

The Innovation Journal: The Public Sector Innovation Journal
La Revue de l'innovation : La Revue de l'innovation dans le secteur public

Vol 17(2), 2012

Call for Papers
Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights

Edited by Sanni Yaya, University of Ottawa

International competition has tampered with previously gained organizational advantages. As such, competition is no longer simply about costs, but also about creativity. Organizations no longer have the choice; they must continually come up with new ideas and imagine the impossible. Globalization has changed the economic landscape forcing businesses to be creative if they want to survive, grow and develop in an environment that is continually evolving. Yet, whether commercial, organizational or technological, innovation provides only a temporary advantage since globalization increases the risk of imitation and duplication, if not outright pirating.

The concept of intellectual property rights is, thus, under stress. Intellectual property rights seek to foster and recognize inventions, innovations and creativity. It is traditionally ensured through patents and licenses. In traditional economic theory, the protection of intellectual property rights is understood as essential for the creator to exploit and profit from his innovation, which provides him with incentives to further develop new ideas. It is assumed that without intellectual property rights, businesses are less likely to invest in research and development due to the high cost of such activities. Simply put, intellectual property rights are seen as necessary for economic growth and innovation. But, what if the traditional theory was wrong and intellectual property rights hampered innovation? Such a belief is gaining credence. Today's challenge is about finding new ways to regulate innovation and its diffusion in a way that takes into account the interest of businesses, users and consumers, both in the developed and developing worlds.

This special issue of *The Innovation Journal* on intellectual property rights will consider submissions addressing, among others, the following topics:

- Advantages and disadvantages of the patent for fostering innovation
- Challenges and issues in the creation of a new regime for intellectual property rights
- Ethical, temporal and geographical limits of intellectual property rights
- Case studies, highlighting in particular the limits of the current regime.

Submissions can be made in French or in English.

Submission of intentions: early October 2011

Acceptance of intentions: mid October 2011

Submission of article proposals: mid December 2011

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