

Foreword To The Special Issue

By Jörg Scherer and Dana Robert Colarulli

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), universities, and public research organisations are critical drivers of innovation, employment, and economic growth. Today, intellectual property (IP) has become a core business asset for any organisation—whether developing technology in-house or acquiring it through assignment or licensing—and effectively managing and leveraging these assets is critical. This is especially true for SMEs.

This special issue of *les Nouvelles* looks at a number of successful technology transfer journeys demonstrating the importance of patents and other IP rights when translating research results into commercially successful products and services. Based on a new case study series jointly developed by the European Patent Office, the European Patent Academy, and the European IP Helpdesk, the articles cover a range of economic sectors, countries, and types of technology transfer. Each article uses case studies to

illustrate how strategic IP management facilitates critical collaborations and technology transfer (from lab to market), helps boost the market success of spin-offs and start-ups, and advances the business of IP globally in tangible ways.

We are delighted to collaborate on this issue of *les Nouvelles* and thank the European Patent Office for their contributions to make this issue possible. This publication adds to LESI's previous joint efforts with the EPO, in *les Nouvelles* and elsewhere, to focus discussion and the development of tools for SMEs on commercialization topics. ■

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Thomas Bereuter and Ilja Rudyk of the European Patent Office were co-editors and cooperation partners for the Special Issue.