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## 国立大学の特許出願 (交付金配分上位大学について)

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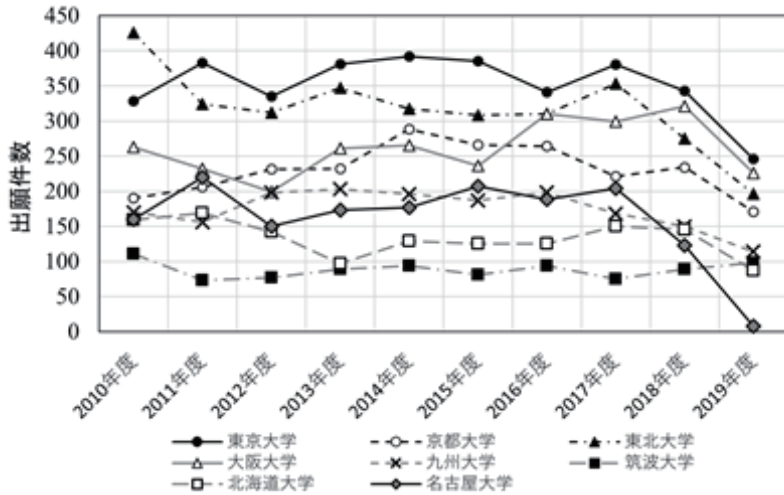
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国立大学を取り巻く環境は国立大学法人法(2003年制定)による法人化以降厳しさを増している。特に国から交付される運営費は法人化以降10年間減少しており、その減少分を補うべく各国立大学は授業料の値上げとともに外部資金の獲得を積極的に行ってきた。さらに企業への研究成果アピールや特許収入を目的として大学の特許出願件数も2003年以後の2年で2.5倍以上に伸びた(特許行政年次報告書2015年版)。その後、特許出願件数は2013年に6,561件にまで落ち込んだものの7,000~8,000件で推移している。

このような大学全体の統計は毎年報告されているが、各大学の特許出願傾向についてはわずかな報告があるのみである。そこで本記事では大学運営交付金配分上位8位の大学(東京大学、京都大学、東北大学、大阪大学、九州大学、筑波大学、北海道大学、名古屋大学)が「出願人/権利者/著者所属」に含まれている2010~2019年度の出願件数から各大学の出願動向を調査した。

図1に各大学が関わった年度毎の出願件数を示す(2021年8月20日時点)。全体的に横ばいではあるが、筑波大学を除き2019年度に大きく落ち込んでいる。これは年度内の出願の一部が未だ公開されていないこともあるが、感染症拡大により研究開発およびその事務処理が大きく滞ったことが主要因と考える。筑波大学は8大学中で唯一大都市圏に位置しておらず、感染症の影響が少なかったと推察する。最も交付金配分の多い東京大学は2010年度こそ東北大学よりも出願数が少ないものの2011年度以降は最も多く、2019年度を除けば毎年350件前後出願している。東北大学は2010年度に426件の出願をしているが、それ以後は300~350件に落ち着いており、ここ2年は大阪大学よりも少ない。京都大学、九州大学、北海道大学、筑波大学は多少の増減はあれど、ここ10年間ほとんど変動がない。最後に名古屋大学をみると、2018年度から急激に出願が減少して

いるが、これは岐阜大学と大学法人を統合し東海国立大学機構を発足したことにより、出願法人に変化が生じたためと考える。



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## **Patent Application by National University (Of Top Universities for Grant Allocations)**

Daido University, Associate Professor

**Kei Somaya**

The environment surrounding national universities has become increasingly difficult since they were incorporated under the National University Corporation Law (enacted in 2003). In particular, the amount of operating expenses granted by the state has been decreasing for the last ten years since the incorporation. To compensate for the decrease in grants, national universities have been actively trying to raise tuition fees and obtain external funding. Furthermore, the number of patent applications filed by universities has increased more than 2.5 times in the two years since 2003 (Japan Patent Office Annual Report 2015), to promote their research results to companies and generate patent income. The number of patent applications fell to 6,561 in 2013 and has since remained between 7,000 and 8,000.

Such statistics for whole the universities are reported annually, but there are only a few reports on trends in patent applications for individual universities. Therefore, this article investigates the application trend of each university based on the number of applications from 2010 to 2019, in which the top eight universities in the allocation of management expenses grants (Tokyo, Kyoto, Tohoku, Osaka, Kyushu, Tsukuba, Hokkaido and Nagoya) are included in the “applicant/right holder/author affiliation”. Figure 1 shows the number of applications per year in which each university was involved (as of 20 August 2021). The applications have remained flat overall, but in 2019 it has fallen significantly in the 2019 academic year, except the University of Tsukuba. This figure may be due not only to the fact that some applications filed during the year have not yet been published but also to the fact that the infectious disease epidemic has caused a major slowdown in research and development and its administrative work. The University of Tsukuba may have been less affected by the infection because it is the only one of the eight universities not located in a major metropolitan area.

The University of Tokyo, which has the largest allocation of grant funding, submitted fewer applications than Tohoku University in 2010 but has made the most applications since 2011. It files around 350 applications every year, except for the year 2019. The number of

applications filed by Tohoku University was 426 in 2010 has remained between 300 and 350 since then. The number is less than Osaka University for the last two years. The number of applications filed by Kyoto University, Kyushu University, Hokkaido University and the University of Tsukuba has shown little change over the past ten years, although there have been some increases and decreases. Finally, applications by Nagoya University have fallen sharply since 2018. This may be due to the change in the application corporation, as Nagoya University merged its school corporation with Gifu University to form the Tokai National Higher Education and Research System.

(Translated by TIIP)

