Starting a WHOI Spinoff

Innovation and entrepreneurship are highly valued and encouraged at WHOI. As an institution of public trust, WHOI is also committed to fulfilling its mission and ensuring openness in research and education. WHOI and inventors will work together to balance outside entrepreneurial activities with conflicts of interest in the start-up context.

- There are several scenarios where WHOI Inventors may wish to be involved with a startup company
- Certain requirements may apply dependent on continued role at WHOI
- All example scenarios below would require an approved Conflict Mitigation Plan (CMP)
- Disclosure of company time/role vs. WHOI time/role when working with colleagues is always required.
- It's important to note that WHOI OTT does not make decisions on COI/COC

Possible Pathways: Please note that below are examples and other scenarios/pathways may exist

Consult for startup & remain at WHOL

• 3rd party to negotiate

on behalf of company

• Facility Use Agreement

for use of WHOI

facilities

customer

• WHOI can be a

- absence from WHOI
- in startup with leave of

Take management role

- WHOI Express Startup License or 3rd party to negotiate on behalf of company
- Facility Use Agreement for use of WHOI facilities
- WHOI can be a customer
- Tenure track pause for leave of absence

Take management role in company and stay at WHOI part-time*

- WHOI Express Startup License or 3rd party to negotiate on behalf of company
- Facility Use Agreement for use of WHOI facilities
- WHOI cannot be a customer
- Waiver of royalty share from WHOI
- *This option should be short-term with a planned decision point to go fulltime with one or the other within a year

Take management role at company and stay at WHOI full-time**

- WHOI Express Startup License or 3rd party to negotiate on behalf of company
- Facility Use Agreement for use of WHOI facilities
- WHOI cannot be a customer
- Waiver of royalty share from WHOI
- **Requires winding down research related to licensed IP

