Intellectual Property Policy

Open Molecular Software Foundation

TODO: Date or Version

OMSF strives to make the intellectual fruits of its work as open and accessible as possible. This published policy spells out how. OMSF includes this policy in all its agreements with founders and participants in OMSF projects.

How OMSF Projects Are Licensed

OMSF and contributors to OMSF projects license OMSF project work on these terms:

Kind of Work	License Terms
Software	MIT
Documentation, Code Examples in Documentation, Technical Writings	CC-BY-4.0
Media (Images, Audio, Video, Etc.)	CC-BY-4.0
Data Sets, Databases	CC0
Website Content	CC-BY-4.0
Other	the most permissive, widely accepted license terms available for the kind of work, determined by OMSF at the executive level

When OMSF Does Not Control Licensing

In rare situations, OMSF and its project contributors may not fully control what license terms apply to their work. Even more rarely, OMSF may decide that a narrow, case-specific exception to its general license policy better advances its mission in the circumstances.

Prior Work and Upstream Dependencies

OMSF may do or accept work that depends on other work, such as software dependencies, with license terms that cannot be changed or that limit how the broader project can be licensed. In situations where a dependency's license terms do not comply with OMSF's general license policy,

OMSF may decide to make an exception to its general license policy to better advance OMSF's mission. Each license has its own conditions for use, which will depend on the use case, so contributors are encouraged to first ask whether an exception is actually required.

Example: OMSF might grant an exception and accept a code contribution that depends on software that does not use one of the licenses recommended in the OMSF general license policy.

Fixes and Improvements to Complementary Projects

OMSF projects are sometimes used together with other tools and data under more restrictive license terms. OMSF may release fixes and improvements to these projects under their existing license terms, or through their steward's contributor-licensing processes, when doing so advances practical use of OMSF's own projects.

Example: OMSF might contribute patches to a scientific tool stewarded by a company or academic institution in order to make it compatible with an OMSF project.

Comparable or Improved Permissive Terms

OMSF may license work or accept contributions on terms as or arguably more permissive than OMSF's preferred license for a particular kind of work.

Example: OMSF may make a particular software project available under license terms comparable to MIT, such as BSD-2-Clause or Apache-2.0, when that choice makes it easier for users and contributors from a particular scientific or technical community to recognize and accept the license terms.

Example: OMSF may license or accept software under license terms that more explicitly address patent rights, such as Apache-2.0, BSD-2-Clause-Patent, or BlueOak-1.0.0.

How OMSF Handles Patents

OMSF doesn't seek or support patents on its work. However, contributions to OMFS projects may fall under the patents of others, or come from contributors who seek patents on their own.

Patent Disclosure

OMSF strives to make information about patents that may cover its projects available to potential users, so they can judge for themselves the risks and benefits of using and contributing.

Project members and contributors must disclose any patents and or patent applications they have that could cover the OMSF projects they contribute to. If a member or contributor believes a

project contains information which they may arguably patent, disclosure is required. Sometimes, work which does not by itself relate to a patent may be combined with other work in a way that does. If a member or contributor becomes aware of such a combination, disclosure is required. Members and contributors who do not want this patent information to be public should refrain from making contributions which would require disclosure.

Accidental Disclosure

OMSF acknowledges the possibility that information about a patent or application that was not intended to be public may accidentally be disclosed. When an accidental disclosure is identified, OMSF will work with the parties involved to find an appropriate solution on a case-by-case basis.

Additional License Terms

OMSF may make work available under licenses which contain additional terms concerning patents.