Office of Technology Transfer May 2009 INFORMATION FOR INVENTORS

The Consulting Contract

How Is a Consulting Contract Concluded?

In areas of strategic importance, industrial enterprises like to make use of the scientific expertise of selected consultants, for example from the DKFZ. This consulting activity is undertaken outside of regular working hours and is usually compensated. To this end, a company will conclude a consulting contract with the consultant. Consulting services are outside professional activities subject to approval (see Human Resource department information on outside (secondary) employment).

What Is a Consulting Contract About?

A consulting contract stipulates the consulting subject area (subject matter of the contract), compensation (daily rates, travel expenses), intellectual property rights for consulting information and results, confidentiality, term of and time devoted to consulting services, liability of the consultant.

Which Items of the Consulting Contract are Checked by the Technology Transfer Office?

The law on outside employment is designed to ensure that the interests of the employer are not adversely affected. The Technology Transfer Office examines whether the consulting subject area is the employee's work task and whether it concerns license or collaboration agreements. In addition, Technology Transfer will check whether inventions are part of the consulting subject area. Work-related employee inventions must not be part of the consulting services provided.

A standard agreement (in pdf) is available on the Intranet or from Technology Transfer or the Human Resource Department.