Center (EEC)
- National Institute of Urban Infrastructure Planning (NIUIP)
- Gems and Jewellery Center of Excellence (GJCoE)
- Center for Intelligent Systems & Network Research (CISNR)
- Center for Advanced Studies in Energy (CAS-EP)

Office of Research Innovation and Commercialization (ORIC) was established in 2012, to manage, develop, expand and enhance the University’s research activities and at the same time facilitate innovation and commercialization of research outputs. Its main role is to strengthen University’s research and knowledge creation process by providing strategic and operational support through promoting entrepreneurship, technology-transfer and commercialization activities to energize local and national economy. ORIC plays an important role in promoting innovation and creating an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the University. In general, it aspires to achieve sustainable development by translating research into public benefit through ensuring research relevance in terms of social, economic and environmental aspects.
**ORIC focus areas:**

ORIC focuses on the following areas:

- Research development and operation
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- University-Industry linkage and Commercialization
- Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property Rights

**Research Development and Operation:**

ORIC facilitates university’s research programs and links research activities directly to the Industry for the social and economic prosperity of the country. It does so by being fully aware of the university’s research and development activities, invention disclosures and at the same time the Industry needs. It establishes links with donors and bridges them to researchers for funding of specific research initiatives. ORIC designs and develops activities for fostering multidisciplinary and cross cutting research. It establishes and maintains excellent relationships with donors, stakeholders and partners through signing agreements with leading institutions and organizations of the country and internationally. It also creates and manages
synergies and collaborations with other research entities and organizations to facilitate commercialization.

**Innovation and Entrepreneurship:**

One of ORIC’s mission is to develop an entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem in the University. It aims to inculcate entrepreneurial skills in its students from the beginning by arranging workshops and seminars about innovation and entrepreneurship and partnering in business plan competitions. It also encourages fresh university graduates to come up with technologically innovative ideas and establish their businesses, create jobs for others and help the country in economic prosperity. UET Peshawar boasts a Business/Technology Incubation Center (B/TIC) that nurtures budding entrepreneurs and provides independent office with relevant services to the inductees of the center, chosen through a competitive process.

**University-Industry Linkage and Commercialization:**

University-Industry linkages play a major role in the development of a country. Therefore, at ORIC we aim to encourage the local industry both in the public and private sectors to collaborate with university researchers, utilize highly qualified faculty, modern research facilities and top quality research students. Industry-university partnership includes faculty interaction with industries and solutions to industrial problems through innovative and cost effective projects. ORIC assesses commercial potential of University research with the help of industry and successfully transfers technology for commercial applications.

UET Peshawar has been able to establish industrial linkages through signing MoUs with leading institutions and organizations of the country. University-Industry linkages yield benefits that are vital to each other and are exceptionally productive, promoting discovery of knowledge, simulating technological innovation, improving quality of life, and contributing to Pakistan’s economic prosperity and national security.
Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Rights:

It is the process of transferring skills, knowledge, technologies and methods of manufacturing, from universities or research institutes to industry to ensure that scientific and technological developments are accessible to a wider range of users. It is basically the process of transferring the knowledge created in the form of research outputs in university laboratories to industry, in order to impact the life of a common man. It utilizes the process of commercialization by protecting the intellectual property rights of the inventor and the institute as the owner, thereby stimulating socio-economic development.

Intellectual Property (IP) Rights and IP Policy:

Intellectual property rights are the legally recognized exclusive rights to creations of the mind. Under intellectual property law, owners are granted certain exclusive rights to a variety of intangible assets and creations of mind, such as discoveries and inventions, literary and artistic works, and words, phrases, symbols, and designs used in commerce. Common types of intellectual property rights include patents, copyright, trademarks, patents, industrial design rights, trade dress, and in some jurisdictions trade secrets.
UET Peshawar has its Intellectual Property Policy and ORIC ensures its implementation. The objective of this policy is to safeguard the interests and mission of the University by establishing a mechanism for the development and protection of intellectual property, while at the same time encouraging creative thinking amongst researchers at the University and protecting the interests of public, the University, and individual faculty/staff members.

UET IP Policy can be viewed at: *

**ORIC services:**

- Support UET Peshawar’s strategic research policies
- Ensure that all research programs exhibit international standards
- Facilitate research outcomes to be translated into public benefit
- Provide faculty with information regarding available research grants and opportunities
- Increase and diversify research funding
- Activities to promote multi-disciplinary research initiatives
- Interface between faculty and the commercial sector
- Link faculty with relevant industry/ies
- Evaluate markets for commercialization of inventions and conduct Market analyses of university intellectual property
- Help and guide on patent filing and licensing
- Facilitate preparation and filing of provisional patent applications
- Identify potential licensees and negotiate terms of licenses
- Assist with negotiating problematic sponsored research agreements
Funding Agencies:

- Higher Education Commission, (HEC)
- National ICT R &D Fund
- Directorate of Science & Technology (DoST), KPK
- USAID
- European Union HORIZON 2020
- Pakistan Science Foundation, (PSF)

Collaborations & Linkages developed:

- Pakistan Atomic Energy Center, (PAEC)
- Peshawar Development Authority, (PDA)
- Water and Sanitation Program (WSP)
- Urban Policy Unit, KPK
- Urban Policy Unit, Punjab
- Provincial Disaster Management Authority, (PDMA) KPK
- Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority, (SMEDA)
- Sustainable Development Policy Institute, (SDPI)

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