



National Academy of Sciences

“A Patent System for the 21st Century” Statement of Task:

From a series of public meetings involving economists, legal scholars, practitioners, corporate managers, policymakers, and judges, the Board on Science, Technology and Economic Policy has identified a series of issues with respect to the operation of the patent system and its effects on innovation. An ad hoc study committee will consider how the resources devoted to patent application review, the standards of patenting, and the patents issued have changed and how these affect incentives to undertake and communicate research and to commercialize new technology. The project will examine how post-patenting patterns of technology licensing and patent infringement litigation affect innovation and diffusion of technology. The study will use evidence from software technology, especially involving Internet business methods, and biotechnology, especially involving genetic sequences. To the extent that current policies and practices serve as a disincentive to research and development and diffusion of new technologies, the study will consider changes in patent administration and dispute resolution processes.

The report is due to be released the first full week in April 2004.

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National Research Council***

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