



04. 37 CFR 401.14 DOE Modified Patent Rights Clause*

**the standard patent rights clause at 37 CFR 401.14 has been modified to (1) reflect DOE required subcontracting instructions pursuant to 37 CFR 401.5(a) as well as the deletion of the definition of contractor that does not apply based on the subcontracting instructions; (2) change acquisition terms of contractor, contract and subcontract to financial assistance terms of recipient, award, subaward or agreement pursuant to 37 CFR 401.5(c); and (3) include paragraph (m) U.S. competitiveness provision pursuant to the Determination of Exceptional Circumstances under the Bayh-Dole Act to Further Promote Domestic Manufacture of DOE Science and Energy Technologies executed by DOE on June 7,2021.*

(a) Definitions

(1) Invention means any invention or discovery which is or may be patentable or otherwise protectable under Title 35 of the United States Code, or any novel variety of plant which is or may be protected under the Plant Variety Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 2321et seq.).

(2) Subject invention means any invention of the Recipient conceived or first actually reduced to practice in the performance of work under this agreement, provided that in the case of a variety of plant, the date of determination (as defined in section 41(d) of the Plant Variety Protection Act, 7 U.S.C. 2401(d)) must also occur during the period of agreement performance.

(3) Practical Application means to manufacture in the case of a composition or product, to practice in the case of a process or method, or to operate in the case of a machine or system; and, in each case, under such conditions as to establish that the invention is being utilized and that its benefits are, to the extent permitted by law or government regulations, available to the public on reasonable terms.

(4) Made when used in relation to any invention means the conception or first actual reduction to practice of such invention.

(5) Small Business Firm means a small business concern as defined at section 2 of Pub. L. 85-536 (15 U.S.C. 632) and implementing regulations of the Administrator of the Small Business Administration. For the purpose of this clause, the size standards for small business concerns involved in government procurement and subcontracting at 13 CFR 121.3-8 and 13 CFR 121.3-12, respectively, will be used.

(6) Nonprofit Organization means a university or other institution of higher education or an organization of the type described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (26 U.S.C. 501(c) and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue

Code (25 U.S.C. 501(a)) or any nonprofit scientific or educational organization qualified under a state nonprofit organization statute.

(7) Domestic large business means any for-profit entity that does not qualify as a small business firm and is incorporated or otherwise formed under the laws of a particular State or territory of the United States and complies with the eligibility requirements of the applicable funding opportunity announcement including eligibility requirements that may make certain entities subject to foreign ownership, interest, or control ineligible.

(8) The term statutory period means the one-year period before the effective filing date of a claimed invention during which exceptions to prior art exist per 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as amended by the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, Public Law 112-29.

(b) Allocation of Principal Rights

The Recipient may retain the entire right, title, and interest throughout the world to each subject invention subject to the provisions of this clause and 35 U.S.C. 203. With respect to any subject invention in which the Recipient retains title, the Federal government shall have a nonexclusive, nontransferable, irrevocable, paid-up license to practice or have practiced for or on behalf of the United States the subject invention throughout the world.

(c) Invention Disclosure, Election of Title and Filing of Patent Application by Recipient

(1) The Recipient will disclose each subject invention to the Federal Agency within two months after the inventor discloses it in writing to Recipient personnel responsible for patent matters. The disclosure to the agency shall be in the form of a written report and shall identify the agreement under which the invention was made and the inventor(s). It shall be sufficiently complete in technical detail to convey a clear understanding to the extent known at the time of the disclosure, of the nature, purpose, operation, and the physical, chemical, biological or electrical characteristics of the invention. The disclosure shall also identify any publication, on sale or public use of the invention and whether a manuscript describing the invention has been submitted for publication and, if so, whether it has been accepted for publication at the time of disclosure. In addition, after disclosure to the agency, the Recipient will promptly notify the agency of the acceptance of any manuscript describing the invention for publication or of any on sale or public use planned by the Recipient.

(2) The Recipient will elect in writing whether or not to retain title to any such invention by notifying the Federal agency within two years of disclosure to the Federal agency. However, in any case where a patent, a printed publication, public use, sale, or other availability to the public has initiated the one year statutory period wherein valid patent protection can still be obtained in the United States, the period for election of title may be shortened by the agency to a date that is no more than 60 days prior to the end of the statutory period.

(3) The Recipient will file its initial patent application on a subject invention to which it elects to retain title within one year after election of title or, if earlier, prior to the end of any statutory period wherein valid patent protection can be obtained in the United States after a publication, on sale, or public use. If the Recipient files a provisional application as its initial patent application, it shall file a non-provisional application within 10 months of the filing of the provisional application. The Recipient will file patent applications in additional countries or international patent offices within either ten months of the first filed patent application or six months from the date permission is granted by the Commissioner of Patents to file foreign patent applications where such filing has been prohibited by a Secrecy Order.

(4) For any subject invention with Federal agency and Recipient co-inventors, where the Federal agency employing such co-inventor determines that it would be in the interest of the government, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 207(a)(3), to file an initial patent application on the subject invention, the Federal agency employing such co-inventor, at its discretion and in consultation with the Recipient, may file such application at its own expense, provided that the Recipient retains the ability to elect title pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 202(a).

(5) Requests for extension of the time for disclosure, election, and filing under paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of this clause may, at the discretion of the Federal agency, be granted. When a Recipient has requested an extension for filing a non-provisional application after filing a provisional application, a one-year extension will be granted unless the Federal agency notifies the Recipient within 60 days of receiving the request.

(d) Conditions When the Government May Obtain Title

The Recipient will convey to the Federal agency, upon written request, title to any subject invention -

(1) If the Recipient fails to disclose or elect title to the subject invention within the times specified in paragraph (c) of this clause, or elects not to retain title.

(2) In those countries in which the Recipient fails to file patent applications within the times specified in paragraph (c) of this clause; provided, however, that if the Recipient has filed a patent application in a country after the times specified in paragraph (c) of this clause, but prior to its receipt of the written request of the Federal agency, the Recipient shall continue to retain title in that country.

(3) In any country in which the Recipient decides not to continue the prosecution of any non-provisional patent application for, to pay a maintenance, annuity or renewal fee on, or to defend in a reexamination or opposition proceeding on, a patent on a subject invention.

(4) Upon breach of paragraph (m) U.S. Competitiveness on of this Patent Rights clause.

(e) Minimum Rights to Recipient and Protection of the Recipient Right to File

(1) The Recipient will retain a nonexclusive royalty-free license throughout the world in each subject invention to which the Government obtains title, except if the Recipient fails to disclose the invention within the times specified in (c), above. The Recipient's license extends to its domestic subsidiary and affiliates, if any, within the corporate structure of which the Recipient is a party and includes the right to grant sublicenses of the same scope to the extent the Recipient was legally obligated to do so at the time the agreement was awarded. The license is transferable only with the approval of the Federal agency except when transferred to the successor of that party of the Recipient's business to which the invention pertains.

(2) The Recipient's domestic license may be revoked or modified by the funding Federal agency to the extent necessary to achieve expeditious practical application of the subject invention pursuant to an application for an exclusive license submitted in accordance with applicable provisions at 37 CFR part 404 and agency licensing regulations (if any). This license will not be revoked in that field of use or the geographical areas in which the Recipient has achieved practical application and continues to make the benefits of the invention reasonably accessible to the public. The license in any foreign country may be revoked or modified at the discretion of the funding Federal agency to the extent the Recipient, its licensees, or the domestic subsidiaries or affiliates have failed to achieve practical application in that foreign country.

(3) Before revocation or modification of the license, the funding Federal agency will furnish the Recipient a written notice of its intention to revoke or modify the license, and the Recipient will be allowed thirty days (or such other time as may be authorized by the funding Federal agency for good cause shown by the Recipient) after the notice to show cause why the license should not be revoked or modified. The Recipient has the right to appeal, in accordance with applicable regulations in 37 CFR part 404 and agency regulations (if any) concerning the licensing of Government-owned inventions, any decision concerning the revocation or modification of the license.

(f) Recipient Action to Protect the Government's Interest

(1) The Recipient agrees to execute or to have executed and promptly deliver to the Federal agency all instruments necessary to (i) establish or confirm the rights the Government has throughout the world in those subject inventions to which the Recipient elects to retain title, and (ii) convey title to the Federal agency when requested under paragraph (d) above and to enable the government to obtain patent protection throughout the world in that subject invention.

(2) The Recipient agrees to require, by written agreement, its employees, other than clerical and nontechnical employees, to disclose promptly in writing to personnel identified as

responsible for the administration of patent matters and in a format suggested by the Recipient each subject invention made under agreement in order that the Recipient can comply with the disclosure provisions of paragraph (c) of this clause, to assign to the Recipient the entire right, title and interest in and to each subject invention made under agreement, and to execute all papers necessary to file patent applications on subject inventions and to establish the government's rights in the subject inventions. This disclosure format should require, as a minimum, the information required by paragraph (c)(1) of this clause. The Recipient shall instruct such employees through employee agreements or other suitable educational programs on the importance of reporting inventions in sufficient time to permit the filing of patent applications prior to U.S. or foreign statutory bars.

(3) For each subject invention, the Recipient will, no less than 60 days prior to the expiration of the statutory deadline, notify the Federal agency of any decision: Not to continue the prosecution of a non-provisional patent application; not to pay a maintenance, annuity or renewal fee; not to defend in a reexamination or opposition proceeding on a patent, in any country; to request, be a party to, or take action in a trial proceeding before the Patent Trial and Appeals Board of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, including but not limited to post-grant review, review of a business method patent, inter partes review, and derivation proceeding; or to request, be a party to, or take action in a non-trial submission of art or information at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, including but not limited to a pre-issuance submission, a post-issuance submission, and supplemental examination.

(4) The Recipient agrees to include, within the specification of any United States patent applications and any patent issuing thereon covering a subject invention, the following statement, "This invention was made with government support under *DE-CD00000XX* awarded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The government has certain rights in the invention."

(g) Subaward/Contract

(1) The Recipient will include this clause, suitably modified to identify the parties, in all subawards/contracts, regardless of tier, for research, development or demonstration work to be performed by a domestic small business firm or nonprofit organization. The subrecipient/contractor will retain all rights provided for the Recipient in this clause, and the Recipient will not, as part of the consideration for awarding the subaward/contract, obtain rights in the subrecipient's/subcontractor's subject inventions.

(2) The Recipient will include the attached Terms and Conditions of W(C) 2022-003 Class Patent Waiver, suitably modified to identify the parties, as the patent rights flow down clause in all subawards/contracts, regardless of tier, for research, development or demonstration work to be performed by a domestic large business.

(3) The Recipient will include in all other subawards/contracts, regardless of tier, for research, development or demonstration work the patent rights clause directed by the DOE Contracting Officer.

(4) Notwithstanding the above, for any agreement with a DOE laboratory, the Recipient and the DOE laboratory shall use a technology transfer agreement (*e.g.*, Strategic Partnership Project (SPP), Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA)) that is executed by the Recipient and the DOE laboratory and approved by DOE. The technology transfer agreement will provide the applicable patent rights clause for the work to be performed by the DOE laboratory.

(5) In the case of subrecipients/contractors at any tier, DOE, the subrecipient/contractor, and Recipient agree that the mutual obligations of the parties created by this clause constitute a contract between the subrecipient/contractor and DOE with respect to those matters covered by this clause.

(h) Reporting on Utilization of Subject Inventions

The Recipient agrees to submit on request periodic reports no more frequently than annually on the utilization of a subject invention or on efforts at obtaining such utilization that are being made by the Recipient or its licensees or assignees. Such reports shall include information regarding the status of development, date of first commercial sale or use, gross royalties received by the Recipient, and such other data and information as the agency may reasonably specify. The Recipient also agrees to provide additional reports as may be requested by the agency in connection with any march-in proceeding undertaken by the agency in accordance with paragraph (j) of this clause. As required by 35 U.S.C. 202(c)(5), the agency agrees it will not disclose such information to persons outside the government without permission of the Recipient.

(i) Preference for United States Industry

Notwithstanding any other provision of this clause, the Recipient agrees that neither it nor any assignee will grant to any person the exclusive right to use or sell any subject inventions in the United States unless such person agrees that any products embodying the subject invention or produced through the use of the subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States. However, in individual cases, the requirement for such an agreement may be waived by the Federal agency upon a showing by the Recipient or its assignee that reasonable but unsuccessful efforts have been made to grant licenses on similar terms to potential licensees that would be likely to manufacture substantially in the United States or that under the circumstances domestic manufacture is not commercially feasible.

(j) March-in Rights

The Recipient agrees that with respect to any subject invention in which it has acquired title, the Federal agency has the right in accordance with the procedures in 37 CFR 401.6 and any supplemental regulations of the agency to require the Recipient, an assignee or exclusive licensee of a subject invention to grant a nonexclusive, partially exclusive, or exclusive license in any field of use to a responsible applicant or applicants, upon terms that are reasonable under the circumstances, and if the Recipient, assignee, or exclusive licensee refuses such a request the Federal agency has the right to grant such a license itself if the Federal agency determines that:

- (1) Such action is necessary because the Recipient or assignee has not taken, or is not expected to take within a reasonable time, effective steps to achieve practical application of the subject invention in such field of use.
- (2) Such action is necessary to alleviate health or safety needs which are not reasonably satisfied by the Recipient, assignee or their licensees;
- (3) Such action is necessary to meet requirements for public use specified by Federal regulations and such requirements are not reasonably satisfied by the Recipient, assignee or licensees; or
- (4) Such action is necessary because the agreement required by paragraph (i) of this clause has not been obtained or waived or because a licensee of the exclusive right to use or sell any subject invention in the United States is in breach of such agreement.

(k) Special Provisions for Agreements with Nonprofit Organizations

If the Recipient is a nonprofit organization, it agrees that:

- (1) Rights to a subject invention in the United States may not be assigned without the approval of the Federal agency, except where such assignment is made to an organization which has as one of its primary functions the management of inventions, provided that such assignee will be subject to the same provisions as the Recipient;
- (2) The Recipient will share royalties collected on a subject invention with the inventor, including Federal employee co-inventors (when the agency deems it appropriate) when the subject invention is assigned in accordance with 35 U.S.C. 202(e) and 37 CFR 401.10;
- (3) The balance of any royalties or income earned by the Recipient with respect to subject inventions, after payment of expenses (including payments to inventors) incidental to the administration of subject inventions, will be utilized for the support of scientific research or education; and
- (4) It will make efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to attract licensees of subject inventions that are small business firms and that it will give a preference to a small

business firm when licensing a subject invention if the Recipient determines that the small business firm has a plan or proposal for marketing the invention which, if executed, is equally as likely to bring the invention to practical application as any plans or proposals from applicants that are not small business firms; provided, that the Recipient is also satisfied that the small business firm has the capability and resources to carry out its plan or proposal. The decision whether to give a preference in any specific case will be at the discretion of the Recipient. However, the Recipient agrees that the Federal agency may review the Recipient's licensing program and decisions regarding small business applicants, and the Recipient will negotiate changes to its licensing policies, procedures, or practices with the Federal agency when the Federal agency's review discloses that the Recipient could take reasonable steps to implement more effectively the requirements of this paragraph (k)(4). In accordance with 37 CFR 401.7, the Federal agency or the Recipient may request that the Secretary review the Recipient's licensing program and decisions regarding small business applicants.

(l) Communication


Unless otherwise directed by DOE Patent Counsel, all reports and notifications required by this clause shall be submitted in accordance with the instructions provided in the Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist (FARC) of this agreement.

(m) U.S. Competitiveness

The Recipient agrees that any products embodying any subject invention or produced through the use of any subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States unless the Recipient can show to the satisfaction of DOE that it is not commercially feasible. In the event DOE agrees to foreign manufacture, there will be a requirement that the Government's support of the technology be recognized in some appropriate manner, e.g., alternative binding commitments to provide an overall net benefit to the U.S. economy. The Recipient agrees that it will not license, assign or otherwise transfer any subject invention to any entity, at any tier, unless that entity agrees to these same requirements. In the event that the Recipient or other such entity receiving rights in the Subject Invention undergoes a change in ownership amounting to a controlling interest, the Recipient or other such entity receiving rights shall ensure continual compliance with the requirements of this paragraph (m) and shall inform DOE, in writing, of the change in ownership within six months of the change. The Recipient and any successor assignee will convey to DOE, upon written request from DOE, title to any subject invention, upon a breach of this paragraph (m). The Recipient will include this paragraph (m) in all subawards/contracts, regardless of tier, for experimental, developmental or research work.

(n) The requirements, rights and administration of paragraph (m) are further clarified as follows:

1. Waivers. The Recipient (or any entity subject to paragraph (m)) may request a waiver or modification of paragraph (m). Such waivers or modifications may be granted when DOE determines that (1) the Recipient (or any entity subject to paragraph (m)) has demonstrated, with quantifiable data, that manufacturing in the United States is not commercially feasible and (2) a waiver or modification would best serve the interests of the United States and the general public.
2. Final determination of breach of paragraph (m). If DOE determines the Recipient is in breach of paragraph (m), the Department may issue a final written determination of such breach. If such determination includes a demand for title to the subject inventions under the award, the demand for title will cause an immediate conveyance and assignment of all rights to all subject inventions under the award to the United States Government, including all pending U.S. and foreign patent applications and all U.S. and foreign patents that cover any subject invention, without compensation. Any such final determination shall be signed by the cognizant DOE Contracting Officer with the concurrence of the Assistant General Counsel for Technology Transfer & Intellectual Property. Advanced notice will be provided for comment to the Recipient before any final written determination by DOE is issued.
3. Pursuant to Recipient's agreement in paragraph (m) to not license, assign or otherwise transfer rights to subject inventions at any tier unless the entity agrees to paragraph (m): any such license, assignment, or other transfer of right to any subject invention developed under the award shall contain paragraph (m) suitably modified to properly identify the parties. If a licensee, assignee, or other transferee of rights to any subject invention is finally determined by DOE in writing to be in breach of paragraph (m), the applicable license, assignment or other transfer shall be deemed null and void. Advanced notice will be provided for comment to the non-complying party before any final written determination by DOE is made.
4. For clarity, if the forfeiture of title to any subject invention is due to a breach of paragraph (m), the Recipient shall not be entitled to any compensation, or to a license to the subject invention including the reserved license in section (e)(1), unless DOE grants a license through a separately agreed upon licensing agreement.
5. Authority. The requirements and administration of paragraph (m) is in accordance with the Determination of Exceptional Circumstances (DEC) under the Bayh-Dole Act to Further Promote Domestic Manufacture of DOE Science and Energy Technologies executed by DOE on June 7, 2021. A copy of the DEC is available at <https://www.energy.gov/gc/determination-exceptional-circumstances-decs>. By accepting or acknowledging the award, the Recipient is also acknowledging that it has received a copy of the DEC through the foregoing link. As set forth in 37 CFR 401.4, any nonprofit organization or small business firm as defined by 35 U.S.C. 201



affected by any DEC has the right to appeal the imposition of the DEC within thirty (30) working days from the Recipient's acceptance or acknowledgement of this award.

(End of Clause)