

Dear Mr Gower,

Please find our submission below as well as our thanks for kindly extending your deadline till today the 28th April 2006

West Country Inventors Clubs' Submission & Proposal
to GOWER IP review for Inventor & UK support.

- (1) In exchange for a percentage of an ideas earning power for its' country (in taxes/employment and hard currency), the government of that country should INVEST in the costs involved.
International patent cover, legal costs and if appropriate, incubator units that enable tool sharing, mentoring and communal services such as secretarial/internet/legal and the engineering expertise to bring the idea to a marketable stage. Such incubator units are available in Europe namely Netherlands Sweden and Belgium. (One of our members has enjoyed these facilities).
- (2) The state is responsible for paying for the educational system that produced the medium suitable for idea generation; it should have some claim to the ideas and would be prudent to look after them, safeguarding this investment. In RETURN, they should be entitled to a percentage of its value. This is currently received as taxes (employment ,income ,corporation, VAT, business rates) on successes.
- (3) The important thing to the country of origin, is that the idea stays there. Suitable remuneration should be obtained from a second country wishing to manufacture. This could be ensured if the state was part owner and protector.
This arrangement could be only agreed at international level. Perhaps this could be the " protection and earning" function of the foreign office i.e: monitoring piracy?
- (4) As a guideline, " You respect my countries patents and we will respect yours."
This type of agreement could well be on a free basis and the only costs should be on-line registration with computer based comparison with only final matching and infringement issues settled by (UN) judgement.
Pirated goods should be refused importation by Customs and Excise.

(5) In Germany, manufacturers are provided with factories, machinery and a work force at the subsidised rate of 1 Euro per hour. A facility to borrow money at 2.5% is also available.

Competing with this kind of assistance, without help, forces the British inventor to seek his production in China, India, or elsewhere abroad. It is not difficult to understand, why more than half of our British workforce are working for the government and the largest part of the rest, employed in service industries.

With the agricultural workforce having been more than halved and manufacturing fast disappearing, where will future hard currency come from?

(6) The theft of intellectual property has become a major game in this country. A game from which the insurance and legal professions fully enjoy the rich pluckings. It is, obviously, theft of the greatest importance, from not only the inventor but also the many that may well be employed in its' manufacture and the supporting industries. If a government was bearing these costs, i.e. legislation to preclude such misuse, it would quickly be curtailed if the pirate knew, the threat of a large "legal aid fund" would be backing the lone inventor.

7) Britain became GREAT because of its' inventive past and the Industrial Revolution. The ideas, for the future, are still there, under wraps, waiting for protective legislation that works and is not too expensive to afford.

With state support the need to seek help elsewhere would disappear.

The patent business as set up today advertises rather than safeguards ideas from those countries prepared to steal them. Only international agreement and refusal to allow pirated goods to be imported can alter this problem.

8) The Japanese trade commissions' sales figure for British invented goods was given as long ago as 1982 was £146 billion!.

The annual trading loss to Britain by piracy is about a £1,000 billion on an international basis.(NB a years taxation raises £360 billion)

Mr Gower can we not curtail these losses and avoid the need for such high taxation ,whilst encouraging manufacture and investment?

Michael Turner. Chair WCIC.

Agreed collectively by our current membership.

20/4/'06

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