

Effects of Introducing the Tech Transfer Office and an IP Policy at The American University in Cairo

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Origin Story



Tempus



Linköping University

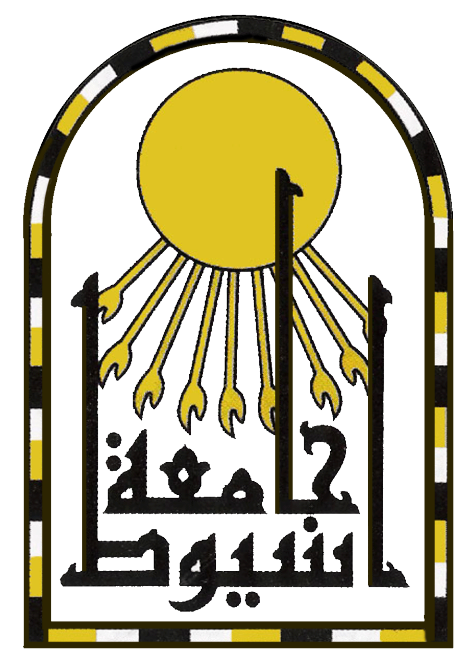


POLITECNICO DI TORINO



THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO

الجامعة الأمريكية بالقاهرة



Academy of Scientific Research And Technology

أكاديمية البحث العلمي والتكنولوجيا



Europaisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets

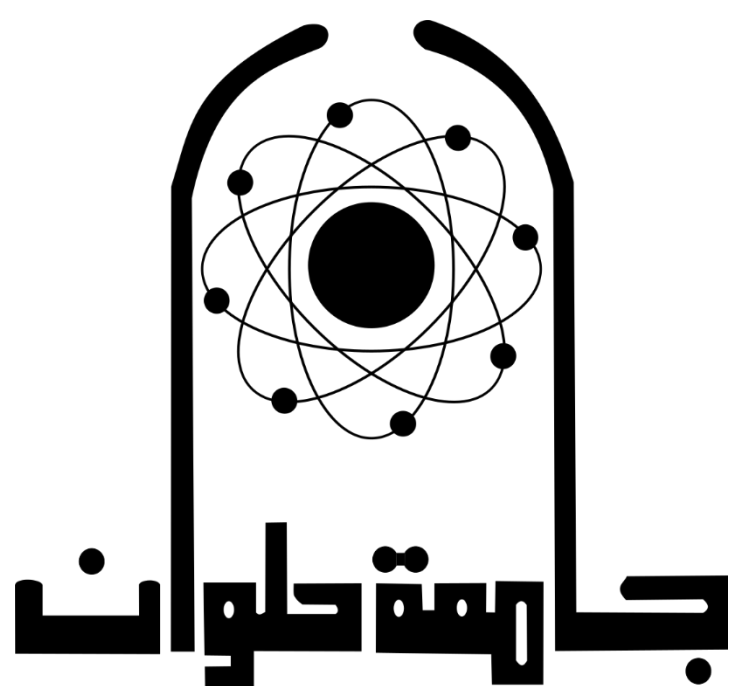


Freie Universität

Berlin



TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITÄT WIEN
Vienna | Austria



جامعة أسيوط

Timeline:



Sept 2010
Office Establishment

June 2013
1st License agreement

October 2018
Proof of Concept Fund Launched

Jan 2011
1st Patent Application

May 2014
New IP Policy Enacted

Tech Transfer in Numbers

- 10/12 Disclosures annually*
- 8 New Patent Families
- 3 spin-offs
- 8 Proof of Concept Projects



Passing the New IP Policy

Original Policy

- Ambiguous on Ownership
- Silent on many Aspects
- No Tech Transfer at the time
- Relied on a school representing
Committee to decide on patent cases

IP

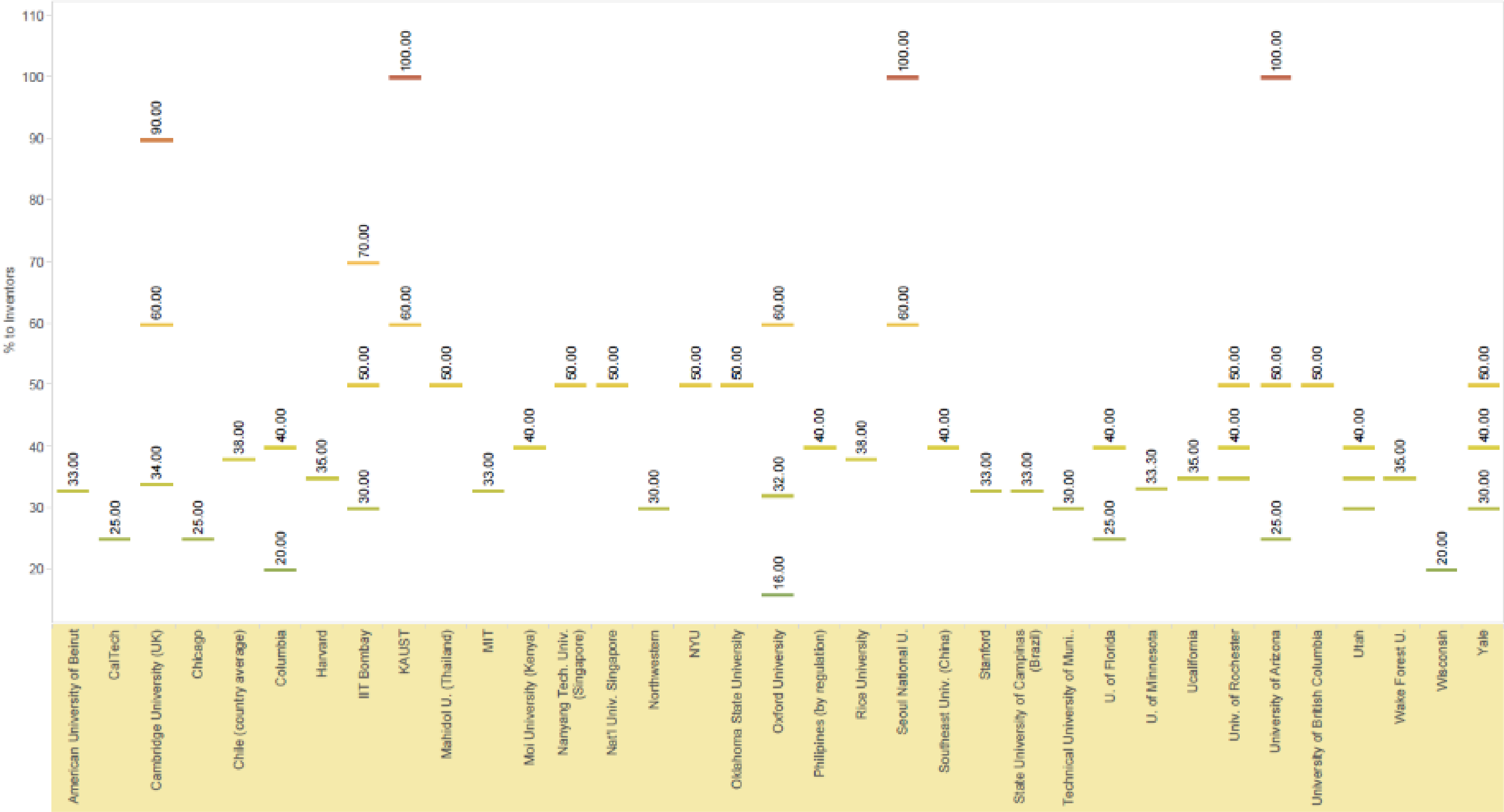
New Policy

- Much Clearer on Ownership
- Addresses many new critical items
- Integrates the TTO
- IP Committee replaced with a University Research
Board to deal with policy issues

Analysis of Other Policies

Inventors' Shares Of Revenues Received

* From 2013



Old vs. New Revenue Distribution

Creator(s), Creator’s heirs, successors, & assigns: collectively 50%

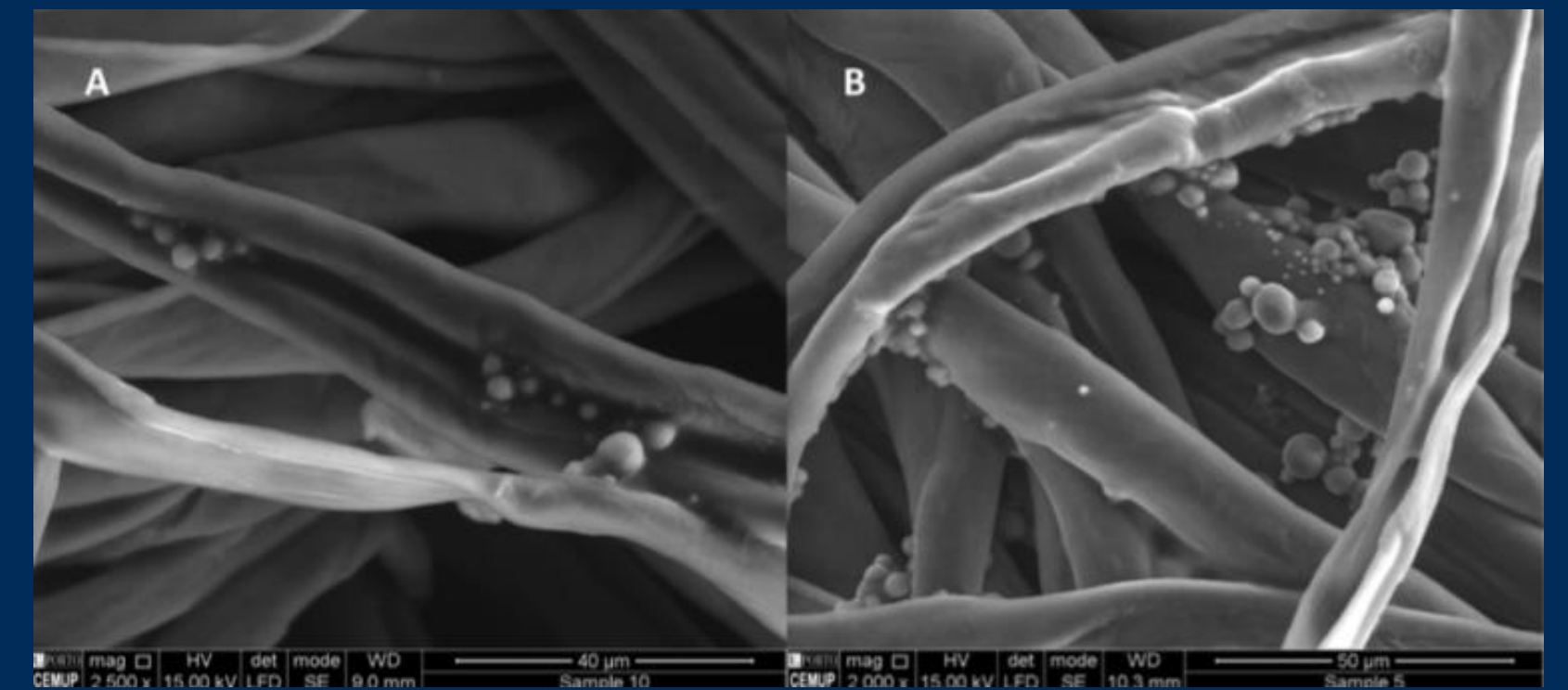
Creator(s) School(s) or Center(s): collectively 20%

University: 30%

Gross Revenue	Deduction of directly assignable expenses		
	Net Revenue	Inventor	Inventor’s Department, Center or School
First LE 500,000	70%	15%	15%
Next LE 500,000	50%	25%	25%
Above LE 1,000,000	33%	33%	33%

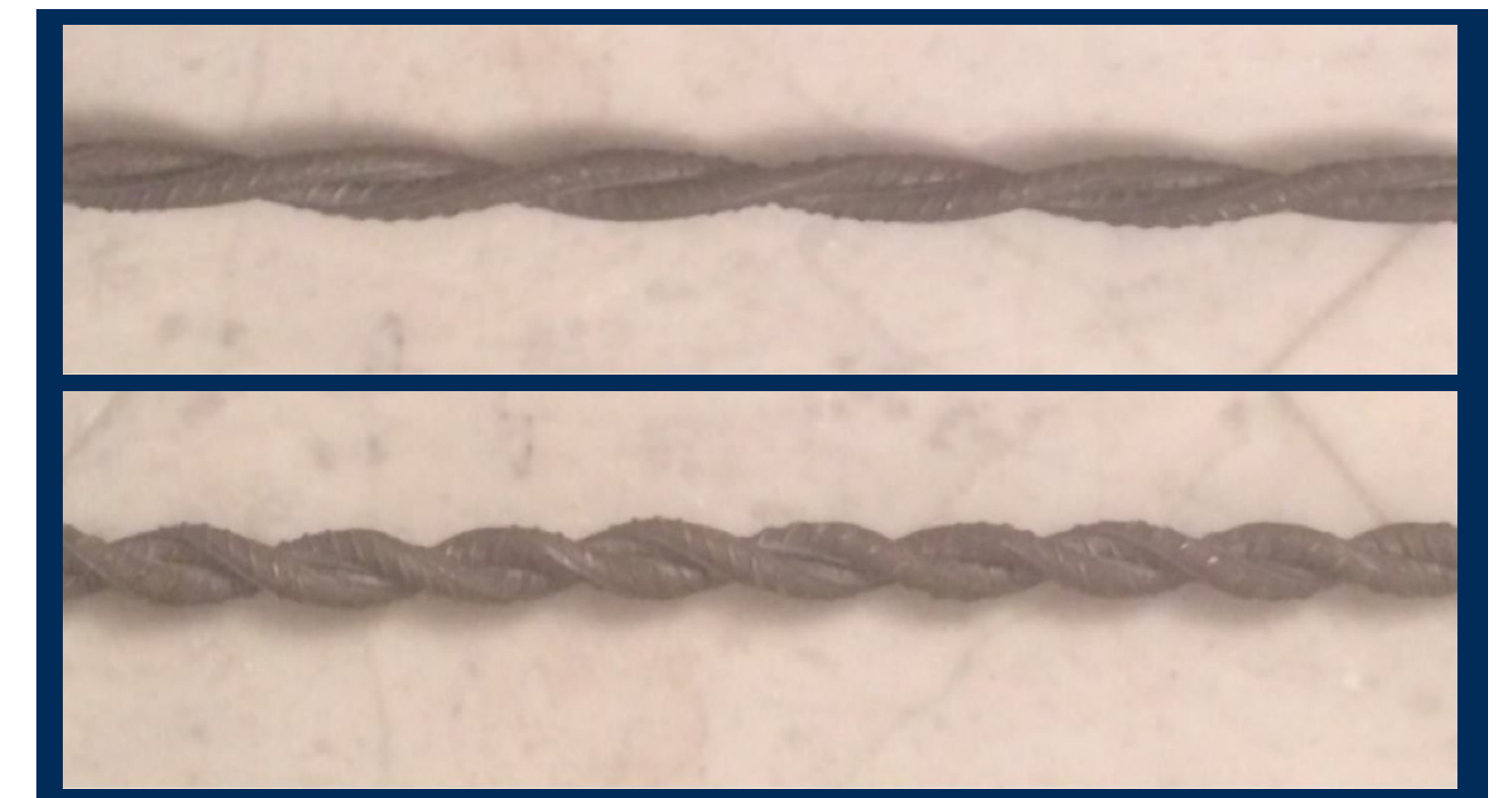
Interesting Positive Effects of Introducing Tech Transfer at AUC

- More Entrepreneurial Activity and orientation inside AUC's Labs
- Higher awareness of and engagement with IP matters well beyond the school of science & engineering
- Perception of the university from the outside (Industry, Alumni, General Community) is positively changed
- University's innovation metrics positively impacted



Recurring Challenges with Tech Transfer at AUC:

- Low local appetite from industry and market for disruptive innovation, undervaluing university's contribution, and enough sophistication to structure sound license agreements
- High anxiety with regards to demanding fair terms in IP agreements
- Confusion about difference between ownership, revenue distribution, inventorship*, and (royalties and equity)
- Managing patent costs
- Owning Equity



Observed Challenges with Tech Transfer in Egypt

- TTO staff are normally not part-time faculty (as opposed to dedicated especially hired staff)
- Lack of dedicated resources (such as a patent budget) creates challenge for universities to assert ownership
- Legal and procedural challenges relating to universities' engagement in less academic and more economic spheres
- No substantial funds for de-risking and translation of research with well suited terms and metrics (yet)



Thank You

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