

About the Bayh-Dole Act

Passed in 1980, the bipartisan Bayh-Dole Act empowered universities, small businesses, and national laboratories to patent and license federally-funded inventions, driving over four decades of American innovation.

The *Economist Technology Quarterly* heralded the Bayh-Dole Act as “the most inspired piece of legislation to be enacted in America over the past half-century... More than anything, this single policy measure helped to reverse America’s precipitous slide into industrial irrelevancy.”

Bayh-Dole
COALITION

Innovations made possible thanks to the Bayh-Dole Act include:

- Google
- High-definition television
- CMOS image sensor used in smartphone cameras
- Epivir (AIDS therapy)
- Firefighting drones
- Blood test to detect brain injuries
- Nicotine patch
- Non-lethal pest control
- Paper-based diagnostic chip
- Prostate cancer detection
- Water purification technologies

Preserving the integrity of the Bayh-Dole Act is critical to advancing U.S. leadership in innovation and safeguarding American economic growth and security.

Impact of the Bayh-Dole Act and Academic Technology Transfer¹

Since 1996...



6.5 million
jobs supported



\$1.9 trillion
contributed to U.S. gross industrial output



21,000+
startups created



580,000+
inventions disclosed to research institutions²

The Bayh-Dole Act has benefitted the U.S. economy, entrepreneurship, and innovation for decades by...

- **Supporting Local Economies:** Bayh-Dole allows universities to license federally-funded inventions to private companies, reinvesting royalties in research to drive local and national economic growth.³
- **Bringing American Products to Market:** In 2025 alone, university tech transfer offices executed over 10,277 licenses and options.⁴ Before Bayh-Dole, federal agencies had licensed less than 5% of their 28,000 patents by 1980.⁵
- **Maintaining U.S. Competitiveness Abroad:** With China outpacing the United States in 66 of 74 key technologies, Bayh-Dole is vital to asserting our global leadership by bolstering innovation, manufacturing, and economic prosperity.⁵
- **Supporting Small Businesses:** Startups and small companies hold nearly 70% of university licenses and the tech transfer system helped launch over 1,050 startups in 2025.⁷

[1] <https://autm.net/AUTM/media/SurveyReportsPDF/Survey%20Reports%20Images/AUTM-FY25-US-Infographic.pdf>

[2] <https://autm.net/AUTM/media/SurveyReportsPDF/2024-US-AUTM-Infographic.pdf>

[3] <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12701#:~:text=Colleges%20and%20universities%20may%20also,formal%20process%20of%20technology%20transfer.>

[4] <https://autm.net/AUTM/media/SurveyReportsPDF/Survey%20Reports%20Images/AUTM-FY25-US-Infographic.pdf>

[5] <https://www.gao.gov/assets/rced-98-126.pdf#page=5>

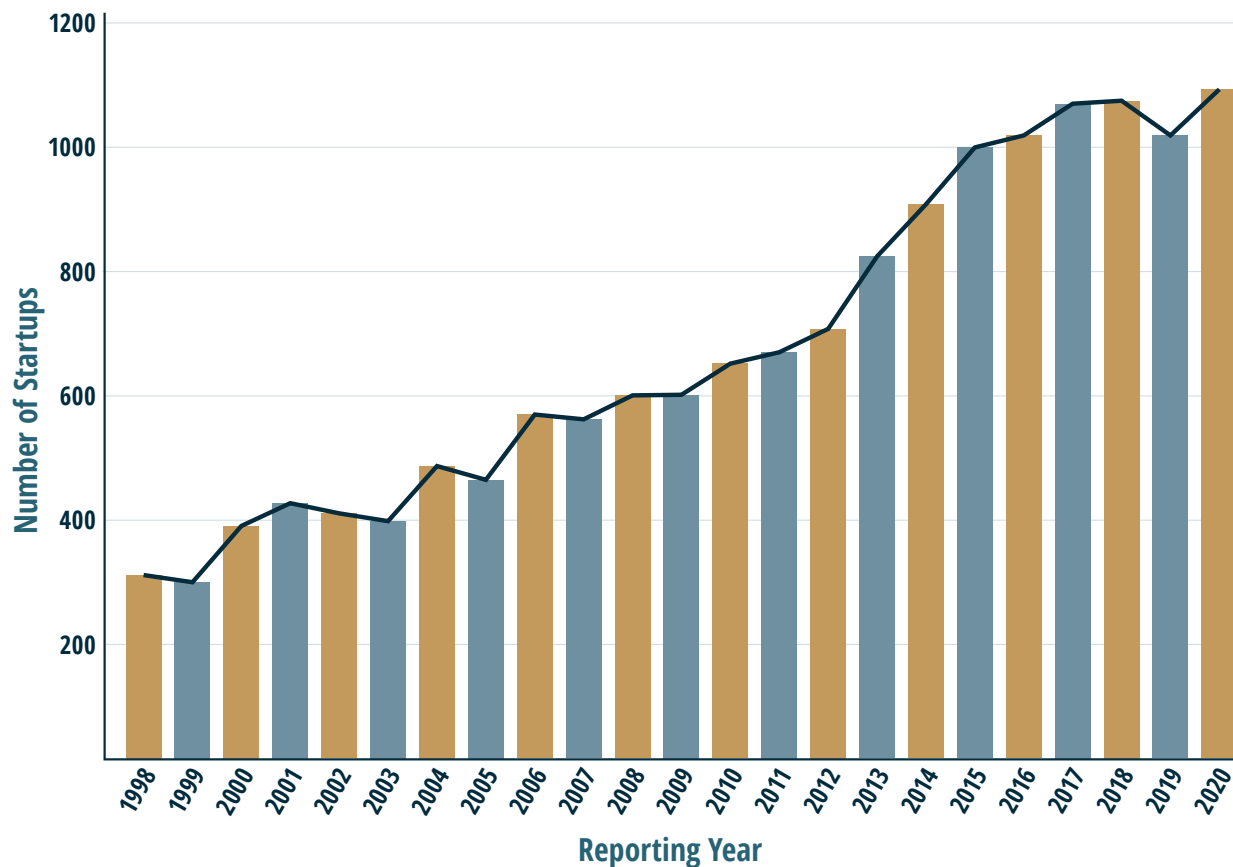
[6] <https://www.aspi.org.au/strategist-posts/aspis-critical-technology-tracker-2025-updates-and-10-new-technologies/>

[7] <https://autm.net/AUTM/media/SurveyReportsPDF/Survey%20Reports%20Images/AUTM-FY25-US-Infographic.pdf>

A Startup Explosion

One of America's greatest strengths is forming startup companies that drive economic growth and innovation. The Bayh-Dole Act empowered technology transfer nationwide — moving an early-stage idea from the university lab to market as a commercial product — which led to an explosion of startups forming around federally-funded inventions. Under our system, the private sector assumes the expense and risk of development, which often fails despite good faith efforts. **But because of Bayh-Dole, we commercialize an average of two new products and form between two and three new startups based on academic inventions every day of the year.**⁸ No other country comes close to that success rate.

Number of Startups Formed Around University Inventions



Scan to learn more about the Coalition and join the effort to defend the landmark and bipartisan Bayh-Dole Act.



About the Bayh-Dole Coalition

A 501(c)(4), the Bayh-Dole Coalition is a group of innovation-oriented organizations and individuals committed to celebrating and protecting the Bayh-Dole Act, as well as informing policymakers and the public of its many benefits.

The Bayh-Dole Coalition has **more than 300 members** that represent the interests of universities, private companies, venture capitalists, and researchers across all economic sectors.

[8] <https://autm.net/AUTM/media/SurveyReportsPDF/Survey%20Reports%20Images/AUTM-FY25-US-Infographic.pdf>