



ITSSD: Russia Can Secure Greatest Biotech Market Advances Following US, Not EU Innovation Model

Princeton, NJ – March 21, 2008 – In a short article published today by the Washington Legal Foundation, US international trade and business lawyer Lawrence Kogan and Russian Government lawyer Yelena Bakulina highlight the common bases in Russian and US history that have triggered new thinking in Russia about how to use privately owned patent rights and cooperative government-university-industry technology transfer arrangements to secure successful market commercialization and peaceful adaptation of publicly-owned bio-warfare technologies.

The article arose from Kogan's June 28, 2007 presentation at a symposium convened by the Vyatka State University, Kirov, Russia, as part of a longstanding joint Russian-US cooperative nonproliferation program overseen by the International Science and Technology Center (ISTC), Moscow Russia.

According to Bakulina and Kogan, "The [US] federal government[‘s]...transference of innovation from energy, space, and defense to that of the private sector, and...the American experience in innovation and intellectual property may be advantageous to use in Russia..."

Furthermore, "The Kirov Region certainly has the potential to develop effective innovation systems supported by the investment and protection of privately owned intellectual property in the sphere of modern high tech technology. If properly managed, this could create jobs, know-how and other economic and social benefits in the Kirov Region."

"Such an approach", adds Kogan, "would allow Russian biotechnology markets to leapfrog those of Europe to capture a greater share of the global marketplace for biomedical and bioenvironmental products and processes. "Unfortunately, the current EU innovation model is fixated on market control via regulation rather than market facilitation via market incentives and ease of doing business", emphasizes Kogan. "Europe is more obsessed with dictating the rules of the game than with providing hi tech businesses operating in the biotech marketplace with the property rights and economic freedom to grow and prosper. Consequently EU biotech and pharma companies have increasingly relocated R&D to the US."

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