# Innovation Management in Times of Crisis: Using Patent Analytics to Make Data-Driven Decisions

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### Today's Speakers



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### Agenda

- Welcome Greetings
- Common Innovation Management Responses to Crises
- Our Approach: Reliance on Patent Data to Cope with Crises
  - Managing Budget Constraints
  - Competitive and Technology Intelligence
  - Analyses May 2020 vs. June 2021 Additional Insights?
- Q&A Session

### Introduction

Crises like the Covid-19 pandemic affect firms' innovation management and decision-making (Paunov, 2012; Tietze et al., 2020)





Crises as opportunities

→ some firms excel exploiting changing market requirements/necessities

(Archibugi et al., 2013, Hoegl et al., 2008)

Crises lead to detriments like budget constraints

→ some firms' responses: reduce innovation activities

(Davis et al., 2009; Martin-Rios & Pasamar, 2018)



Decision-makers must react quickly but often rely on ad-hoc decisions or even gut feeling (Bessant et al., 2015; Cooper et al., 2010; Müller, 1985; Teece et al., 2016)

### Introduction

#### **Research Question**

Can innovation management decisions in times of crisis like the Covid-19 pandemic be improved through publicly available data?

#### **Potential Solution**



Turn to patent analytics to rely on data and detect how patent analytics may shape innovation management during crises

(e.g., Archibugi et al., 2013; Campbell, 1983; Guderian, 2019)

### Theoretical Background – Innovation Management in Crises

# Crises influence innovation management with up- and downsides (Antonioli/Montresor, 2019; Döner, 2017; Teplykh, 2018)

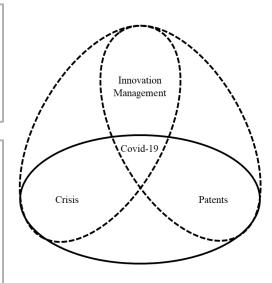
1) Crises intensify "uncertainty, complexity, ambiguity and unpredictability" (Davis et al., 2009; Martin-Rios/Pasamar, 2018; Teplykh, 2018)



2) Innovation activities actually/de-facto reduced (Antonioli/Montresor, 2019; Disoska et al., 2020; Döner, 2017; Ferreira/Teixeira, 2016)



- 1) Firms adapting to shifting market requirements and meeting new crises-induced necessities emerge stronger (Archibugi et al., 2013; Mayr et al., 2017)
- 2) Innovation as path out of crisis-induced valuation uncertainty, yielding a survival premium (Nemlioglu/Mallick, 2020; Cefis et al., 2020)
- 3) Radical change favorable for corporate management than cutting cost (Heyden et al., 2020)



### Theoretical Background – Innovation Management and Patent Analytics

## Relationship: innovation management and patent analytics (Candelin-Palmqvist et al., 2012; Holgersson, 2013)

#### Firms often rely on intellectual property to appropriate returns

→ particularly prevalent in pharmaceuticals

(Bican et al., 2017; Conley et al., 2013; Di Minin/Faems, 2013; Greenhalgh et al., 2001; Somaya, 2012)

#### Patents:

- (1) publicly available,
- (2) serve as objective data sources on firms' innovation activities,
- (3) offer unique insights in technology and business activities not assessable by external parties otherwise

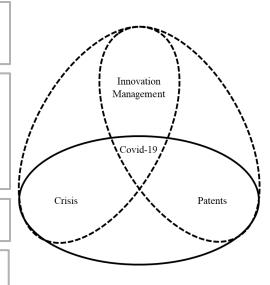
(Ashton/Sen, 1988; Buehler et al., 2017; Ernst, 2003; Guderian, 2019)

Patent analytics used to measure R&D or innovation activities' impact (Ernst/Omland, 2011; Hall et al., 2005; Pavitt, 1985)

#### Use of patent value indicators

→ skewness of patent values and commercial applicability

(Buehler et al., 2017; Gambardella et al., 2008; Guderian, 2019; Fankhauser et al. 2018; Webster/Jensen, 2011)



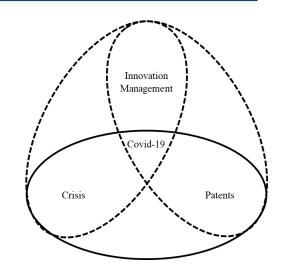
### Theoretical Background – Patent Analytics in Crises: The Covid-19 Pandemic

Maintaining existing or filing new patents is challenging when budgets are constrained as in crisis situations

(Archibugi et al., 2013; De Rassenfosse/Van Pottelsberghe de la Potterie, 2013; Hud/Hussinger, 2015)

Tradeoff between cost-reduction vs. ensuring continued protection of relevant innovations

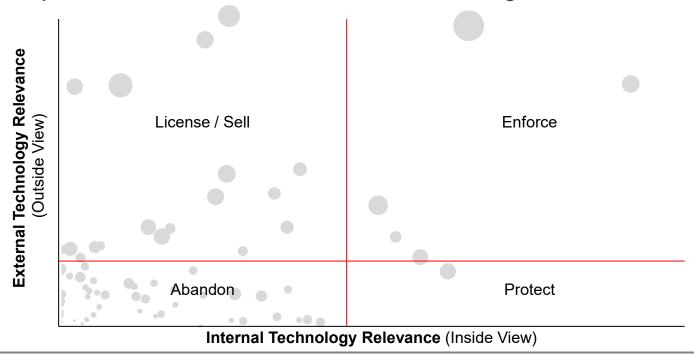
(Harhoff et al., 2009; Helfgott, 1993)



#### **Prior Literature**

Only few early attempts to link propositions to overcome the crisis and intellectual property (Machuca-Martinez et al., 2020; Tietze et al., 2020)

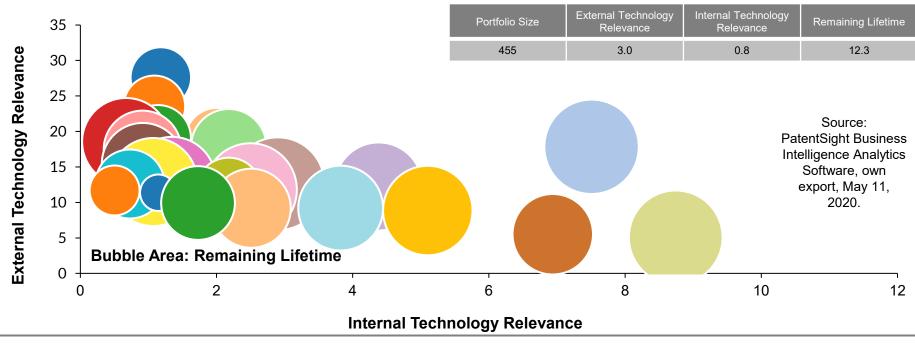
### Crises Responses: Identification of Abandonment and Licensing/Sales Candidates



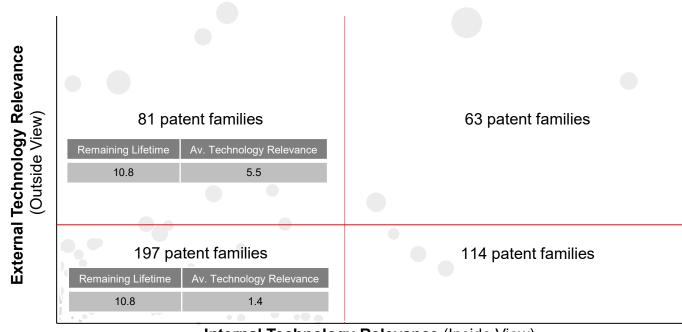
#### Adidas AG's Patent Portfolio



### Adidas AG's Patent Portfolio: Internal- vs. External Technology Relevance

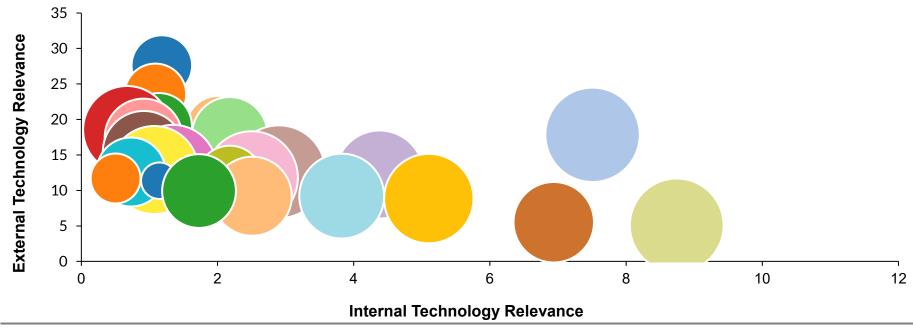


### Adidas AG: Identification of Abandonment and Licensing/Sales Candidates



Internal Technology Relevance (Inside View)

### Adidas AG: Identification of Abandonment and Licensing/Sales Candidates



### Adidas AG: Identification of Abandonment and Licensing/Sales Candidates

#### **Other Identification Options**

- Citations
  - None (after certain time period)
  - Below average
  - Below certain value
- Litigation (attacked, opposition, etc.)
- Sales/Revenues in certain authorities
- Less important technology classes

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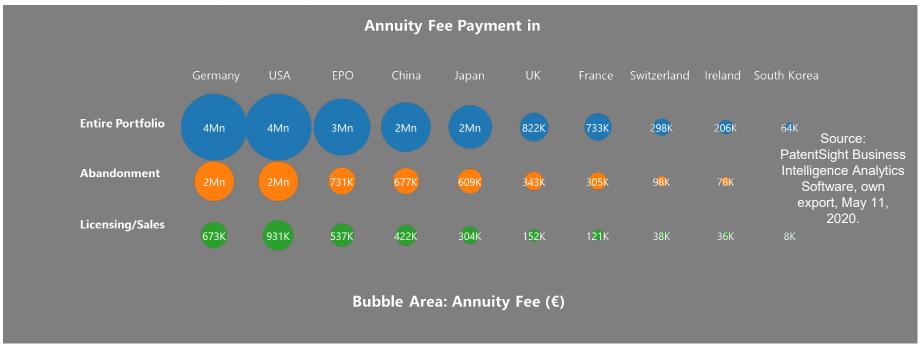
#### Watch out for...

- Citations by certain firms
- Assignees
- Patent-to-product links
- Niche technologies
- Organizational learning/path dependency
- •

#### Beware!

- → Not all patents can be dropped/licensed/sold
- → Cannot drop technology fields, only patent documents

### Adidas AG's Annuity Fees: Payment in USD at Various Patent Offices



### Patent analytics in Crisis Response:

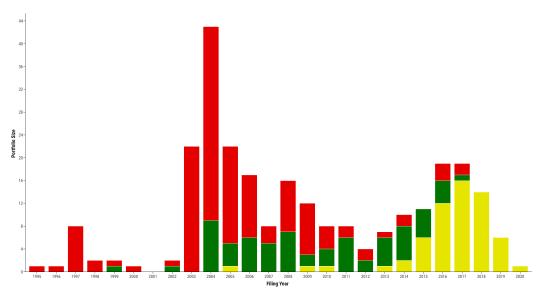
### **Example: Covid-19 Treatment and Vaccination – Competitive Landscape (focused approach)**

- Target: Retrieve entities that already possess the know how
  - Keywords specific to Coronaviridae family searched for in Title and/or Abstract in combination with related IPC/CPC classes.
  - The focus: NOT all-encompassing conventional patent search but search for key patents.
  - Hypothesis:
    - The key patent owning entities have the know how that can contribute to the fight against the virus.
    - These key players can themselves contribute in developing vaccines and treatment against the virus

### Results

### **Example: Covid-19 Treatment and Vaccination – Competitive Landscape (focused approach)**

### Filing Activities and Patents' Legal Statuses



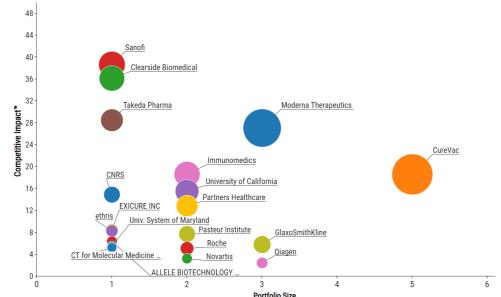
Source: PatentSight Business Intelligence Analytics Software, own export, May 11, 2020.

### Results

### **Example: Covid-19 Treatment and Vaccination – Competitive Landscape (focused approach)**

The top patent owning entities and the retrieved patents gave the following indications:

- The Spike protein of the virus has been researched upon to generate immunogenic response.
- The different vaccine techniques viz. adenovirus vector, conjugate vaccine, subunit vaccine as well as mRNA based vaccines have been researched upon against this virus family.

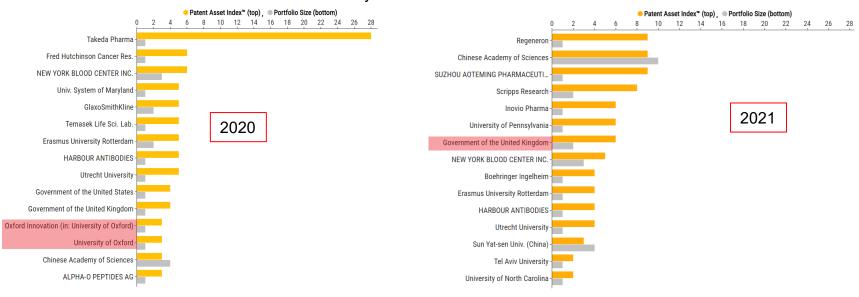


Source: PatentSight Business Intelligence Analytics Software, own export, May 11, 2020.

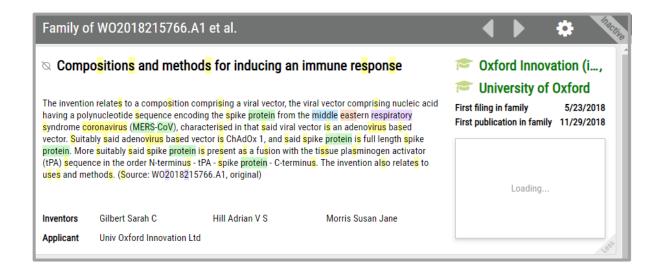
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### Example: Covid-19 Treatment and Vaccination – Spike protein based (focused approach)

#### Owners by Patent Asset Index



### **Oxford Innovation**

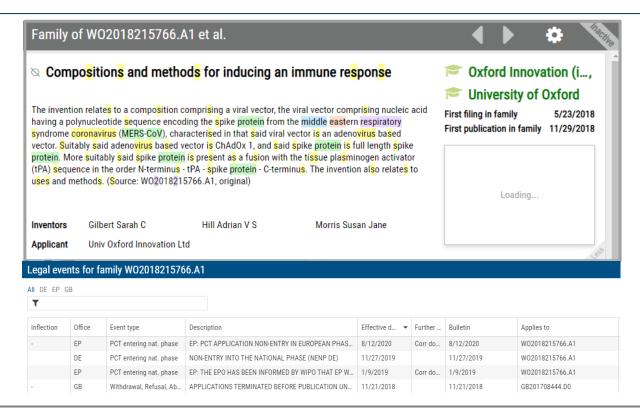


### **News**

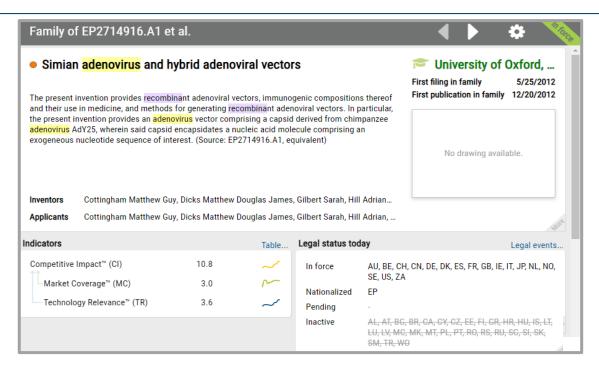
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### **Oxford Innovation**



### **Oxford Innovation**



### Discussion

### **Theoretical and Practical Implications**

**Key Contribution:** Establish relation between crises and patents, thus transforming two established dyadic relations from prior research into triadic relation between innovation management, crises, and patents.

Patent-based information allows to derive and implement data-based strategic decisions in crises like the current Covid-19 pandemic, thus forfeiting ad hoc and gut feeling-based decisions

Address firms' internal and external spheres

Patent analytics may support innovation managers in realizing cost-savings, finding minimum prices or royalty payments that need to be achieved in sale/licensing negotiations, detect technological and strategic fit between business strategies/innovation capabilities/patent portfolios, and reveal data-driven predictions for firms likely to succeed in developing treatments and vaccinations to Covid-19

### Discussion

#### **Limitations and Further Research**

Covid-19 pandemic is ongoing → results as preliminary assessments

Complement patent data with corporate data or actual decision-making schemes from corporate representatives to identify firms' internal reasonings

Study additional insights into shifts from quantity- to quality- or value-driven patent management based on actual patents sold, licensed in or out, or abandoned

**Future research:** move from qualitative towards empirical analyses to study actual performance effects of patent data-driven decisions in crises situations and expand longitudinal considerations

# **THANK YOU**

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### Resources

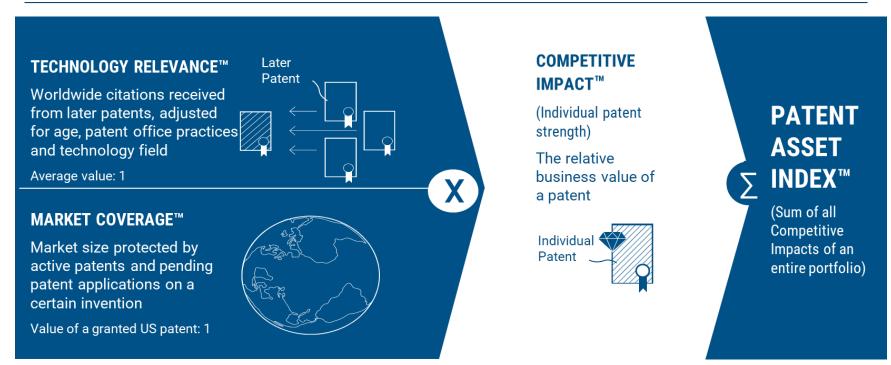
#### **Publications:**

- Chattopadhyay, S. (2021). Vaccinations, the journey so far and the road ahead. Working Paper.
- Ernst, H., Omland, N. (2011). The Patent Asset Index A new approach to benchmark patent portfolios.
   World Patent Information, 33(1), 34-41.
- Guderian, C.C. (2019). Identifying Emerging Technologies with Smart Patent Indicators: The Example of Smart Houses. International Journal of Innovation and Technology Management, 16(2), 1950040.
- Guderian, C.C., Bican, P.M., Riar, F.J., Chattopadhyay, S. (2020). Innovation management in crisis: patent analytics as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic. R&D Management, 51(2), 223-239.

### **Blog Entry:**

 https://www.lexisnexisip.com/knowledge-center/innovation-management-in-times-of-crisis-budgetsacquisitions-or-alternative-options-insights-from-patent-analytics/

### Patent Asset Index™



Ernst, H., Omland, N. (2011). The Patent Asset Index – A New Approach to Benchmark Patent Portfolios. World Patent Information 33(1), 34–41.