

Intellectual Property Policy

Principle

We recognise that the quality of service and product we deliver will be considerably improved by continued innovation in our business practices and technology and by the know-how and creativity of our people and business partners. While we will seek to adopt the best of appropriate technology and practice from outside our business, by learning, acquisition and licensing, it is also our aim to invent and develop as much as possible within our business and protect it where necessary.

We will ensure that, through effective management of our intellectual property, we hold legitimate rights to employ and exploit the full potential of the technologies and related assets on which the business will depend in the future. Intellectual Property (IP) refers to all our knowledge-based assets, including patents, copyright, design rights, registered and industrial designs, trademarks, trade secrets, licenses and know-how, as well as the collective experience and creativity of all our people.

We will identify, develop and, as necessary, protect by various means our portfolio of intellectual property, managing it to the benefit of our customers and other stakeholders. It is also our intention to respect the IP rights of other organisations and individuals and comply with licence conditions where relevant.

In particular, it is our policy to:

- Recognise the value of IP as a core asset of our business.
- Stimulate and support a climate of innovation by encouraging the pursuit of new ideas and encourage the development of a broad range of IP in all our activities.
- Encourage ideas and suggestions from all our people or from outside sources which could create valuable intellectual property, together with an awareness of the principles governing its protection.
- Work with our customers to identify areas where investment in new technology or ideas will bring long term advantages to us, them and the industry as a whole.
- Make appropriate arrangements for the identification, protection and exploitation of our IP. Where it is concluded that such intellectual property cannot lead to competitive advantage, it will be offered to other organisations on terms acceptable to Thalia Waste Management.
- Manage our IP, employing best-accepted practice and encourage the sharing of ideas across business units.
- Legally protect our IP, with assistance from legal advisors where necessary, through registration via the relevant body (e.g., the UK Intellectual Property Office) in the relevant jurisdictions and maintain these registered rights where necessary in order to protect them against unlawful use and infringements by third parties.
- License or dispose for value to external parties those items of intellectual property to which Thalia

Waste Management no longer requires exclusive rights.

- Strenuously pursue, by litigation if necessary, any infringement by others of our legitimate IP rights, including any rights protected by registration.
- Maintain the confidentiality of commercially valuable information.
- Comply with the provisions of all agreements to which Thalia Waste Management is a party, which govern the transfer and/or use of know-how or licensing of IP.
- Ensure that appropriate technical skills are retained and fostered by an active programme of recruitment, training and continuing development.

Responsibilities

Our General Counsel along with our legal team are responsible for interpreting and monitoring implementation of this policy and for reviewing its provisions at regular intervals. The General Council will also, where appropriate, provide access for line management to a source of specialist expertise on legal and related issues associated with the external registration and protection of intellectual property of all types.

Our Director of People and Communications is responsible for the protection of intellectual property developed by employees and will provide guidance on recruitment, training and continuing development.

Each of our Account Directors will:


- prepare and regularly review procedures consistent with this policy and will take responsibility for its implementation;
- prepare a register of IP, which the site will seek to protect by a variety of means, through consultation with the legal team if necessary;
- be responsible for promulgating the policy, promoting a climate of innovation and for implementing its provisions, including external registration, development and exploitation of IP assets; and
- report periodically to the Chief Executive on development and exploitation of the IP portfolio.

The Executive Committee will provide the focus for high-level review of technical development programmes, for encouraging inter-site co-operation, and for ensuring that the level of investment in IP are appropriate and consistent with business strategy. The Committee will also consider technical trends and major advances of particular significance to Thalia Waste Management and will overview the provision of technical training and education programmes across the group. These matters will be formally reviewed at least annually.

Communication

This policy will be brought to the attention of everyone within Thalia Waste Management and, as appropriate, to external interests including suppliers, business partners and clients.

This policy should be read in conjunction with a number of other Thalia Waste Management policies on related matters.



Paco Hevia
Chief Executive
Nov 2022

Revision Status

Revision	Date	Amendment	Content Owner	Mandated By
1.0	Nov 2022	Issued for use	Janet McDonald	Paco Hevia