



USPTO:

## JOINT-PROJECT AGREEMENT

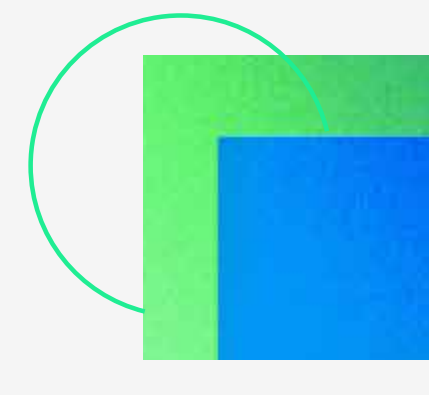


Since the Academy's inception, NAI and the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) have worked together to enhance the innovation ecosystems, advancing cutting-edge technologies and fostering the development of groundbreaking ideas. In 2022, the Academy and the USPTO deepened that partnership with a Joint-Project Agreement (JPA), which aims to broaden access in invention and innovation globally across a multitude of sectors. With this agreement, both parties are seeking to expand access to NAI and USPTO resources to inventive communities across the nation. The Academy has already undertaken several initiatives as part of this JPA.

In the spring of 2023, the Academy launched its first Language Study to gain deeper insights into the most effective ways to communicate IP programs and services to innovators, educators, and students. With the intent to drive increased involvement within the academic innovation ecosystem, the study explored the communication channels and language that best resonate with target audiences and encourage their engagement with IP resources.

To ensure a well-rounded perspective, the study included input from NAI Member Institutions, non-member academic institutions, and individuals across the innovation ecosystem. This approach provided valuable insights into the needs of communities across the country and highlighted ways to make IP resources more accessible and impactful. The initial findings from the study were shared during the Women in Innovation Breakfast at the 13th Annual Conference, offering a glimpse into the progress being made.

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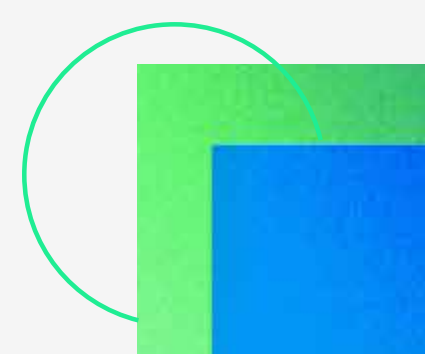
This year, the Academy partnered with the USPTO to relaunch *From Campus to Commerce*, a video series originally introduced in 2019. The series spotlights groundbreaking innovations developed within NAI Member Institutions that have successfully transitioned from research labs to the marketplace. It aims to bring attention to transformative research and innovations that often go unnoticed by the general public, despite their significant contributions to everyday life. With input and guidance from the USPTO, the series has been reimagined to provide a broader perspective on the commercialization process. Featuring insights from inventors, institutional leaders, technology transfer offices, and industry professionals, the updated series explores the journey of innovation—from conception to commercialization—and its impact on institutions, industries, and society. The first episode of the relaunched *From Campus to Commerce* premiered in fall of 2024, showcasing the University of South Florida. Additional episodes are scheduled for release in 2025.

Watch *From Campus to Commerce* here.

Watch



The Academy is expanding *Invention Insider* to further highlight the incredible contributions of contemporary inventors who often go unrecognized. *Invention Insider* shares the stories, insights, and inventive journeys of these innovators, bringing to light the faces behind transformative breakthroughs. In 2025, the initiative will grow with the introduction of the *Invention Insider Inventors Gallery*, a multimedia showcase that celebrates inventors from NAI Member Institutions addressing some of the world's most pressing challenges. This gallery will offer audiences a personal look into the unique histories and experiences that shaped each inventor's work, emphasizing the tangible societal benefits their innovations provide.

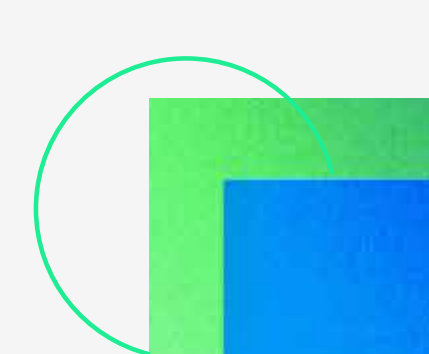


In fall 2024, NAI introduced the *Invention Ambassadors* program, featuring a distinguished group of inventors, innovators, entrepreneurs, and commercialization experts who will participate in speaking engagements nationwide. The inaugural cohort represents a diverse cross-section of innovation fields, bringing varied perspectives and expertise to the program.

Aligned with the missions of both the NAI and USPTO to foster impactful innovation, the program seeks to expand resources and opportunities for communities across the nation to participate in the invention ecosystem. Through their engagements, *Invention Ambassadors* will provide valuable information and resources to current and aspiring inventors, empowering them to navigate and thrive within the innovation landscape. Additionally, the Ambassadors will share personal stories from their own inventive journeys, offering inspiration and actionable insights to guide the next generation of innovators.

Learn more about the NAI Invention Ambassador program.

Learn More



This year, the Global Academic Inventors Network (GAIN) program began an expansion to better support NAI Members at all levels and strengthen connections across the innovation ecosystem. Traditionally, GAIN has focused on connecting emerging inventors with mentors who provide guidance on career development, research, and intellectual property protection. With new features and initiatives, GAIN continues to offer mentorship opportunities while also evolving into a premier platform for networking with inventors, technology transfer professionals, and industry leaders worldwide.

In summer 2024, GAIN Communities were revamped to create more intentional spaces for members to connect, exchange ideas, and share opportunities and advice. Current Communities include forums for women in innovation, NAI Chapter Members, and the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Technology Transitions. Additional Communities will be introduced in 2025, and members are encouraged to share their suggestions for new Communities by contacting [programs@academyofinventors.org](mailto:programs@academyofinventors.org).

Share a Suggestion

In 2025, GAIN will roll out new training and recognition programs to further support and celebrate inventors within the network. The GAIN Library will also continue to grow, providing expanded access to resources, including ScholarShare, NAI's signature webinar series.

Learn more about GAIN.

Learn More



Building on the success of the Academy's Intellectual Property Curriculum and Certification, additional courses are in development to further support innovators and their institutions. In 2025, NAI will launch its newest curriculum and certification, focused on commercialization, offering essential insights into navigating the complexities of bringing ideas to market.

This new course will feature contributions from experts across NAI's Membership, presenting real-world case studies and best practices in areas such as entrepreneurship, strategic partnerships, licensing, and more. By equipping participants with actionable knowledge, the curriculum aims to empower innovators to advance their ideas and drive meaningful impact. The new certification will provide participants with proof of skill, bolstering their resumes and qualifications and making them more competitive in today's innovation landscape.

