

TECH SCAN

GENE EDITING & BIOTECHNOLOGY



Genetic engineering in biotechnology enables the direct alteration of organismal DNA, transforming biological systems for medical, agricultural, and industrial applications. Manipulating the code of life carries profound moral and safety responsibilities, guiding a technology that has rapidly transitioned from laboratory concepts into high-impact global applications. Today, these systems are actively deployed to synthesize life-saving therapeutics, engineer climate-resilient crops, and correct genetic disorders at the molecular level.

The historical trajectory of biotechnology is defined by intense global competition, with patent frameworks determining the control and commercialization of genomic innovations from the 1970s recombinant DNA revolution to the

current CRISPR era. These legal structures have become central to securing intellectual property for advanced gene-editing capabilities, effectively turning molecular tools into highly protected commercial assets.

India is positioning itself in this biotechnology landscape by transitioning toward indigenous precision medicine, supported by national research institutions and bio-incubators. While foundational tool discovery is globally consolidated, Indian entities are accelerating innovation through patenting localized diagnostic kits, climate-adaptive agricultural strains, and affordable bioprocessing workflows. This focus on scalable design and low manufacturing costs aims to make next-generation genetic advancements globally accessible.



INNOVATION TIMELINE

James Watson and Francis Crick uncovered the 3D Double-Helix Structure of DNA.

1953

Marshall Nirenberg and J. Heinrich Matthaei revealed exactly how DNA triplets translate into specific amino acids.

1961

Discovery of DNA Ligase, which acts as the molecular "glue" to join DNA strands.

1967

Hamilton Smith and Kent Wilcox discovered molecular "scissors" (restriction enzymes) to cut DNA.

1970

Paul Berg created the first artificial Recombinant DNA (rDNA) molecule.

1972

Herbert Boyer and Stanley Cohen created the first Genetically Modified Organism (GMO) using an E. coli bacterium.

1973

Herbert Boyer and Robert Swanson founded Genentech, the world's first genetic engineering company.

1976

Frederick Sanger developed Sanger Sequencing to read the exact chemical sequence of DNA.

1977

Genentech and Eli Lilly developed Humulin, the first genetically engineered synthetic human insulin.

1982

Calgene developed the Flavr Savr Tomato, the first commercially sold genetically modified food.

1994

Development of Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer Cloning, which created Dolly the Sheep.

1996

The International Human Genome Sequencing Consortium successfully completed the Human Genome Project.

2003

The J. Craig Venter Institute created Synthia, the world's first self-replicating synthetic cell.

2010

BioNTech/Pfizer and Moderna developed mRNA Vaccines to provide targeted protection against COVID-19.

2020

Vertex Pharmaceuticals and CRISPR Therapeutics developed Casgevy, the first approved CRISPR-based therapy.

2023

Breakthroughs in Clinical Xenotransplantation enabled the use of Genetically Engineered Pig-to-Human Transplants to sustain life.

2026

PATENTABLE COMPONENTS

cDNA (Complementary DNA)

It is a synthetic molecule. The non-coding regions (introns) are artificially removed in a lab to match the continuous coding sequence of mRNA.

Recombinant DNA (rDNA) Constructs, Plasmids, and Expression Vectors

Joining DNA fragments from different biological sources to create a functional molecular delivery tool.

Genetically Modified Microorganisms (Bacteria, Yeast, and Fungi)

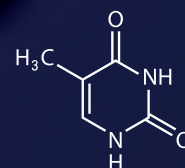
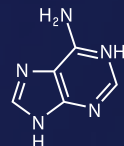
Artificially engineered cellular factories used for brewing drugs or processing chemicals.

Synthetic Nucleases and Guide RNA (gRNA) Sequences

Engineered gene-editing machinery-such as modified Cas9 enzymes, codon-optimized nucleases, and custom-designed target-specific guide RNAs-are artificial laboratory constructs created for precise sequence targeting.

Chemically Modified mRNA (Messenger RNA)

mRNA that has been chemically altered in a lab (e.g., nucleoside modifications to enhance stability or evade immune rejection).



Recombinant and Structurally Modified Proteins/Polypeptides

Proteins manufactured via an engineered host cell or altered amino acid chains that show superior therapeutic efficacy, are fully eligible.

Synthetic Oligonucleotides, Primers, and DNA Markers

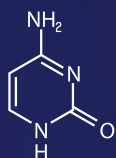
Artificial, laboratory-synthesized short DNA or RNA strands designed to serve as specific primers for diagnostic testing or molecular markers.

Bioprocessing, Synthesizing, and Gene-Editing Laboratory Methods

The technical, step-by-step methodologies used to edit cells ex vivo, manufacture recombinant therapeutics, or synthesize complex genetic sequences.

Synthetic/Hybrid Cell Lines and Diagnostic Kits

Highly manipulated cellular cultures (such as engineered CAR-T cells modified for cancer therapy) and downstream consumer products like CRISPR-based viral testing kits.



PATENT STATISTICS



PATENT LANDSCAPE



Database: Questel Orbit

Data Range: 01/01/2021 - 23/06/2026

TOP APPLICANTS

530

JIANGNAN UNIVERSITY

280

ZHEJIANG UNIVERSITY
OF TECHNOLOGY

260

TIANJIN INSTITUTE OF
INDUSTRIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY -
CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

205

PIONEER HI BRED
INTERNATIONAL

168

EAST CHINA
UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE &
TECHNOLOGY

188

TIANJIN UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

185

UNIVERSITY OF
CALIFORNIA

163

BROAD INSTITUTE
OF MIT & HARVARD

156

CHINA AGRICULTURAL
UNIVERSITY

155

CJ CHEILJEDANG

Database: Questel Orbit

Data Range: 01/01/2021 - 23/06/2026

NOTABLE INNOVATIONS

Patent Application	Priority date	Title	Assignee
EP0093619	1982-05-05	Human tissue plasminogen activator, pharmaceutical compositions containing it, processes for making it, and DNA and transformed cell intermediates therefor	GENENTECH
US5278297	1988-11-21	Gene encoding a novel protein H capable of binding to IgG	SUMITOMO PHARMACEUTICALS
US20040018489	1991-09-09	Detection of RNA	THIRD WAVE TECHNOLOGIES
US20020173640	1999-05-27	ADAM polynucleotides, polypeptides, and antibodies	HUMAN GENOME SCIENCES
US20050037439	2002-10-29	Differentially expressed genes involved in cancer, the polypeptides encoded thereby, and methods of using the same	PHARMACIA
US9650642	2008-02-08	Genetically modified cyanobacteria for the production of ethanol	ALGENOL BIOTECH
US8697359	2012-12-12	CRISPR-Cas systems and methods for altering expression of gene products	BROAD INSTITUTE OF MIT & HARVARD
CN109485721	2018-11-23	Method for obtaining tumor specific T cell receptor	DU XUEMING
CN112266411	2020-09-25	Novel coronavirus vaccine and application thereof	BEIJING NORTHLAND BIOTECH
CN122168649	2026-04-09	Preparation method of neutrophil gelatinase related lipocalin and antibody	GUILIN IMMUNETECH

WHITESPACES

Non-Invasive, Directed in
Vivo Delivery Vectors

Epigenetic Editing Systems

Diagnostic Biocomputing
Logic Gates

Synthetic Xenotransplantation
Genetic Cleaners

Cell-Free Protein
Synthesis (CFPS) Platforms

Next-Generation High-Fidelity
Editing Enzymes

If you would like to learn more about any of these areas or have specific questions, we're here to provide further information and insights. Our team is dedicated to driving progress and staying at the forefront of Gene Editing & Biotechnology.

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