



Founding Members



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[A*STAR's Exploit Technologies and Six Tertiary Institutions in Singapore Seal Cooperation to Boost Technology Transfer with the Formation of the Technology Transfer Network \(TTN\)](#)

Singapore's technology transfer framework has been transformed with the formation of the Technology Transfer Network (TTN). Seven leading institutions have come together to co-operate on bolstering the commercialisation of intellectual property (IP) assets through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The founding members of the TTN are Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Nanyang Polytechnic, Nanyang Technopreneurship Center, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic.

Effective IP management is critical as R&D in Singapore intensifies. The scope of the MOU covers areas such as the provision of a regular platform for Technology Transfer Offices (TTO) to share expertise and experience, creation of an eco-system of world-class market players (including service industries) focussed on maximising the commercialisation potential of IP assets, and enhancing the branding and thought-leadership in technology transfer capabilities. All seven parties to the MOU are founding members of the TTN.

The core activities of the TTN will include:

- A. Enhancing:
 - i. The sharing of expertise and experience on technology transfer through regular meetings of TTO professionals; and
 - ii. The overall IP portfolio management through proactive IP cluster mapping and bundling within the network and beyond.

- B. Expanding market reach and penetration through:
 - i. Collaborative marketing activities; and
 - ii. Technology Advisory Services (TAS) to both SMEs and the large companies.

- C. Equipping the TTO community with the necessary skills and capabilities through a systematic and customised training program

The MOU provides a framework of collaboration for the founders of the Technology Transfer Network (TTN). The first phase of TTN will include Singapore-based TTOs as members, followed by international TTOs in subsequent phases. The Secretariat of the TTN is hosted by Exploit-Technologies on behalf of the TTN partners.

Launching this initiative, Mr Lim Chuan Poh, Chairman of **A*STAR**, and the Guest-of-Honour at the MOU Signing Ceremony said, “Singapore is intensifying its pursuit of R&D to transform the economy into a knowledge-based and innovation-driven one. TTN is a timely initiative for all the founding members to strengthen Singapore’s capabilities and effectiveness in the transfer of intellectual property assets to the industry. This shared vision and commitment will provide the impetus needed to bring the public research community even closer to the industries in order to impact the economy and society. ”

Mr Boon Swan Foo, Executive Chairman of **Exploit Technologies** and the Chairman of the Technology Transfer Network added, “I am delighted with the enthusiasm and commitment from all the founding members. The concept and ideas of the TTN were contributed by all the founding members. We are confident that this collaboration will stimulate positive vibes in the technology transfer industry and further Singapore’s

position as a world class research and technology transfer hub. Exploit Technologies is excited to be part of the TTN. We foresee great potential in this alliance of TTOs in both the local and international scenes.”

Mr Chan Lee Mun, Principal/CEO **Nanyang Polytechnic** said, “As Singapore seeks to be well-positioned in today’s globalised knowledge-based economy, activities associated with the creation, protection and commercial exploitation of intellectual properties (IPs) will become significantly more important. They add economic value to Singapore and its industries by developing new innovative products and enabling solutions, as well as opening up further employment and business opportunities. NYP has been a strong believer in nurturing the spirit of innovation and enterprise among its staff and students and has also extended its support to industry partners to help enhance capabilities and competitiveness. Thus, NYP sees the TTN (Technology Transfer Network) as a useful network of like-minded organizations sharing a common platform to help promote technology transfer in Singapore through close collaboration and the sharing of valuable experience and expertise.”

Sharing his views on the collaboration, Associate Professor Tan Teng Kee, Director, **Nanyang Technopreneurship Center**, Nanyang Technological University, said, “NTC is a multi-disciplinary university-level education center dedicated to our mission in providing world-class and revolutionary education on entrepreneurship and technology innovation. Our vision is to be one of the world’s most influential institutional authorities in education for that purpose. Therefore, NTC’s involvement in the TTN is specifically to participate in its education aspects. With TTN recognising the need for TTO and the research community to be equipped with necessary entrepreneurship and technology innovation skills, NTC can play a significant role to help meet that need by sharing our expertise and unique TIP pedagogy through offering transformational training or education on entrepreneurship and technology innovation.”

Mr Foo See Meng, Deputy Principal, **Ngee Ann Polytechnic** said, “With globalisation and the rapid growth of technology, one cannot ignore the increasing role that intellectual property plays in the knowledge-based economy. The formation of the Technology Transfer Network will provide a regular platform for sharing of expertise and experience that enables the effective leverage of knowledge, skills and resources among

participating organisations. It will also create an eco-system where our staff and students can maximise the commercialisation potential of their R&D efforts."

Commenting on the collaboration, Prof Low Teck Seng, Principal/CEO, **Republic Polytechnic** said, "The development of a Technology Transfer Network is a logical next-step for the IHLs in Singapore. Up to now, we have focused on our own areas of priority, and have largely developed our capabilities individually. Bringing this expertise together through the open-sharing platform of the TTN, will allow us to combine our capabilities and provide a more complete service for all our industry sectors."

Mr Tan Hang Cheong, Principal, **Singapore Polytechnic** said, "At Singapore Polytechnic, we encourage our staff and students to be actively involved in applied R&D work. Some of the technologies resulting from our applied R&D projects have the potential to be commercialised. Our experience has shown that bringing such technologies into the market place has been a main challenge for our staff and students. The TTN will provide the platform for Singapore Polytechnic staff involved in technology transfer to share expertise and best practices with colleagues from other institutions of Higher Learning and Research Institutes."

Mr Boo Kheng Hua, Principal and CEO, **Temasek Polytechnic** said, "TP sees the TTN as an opportunity to enhance the development of our IP Management portfolio and Technology Transfer procedures and mutual sharing with other founding members on their respective areas of expertise relating to IPR issues. We look forward to working with ETPL and the IHLs through TTN in engaging industry and the SMEs in collaborative projects to maximise the commercialisation potential of our IP assets."

The MOU will be signed in Singapore on 12 February 2008 by Mr Boon Swan Foo, Executive Chairman, **Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd**; Mr Chan Lee Mun, Principal/CEO **Nanyang Polytechnic**; Associate Professor Tan Teng Kee, Director, **Nanyang Technopreneurship Center**; Mr Foo See Meng, Deputy Principal, **Ngee Ann Polytechnic**; Prof Low Teck Seng, Principal/CEO, **Republic Polytechnic**; Mr Tan Hang Cheong, Principal, **Singapore Polytechnic**; and Mr Boo Kheng Hua, Principal and CEO, **Temasek Polytechnic**. The ceremony will be witnessed by Chairman of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) Mr Lim Chuan Poh.