



**POLITECNICO**  
MILANO 1863

# “IP”h.D.

*Intellectual Property fundamentals for Ph.D. Students*

**Technology Transfer Office - Politecnico di Milano**

June 19, 2018



# From Research to Results Valorisation: a travel through the Intellectual Property (IP) world.

Why protect research results? Which are the IP typologies?



# Introduction

From the laboratory... to the industry... to the market!



It's not easy....



# Introduction

From the laboratory... to the industry... to the market!



We need to fill a gap!





- ... Am I special?
- ... Did I succeed?
- ... Did I make a lot of money?



**But I have a story... let's learn from experience!**

# Let me introduce myself...



Paola Bagnoli

- ✓ 2002 Biomedical Engineering at Politecnico di Milano
- ✓ 2003-2005 PhD in Bioengineering (*Inter-Poly-technique PhD School*)
- ✓ 2006-2010 Post doc Fellow at  **LABORATORY OF BIOLOGICAL STRUCTURE MECHANICS**
- ✓ 2011-2014 Assistant Professor (RTD) at Politecnico  
PI of the Project Pro-LiVe (Firb - *Futuro in Ricerca* 2008)

**12 years of research on a specific topic:  
TOTAL LIQUID VENTILATION**



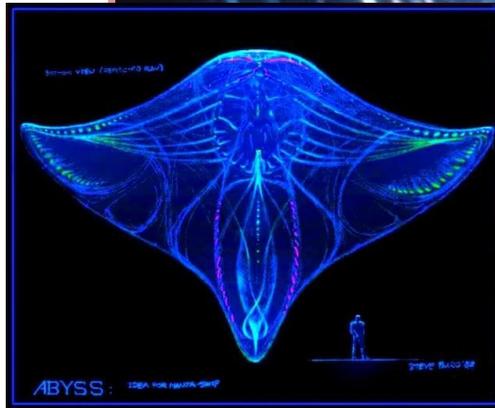
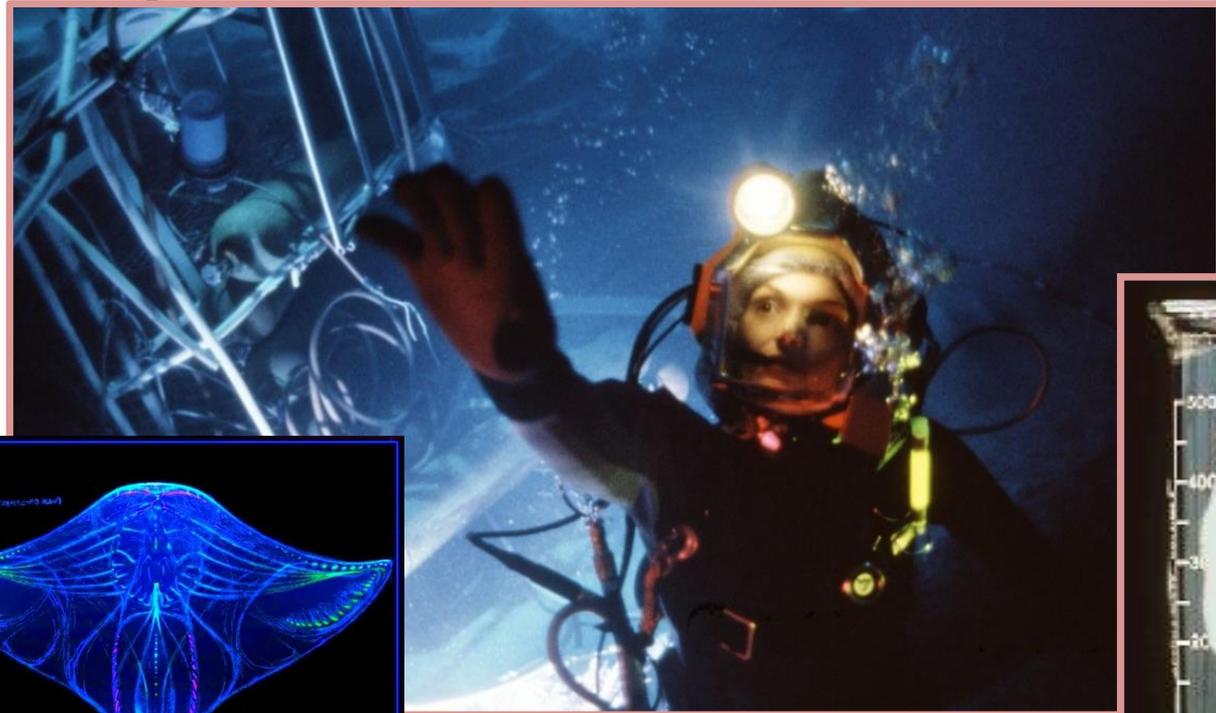
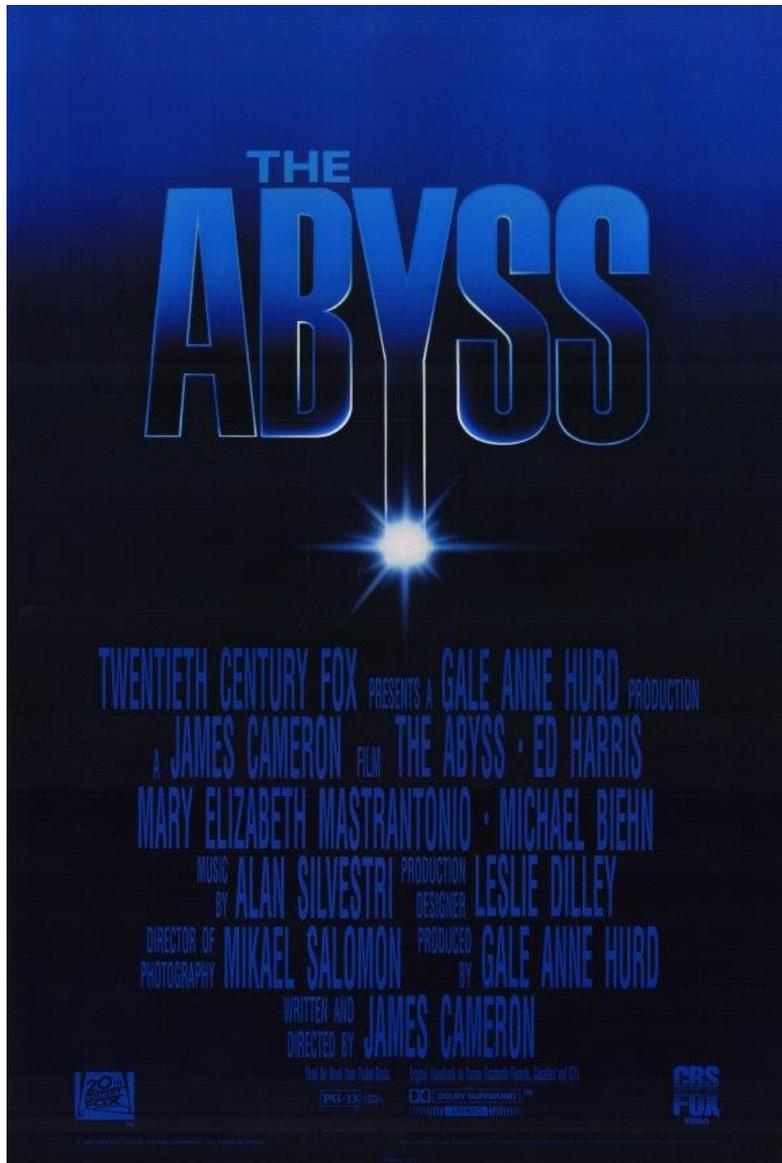
- ✓ 2015 - present Technology Transfer Manager at TTO (Politecnico di Milano)



# Can human beings breathe a liquid??!

1989

From the science fiction movie by James Cameron... a dream!



Or reality?



## Not only science fiction...

Since 1970 Total Liquid Ventilation has been studied for the respiratory treatment of very preterm neonates.



## Not only science fiction...

Since 1970 Total Liquid Ventilation has been studied for the respiratory treatment of very preterm neonates.



**Liquid perfluorocarbons** (PFCs) as carriers for  $O_2$  and  $CO_2$  in the lungs instead of a gaseous mixture

Inspiration and expiration of **liquid tidal volumes** (TV) accomplished by means of a dedicated circuit

**Lower alveolar pressure** than during conventional mechanical ventilation (CMV) due to absence of air-liquid interface



# Not only science fiction...

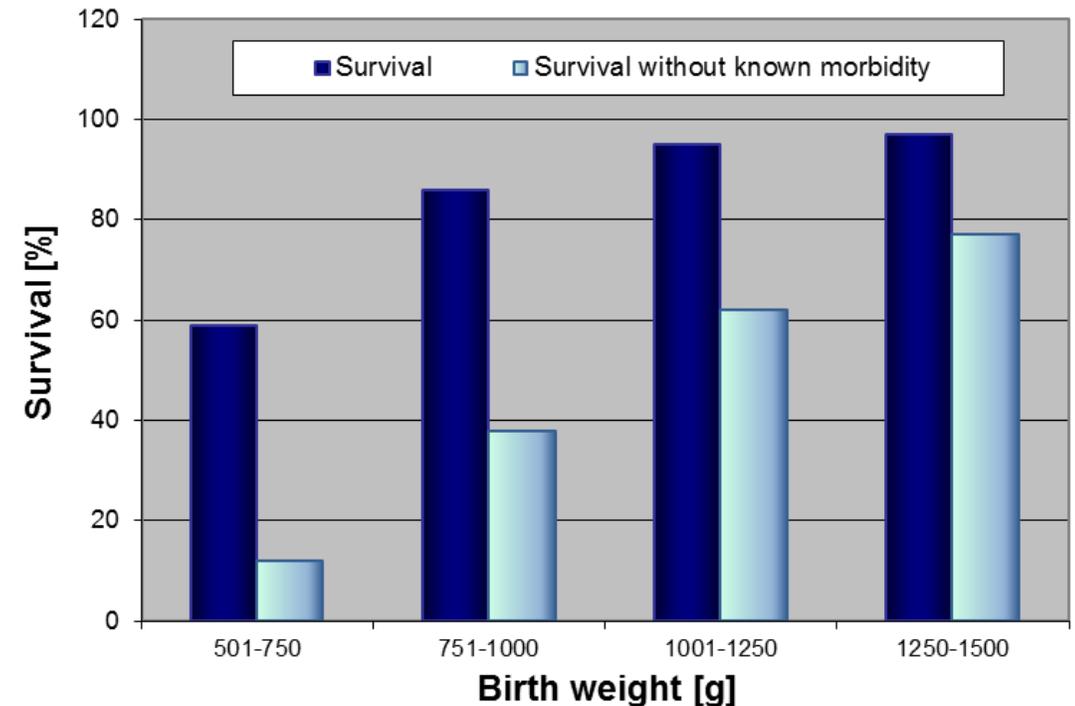
Since 1970 Total Liquid Ventilation has been studied for the respiratory treatment of very preterm babies.



## Vermont Oxford Network Statistics on newborns

- **5.26% preterm** (Gestational Age (GA)  $\leq$  34 w)
- **4.6% need respiratory assistance** (mortality: 9.3%)
- **1.2% are Very Low Birth Weight (VLBW)** (GA < 28w or Birth Weight (BW) < 1000g)
- 90% VLBW need respiratory assistance (mortality  $\approx$  25%)

**...a niche clinical application...  
and sometimes unfortunately  
this is a problem....**



# Something happened!

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## 2010 Grant Firb “*Futuro in Ricerca*”

“Development of a novel device for Total Liquid Ventilation and evaluation of the biological and biomechanical effects induced on the respiratory system.” (RBF081BZQ)



**493.600,00 €!!!**

**2 research units**

**A strong multidisciplinary team: Bioengineers, Clinicians, Veterinaries, Biologists...**

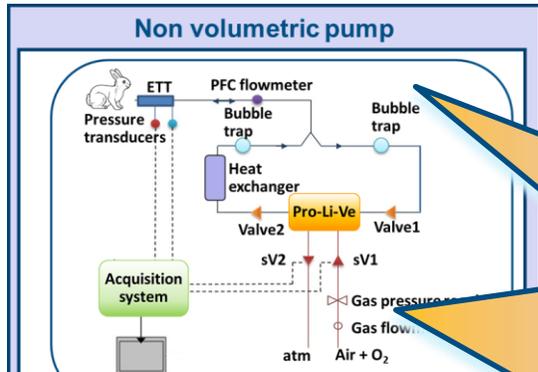
**We did... A LOT OF WORK for 3 years!**



# Something happened!

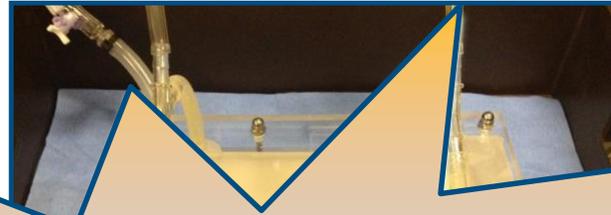
## 2010 Grant Fibr "Futuro in Ricerca"

"Development of a novel device for Total Liquid Ventilation and evaluation of the biological and biomechanical effects induced on the respiratory system." (RBF081BZQ)



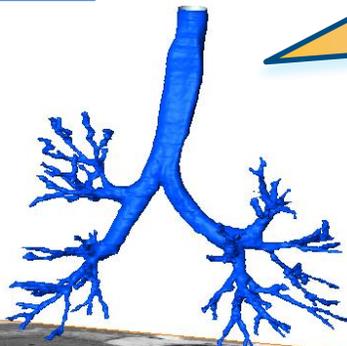
DESIGNING

Bagnoli et al. 2013

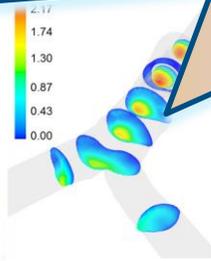


In Vitro TESTS

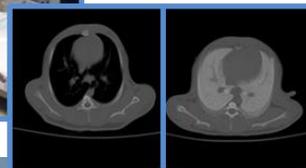
NO PATENTS, NO COMPANIES...



CFD and FEM models



In vivo Trials



PUBLICATIONS!



It is not an happy end story...

**My biggest mistake? I've never tried to fill the gap**

From the laboratory... to the industry... to the market!



# FILL the GAP!!!

**My biggest mistake? I've never tried to fill the gap**

**From the laboratory... to the industry... to the market!**



**We need to fill the gap!**

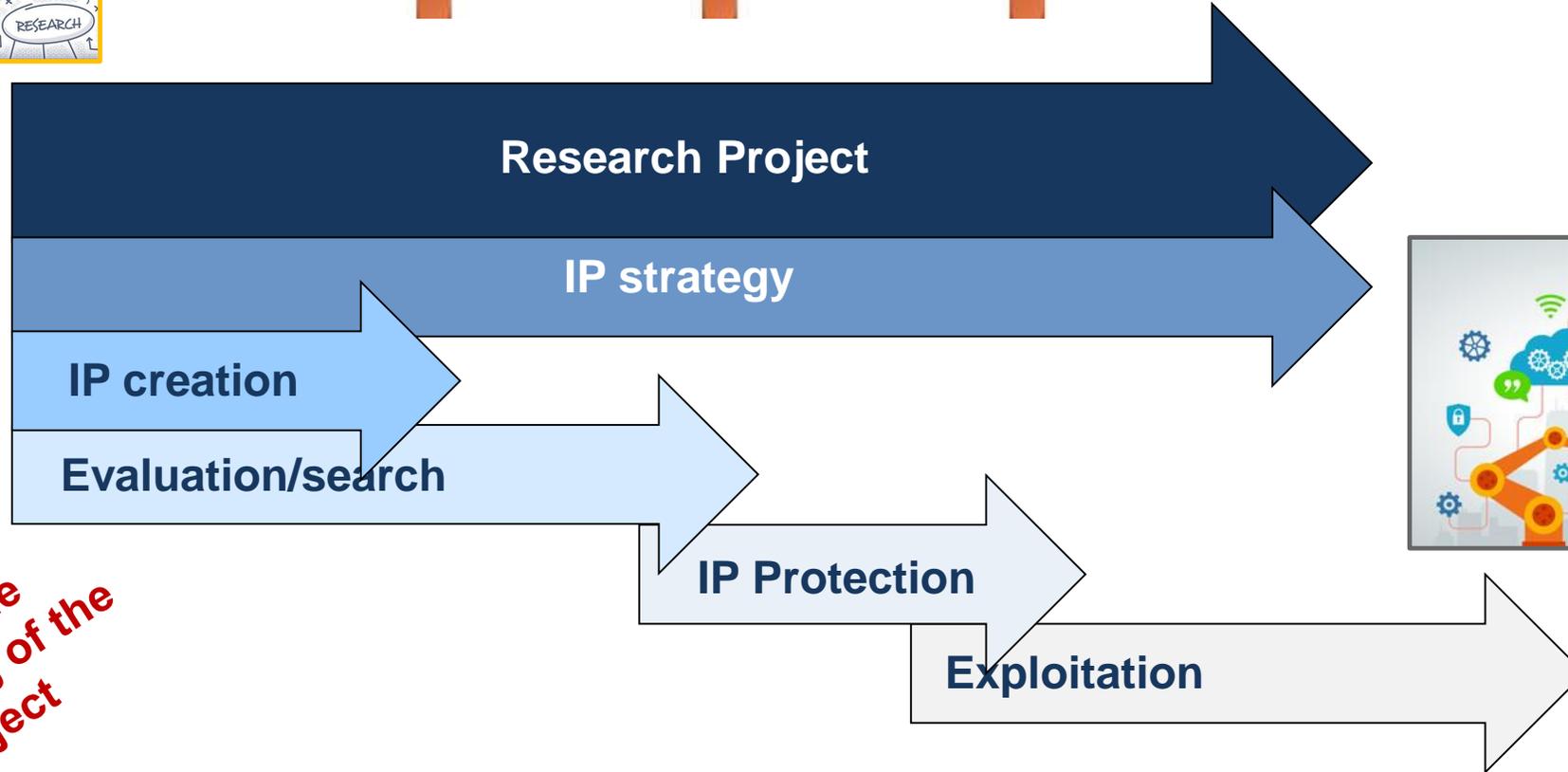
**IP protection**



**Companies commitment**



# Let's build the bridge!

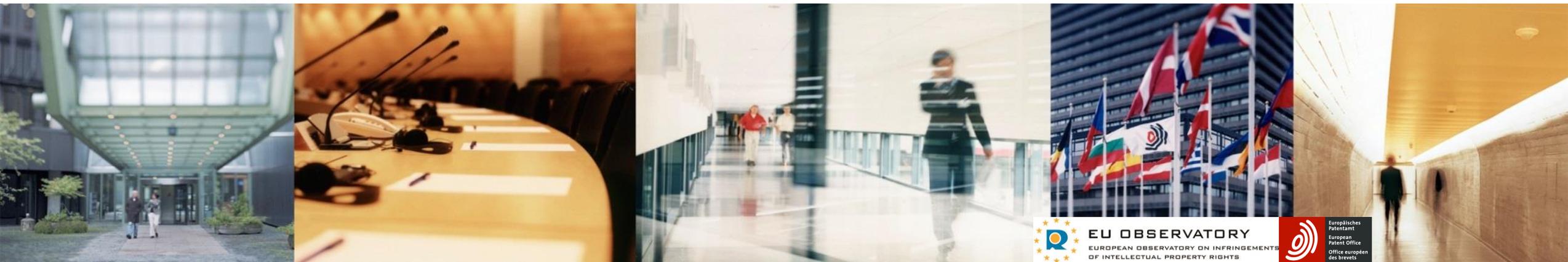


*Since the beginning of the project*



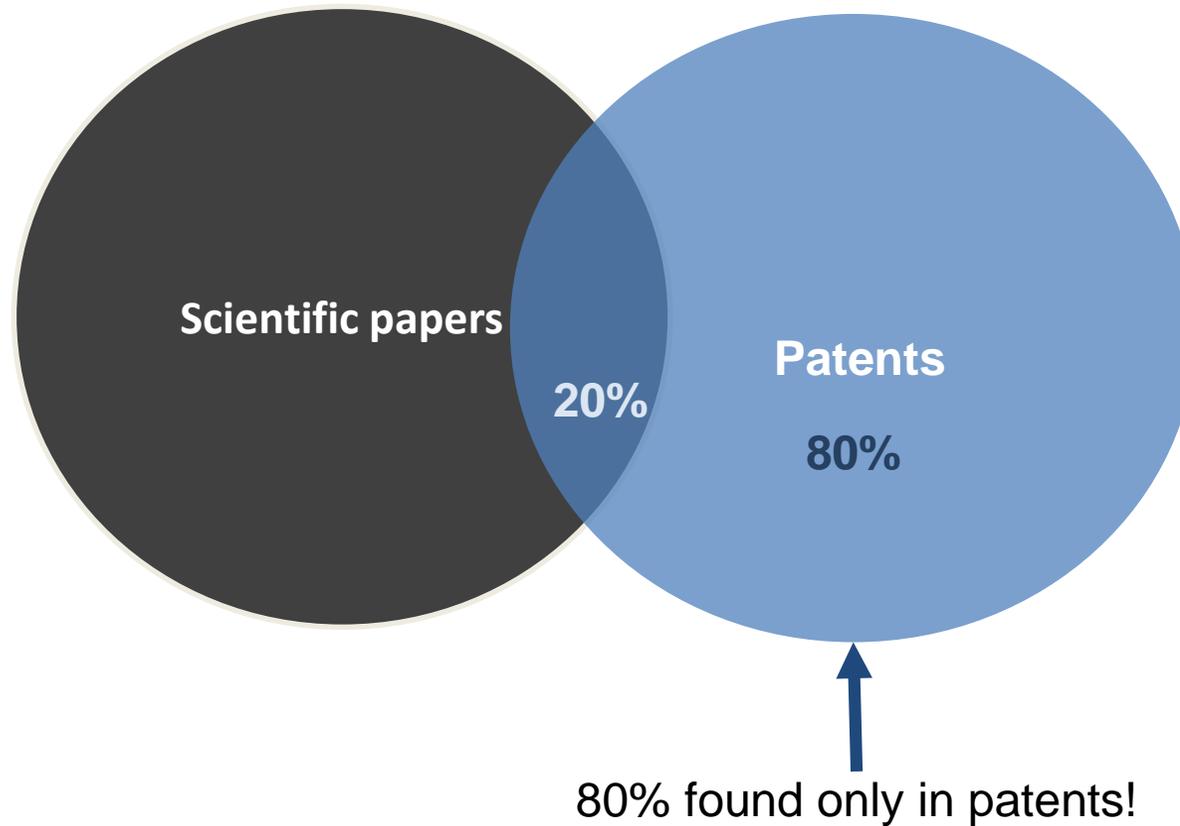
# Protect your ideas

## an introduction to Intellectual Property (IP)



# Much information only available in patents

Do you know that the 80% of the material published in patents is not published also as scientific papers?



*Reference European Patent Office (EPO).*



# Avoid to reinvent the wheel!

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## 25% of all R&D efforts ...

... are wasted each year on inventions that have already been invented.

**Don't start your R&D until you have done a search also in the Patent databases!**

- Review the literature (including articles and patents) before you start your project.
- Search again at project milestones: your project might have changed and other inventors might have been active too.

*Reference European Patent Office (EPO).*



# The different types of IP

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# The different types of IP

## Legal right

Patents

Utility models

Copyright

Trade marks

Registered designs

Trade secrets

## What for?

New inventions

New inventions

Original creative or artistic forms

Distinctive identification of products or services

External appearance

Valuable information not known to the public

## How?

Application and examination

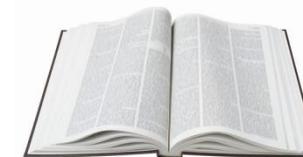
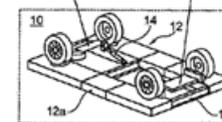
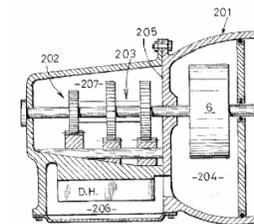
Application and registration

Exists automatically

Use and/or registration

Registration

Reasonable efforts to keep secret



# One product - many IP rights

## Trade marks

- APPLE
- Product "i-phone 7"
- Start-up tone

## Copyright

- Software
- User manuals
- Ringtones
- Start-up tone
- Images



## Patents and utility models

- Data-processing methods
- Operating system
- Operation of user interface

## Designs

- Form of overall phone
- Arrangement and shape of buttons
- Position and shape of screen

## Trade secrets

- Some technical know-how kept "in-house" and not published



# The IP system



**Innovators**  
make significant investments  
in developing new products

**Competitors**  
benefit from their efforts

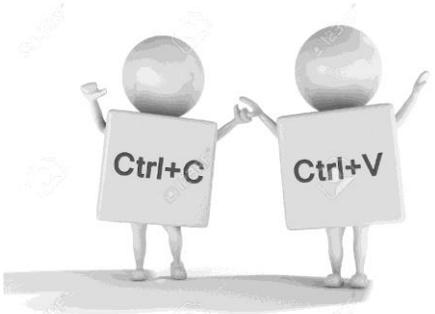
← REVERSE ENGINEERING

← БЕЛЕВЪЕ ИНЖЕНЕРИНГ

Heavy pressure  
may drive the  
innovator out of  
business

Can offer similar or identical  
products at a cheaper price

Get a free ride  
on the back of the innovator's  
creativity and inventiveness



**IP system**  
Rights over the use of inventions, designs,  
brands, literary and artistic works

**IP can help in attracting companies towards R&D investments**



# PATENTS



# The "social contract" implicit in the patent system

**Reveal  
invention**



**Get  
exclusivity**



... so that others can learn from it  
and improve upon it!



# What is a patent?

(19)   (11) EP 1 535 121 B1

(12) EUROPEAN PATENT SPECIFICATION

(45) Date of publication and mention of the grant of the patent: 25.08.2010 Bulletin 2010/34

(51) Int. Cl.: G05B 19/02 (2006.01) G05B 19/00 (2006.01)

(21) Application number: 03728962.6

(86) International application number: PCT/US2003/015459

(22) Date of filing: 16.05.2003

(87) International publication number: WO 2003/100553 (04.12.2003 Gazette 2003/49)

(54) SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATICALLY SETTING UP A UNIVERSAL REMOTE CONTROL  
SYSTEM UND VERFAHREN ZUM AUTOMATISCHEN EINRICHTEN EINER UNIVERSELLEN FERNBEDIENUNG  
SYSTEME ET PROCEDE PERMETTANT DE REGLER AUTOMATIQUEMENT UNE TELECOMMANDE UNIVERSELLE

(84) Designated Contracting States: AT BE BG CH CY CZ DE DK EE ES FI FR GB GR HU IE IT LI LU MC NL PT RO SE SI SK TR

(74) Representative: Stephen, Robert John Oliswang LLP  
90 High Holborn  
London WC1V 6XX (GB)

(72) Inventors: HAYES, Patrick, H. Mission Viejo, CA 92691 (US)  
CONWAY, JR., James, N. Laguna Beach, CA 92651 (US)

(73) Proprietor: UNIVERSAL ELECTRONICS, INC. Cypress, CA 90630-4841 (US)

(30) Priority: 20.05.2002 US 151635

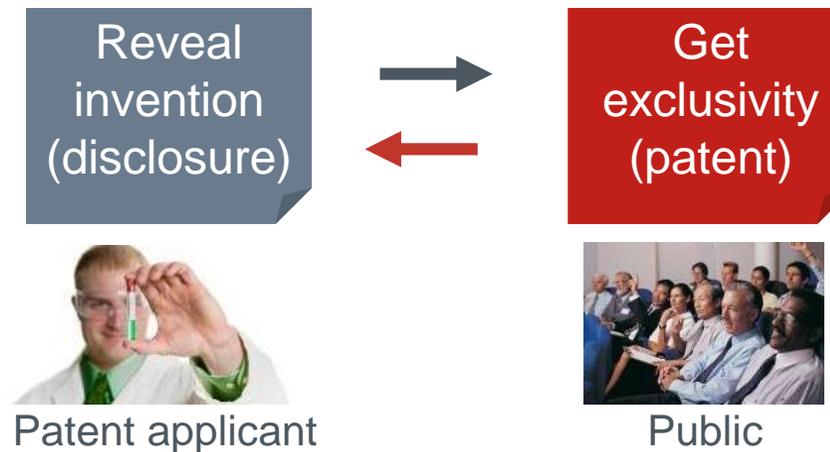
(56) References cited: EP-A- 1 198 069 EP-A2- 0 780 990  
WO-A-00/17738 WO-A-01/39150  
WO-A-01/69567 US-A- 5 410 326  
US-A- 5 646 608 US-A- 5 742 730  
US-A- 6 104 334

EP 1 535 121 B1

Note: Within nine months of the publication of the mention of the grant of the European patent in the European Patent Bulletin, any person may give notice to the European Patent Office of opposition to that patent, in accordance with the Implementing Regulations. Notice of opposition shall not be deemed to have been filed until the opposition fee has been paid. (Art. 99(1) European Patent Convention).

Printed by Jouve, 75001 PARIS (FR)

- A legal title which grants the holder
  - the exclusive right to prevent others from making, using or offering for sale, selling or importing a product that infringes his patent without his authorisation
  - in countries for which the patent was granted
  - for a limited time (up to 20 years).
- In return for this protection, the holder has to disclose the invention to the public.



Patents are granted in nearly every country in the world!



# What exactly can be patented?

Patents protect inventions which solve technical problems:

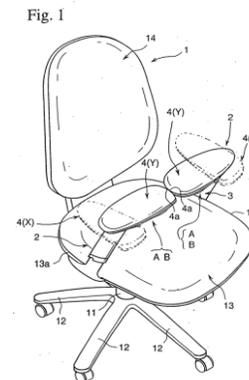
- chemical substances, pharmaceuticals



- processes, methods, uses



- products, devices, systems



## REQUIREMENTS:



For an invention to be patented, it must usually be:

1. **new** to the world (i.e. not available to the public anywhere in the world)
2. **inventive** (i.e. not an "obvious" solution)
3. susceptible of **industrial application**

Moreover, an invention cannot be contrary to the "order public" or moral.



# What CANNOT be patented?

The following are **not** considered to be inventions for the purposes of granting European patents (*Art. 52(2) EPC*):

- Discoveries, scientific theories and mathematical methods
- Aesthetic creations
- Schemes, rules and methods for performing mental acts, playing games or doing business
- Presentations of information
- Programs for computers, **Software** as such (but algorithms that achieve technical results)



# What CANNOT be patented?

## Software

Program for a computer "as such" is excluded from patentability (Article 52(2)(c) EPC), but...

- Not excluded from patentability if, when running on a computer, it causes a further "technical effect" going beyond the "normal" physical interaction between the program (software) and the computer (hardware)
- Programs for computers are therefore not automatically excluded from patentability



# What CANNOT be patented?

(Art. 53 EPC):

- Inventions whose commercial exploitation would be contrary to **"order public" or morality**
- **Plant or animal varieties** or essentially biological processes for the production of plants or animals
- **Methods for treatment** of the human or animal body **by surgery or therapy** and **diagnostic methods** practised on the human or animal body



# What does a patent look like?

## First Page

### Bibliographic information

- Inventor, proprietor, date of filing, technology class, etc.

### Abstract

- Around 150 words as a search aid for other patent applications

## Description

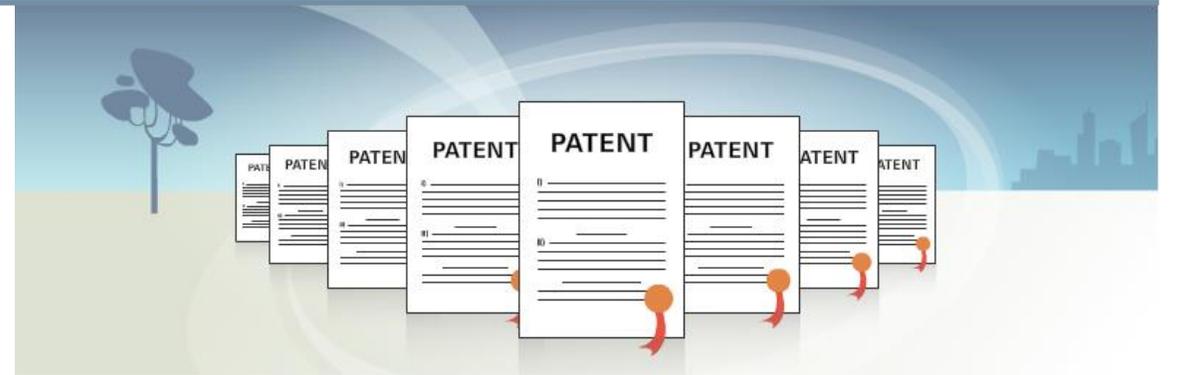
- Summary of prior art (i.e. the technology known to exist)
- The problem that the invention is supposed to solve
- An explanation and at least one way of carrying out the invention

## Claims

- Define the extent of patent protection

## Drawings

- Illustrate the claims and description



bibliographic information  
+ abstract

the mouse!

United States Patent [19]

[11] Patent Number: 4,464,652

Lapson et al.

[45] Date of Patent: Aug. 7, 1984

[54] CURSOR CONTROL DEVICE FOR USE WITH DISPLAY SYSTEMS

4,369,439 1/1983 Broos ..... 340/710  
4,404,865 9/1983 Kim ..... 74/471 XY

[75] Inventors: William F. Lapson, Cupertino;  
William D. Atkinson, Los Gatos,  
both of Calif.

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

1526428 9/1978 United Kingdom ..... 340/710

[73] Assignee: Apple Computer, Inc., Cupertino,  
Calif.

Primary Examiner—Gerald L. Brigance  
Attorney, Agent, or Firm—Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor &  
Zafman

[21] Appl. No.: 399,704

[57] ABSTRACT

[22] Filed: Jul. 19, 1982

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>3</sup> ..... G09G 1/00

[52] U.S. Cl. .... 340/710; 340/709;  
340/716; 74/471 XY

[58] Field of Search ..... 340/710, 709, 809, 810,  
340/870.28, 870.29, 711, 716; 250/231 SE;  
74/198, 471 XY; 358/183

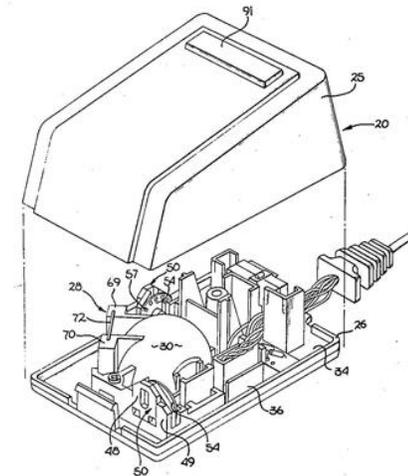
A cursor control device having particular application to a computer display system is disclosed. The cursor control includes a unitary frame, having a domed portion substantially surrounding and retaining a ball which is free to rotate. X-Y position indicating means are provided, such that rotation of the ball provides signals indicative of X-Y positions on the display system. The ball is free to "float" in the vertical direction within the dome, and thereby maintain good surface contact. X-Y positions are established by movement of the control device over a surface. A display system and method is disclosed for use in conjunction with the cursor control device, which permits a user to select command options simply by movement of the displayed cursor over a "pull-down" menu bar.

[56] References Cited

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

3,395,589 8/1968 Gersten ..... 74/198  
3,541,541 11/1970 Engelbart ..... 340/710  
3,625,083 12/1971 Bosc ..... 74/471 XY  
3,835,464 9/1974 Rider ..... 340/710  
3,987,685 10/1976 Opocensky ..... 340/710  
4,245,244 1/1981 Lijewski et al. .... 358/183  
4,310,839 1/1982 Schwerdt ..... 340/709

13 Claims, 15 Drawing Figures



**United States Patent** [19]

Lapson et al.

[11] **Patent Number:** 4,464,652

[45] **Date of Patent:** Aug. 7, 1984

[54] **CURSOR CONTROL DEVICE FOR USE WITH DISPLAY SYSTEMS**

[75] **Inventors:** William F. Lapson, Cupertino; William D. Atkinson, Los Gatos, both of Calif.

[73] **Assignee:** Apple Computer, Inc., Cupertino, Calif.

[21] Appl. No.: 399,704

[22] Filed: Jul. 19, 1982

[51] Int. Cl.<sup>3</sup> ..... G09G 1/00

[52] U.S. Cl. .... 340/710; 340/709; 340/716; 74/471 XY

[58] Field of Search ..... 340/710, 709, 809, 810, 340/870.28, 870.29, 711, 716; 250/231 SE; 74/198, 471 XY; 358/183

[56] **References Cited**

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

3,395,589	8/1968	Gersten .....	74/198
3,541,541	11/1970	Engelbart .....	340/710
3,625,083	12/1971	Bosc .....	74/471 XY
3,835,464	9/1974	Rider .....	340/710
3,987,685	10/1976	Opocensky .....	340/710
4,245,244	1/1981	Lijewski et al. ....	358/183
4,310,839	1/1982	Schwerdt .....	340/709

4,369,439	1/1983	Broos .....	340/710
4,404,865	9/1983	Kim .....	74/471 XY

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

1526428	9/1978	United Kingdom .....	340/710
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*Primary Examiner*—Gerald L. Brigance  
*Attorney, Agent, or Firm*—Blakely, Sokoloff, Taylor & Zafman

[57] **ABSTRACT**

A cursor control device having particular application to a computer display system is disclosed. The cursor control includes a unitary frame, having a domed portion substantially surrounding and retaining a ball which is free to rotate. X-Y position indicating means are provided, such that rotation of the ball provides signals indicative of X-Y positions on the display system. The ball is free to "float" in the vertical direction within the dome, and thereby maintain good surface contact. X-Y positions are established by movement of the control device over a surface. A display system and method is disclosed for use in conjunction with the cursor control device, which permits a user to select command options simply by movement of the displayed cursor over a "pull-down" menu bar.

**13 Claims, 15 Drawing Figures**



# Structure of the description

Prior art

- *Teapot with one spout*

Drawback of prior art

- *Time-consuming*

Problem to solve

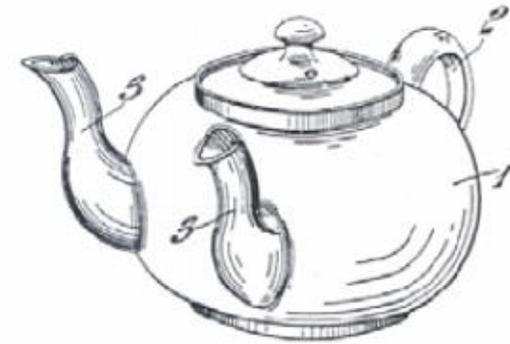
- *Reduce filling time*

Solution

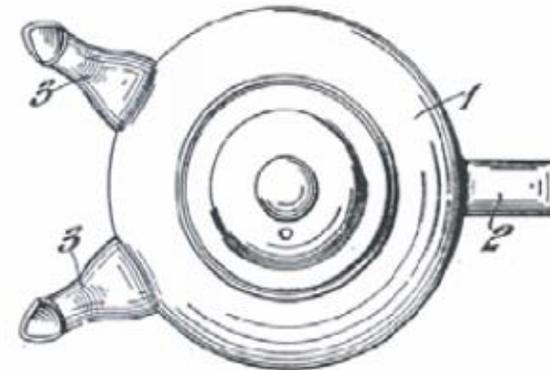
- *Provide a second spout*

Advantage of the invention

- *The time needed to fill multiple cups is reduced*



*Fig. 1.*



*Fig. 2.*

1930 UK patent application GB360253.

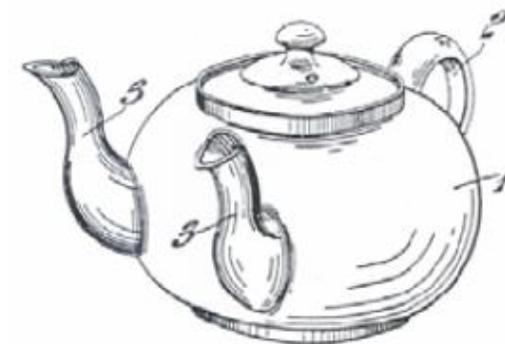


# Claims

*A tree of claims describing what the patent wants to protect:*

Having now particularly described as  
ascertained the nature of our said inven-  
tion and in what manner the same is to be  
performed, we declare that what we claim  
is:—

85



*Fig. 1.*

- 
1. A tea pot or like portable pouring vessel comprising a plurality of spouts from which the contained liquid may be poured simultaneously.
  - 5 2. A vessel according to claim 1, wherein said pot or container is undivided.
  3. A vessel according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said vessel has a single operating handle.
  - 10 4. A vessel according to claim 3, wherein said spouts are two in number and are arranged symmetrically on either side of the point diametrically opposite said handle.
  5. A tea pot or like portable pouring vessel substantially as herein specified with reference to the accompanying drawings. 15

Dated this 27th day of August, 1931.

A. A. THORNTON.

Chartered Patent Agent,  
7, Essex Street, Strand, London, W.C. 2.,  
For the Applicants.

---

Redhill: Printed for His Majesty's Stationery Office, by Love & Malcomson, Ltd.—1931.

UK patent application GB360253.



# Patent Families

All the documents that claim the same invention.

## Family list: TW201423499 (A) — 2014-06-16

Select all (0/4)  Compact  Export ( CSV | XLS )  Download covers  CCD  Print

4 application(s) for: TW201423499 (A)

Sort by  Sort order    show citations



1. Optical mouse with cursor rotating ability, the motion detector and method thereof

★ **Inventor:** LEE GEOFFREY WEN-CHIEH [TW]      **Applicant:** LEE GEOFFREY WEN-CHIEH [TW]      **CPC:** [G06F3/0308](#)      **IPC:** G06F3/0354      **Publication info:** TW201423499 (A) 2014-06-16      **Priority date:** 2012-12-07



2. Optical mouse with cursor rotating ability, instrument, portable detection device, and method thereof

★ **Inventor:** LEE WEN-CHIEH GEOFFREY      **Applicant:** LEE WEN-CHIEH GEOFFREY      **CPC:** [G06F3/0308](#)      **IPC:** G06F3/0354      **Publication info:** CN103870026 (A) 2014-06-18      **Priority date:** 2012-12-07



3. Optical mouse with cursor rotating ability

★ **Inventor:** WEN-CHIEH GEOFFREY LEE [TW]      **Applicant:** WEN-CHIEH GEOFFREY LEE [TW]      **CPC:** [G06F3/0308](#)      **IPC:** G06F3/0354      **Publication info:** EP2741179 (A2) 2014-06-11      **Priority date:** 2012-12-07



4. Optical Mouse with Cursor Rotating Ability

★ **Inventor:** LEE WEN-CHIEH GEOFFREY [TW]      **Applicant:** LEE WEN-CHIEH GEOFFREY [TW]      **CPC:** [G06F3/0308](#)      **IPC:** G06F3/03      **Publication info:** US2014160021 (A1) 2014-06-12      **Priority date:** 2012-12-07



# Patent Families

All the documents that claim the same invention.

## Useful:

1. To evaluate the geographical protection of the patent
2. To have a good English translation of foreign patents.



# What not to do when considering filing a patent application



- **No publication prior to filing**  
e.g. no article, press release, conference presentation/poster/proceedings or blog entry, MS or Ph.D. dissertations.



- No sale of products incorporating the invention prior to filing



- No lecture or presentation prior to filing  
except under a **non-disclosure agreement (NDA)**



- Seek professional advice soon!
- File before others do!

# TRADE SECRETS



# What are trade secrets?

---

Information that

- is not generally known or easily discovered
- has a business, commercial or economic value (actual or potential) because the information is not generally known
- is subject to reasonable efforts to maintain secrecy

Unlimited life, provided the information does not become public knowledge.



Products/processes where  
reverse engineering is  
difficult

Images from [www.coca-cola.com](http://www.coca-cola.com)

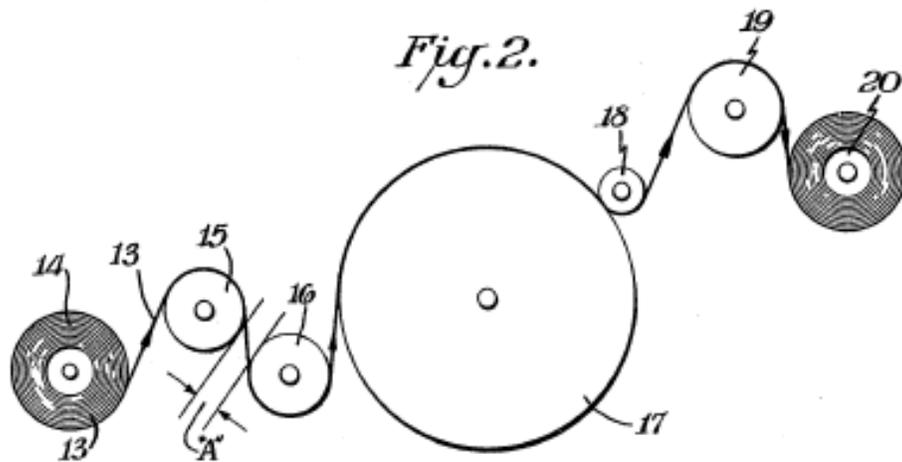


## Practical

- Limited access to information
- "Need to know"
- Encryption of data
- Monitored entry to installations

## Contractual

- Restrictive covenants in employment contracts
- Non-disclosure agreements

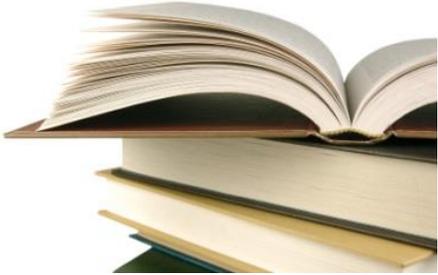


GORETEX Patent

The diagram is taken from the original GORE-TEX patent. Another company had kept a similar process secret for several years before Gore filed their patent

# References

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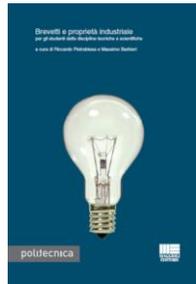


## The European Patent Convention (EPC)

<https://www.epo.org/law-practice/legal-texts/epc.html>

## Codice del diritto d'autore e della proprietà industriale.

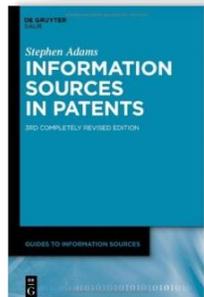
Ed. Lex. I codici annotati. Serie a cura di P. Menchetti e A. Sirotti Gaudenzi.



## **Brevetti e proprietà industriale** per gli studenti delle discipline tecniche e scientifiche.

a cura di Riccardo Pietrabissa e Massimo Barbieri

Maggioli Editore, I edizione (2015)



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# References

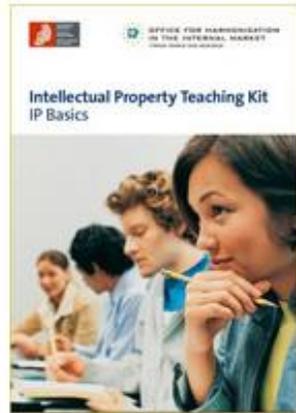
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## Free patent databases

1. <http://ep.espacenet.com/>
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## Contacts:

**Paola Bagnoli**

Phone: +39 02 2399 9230

email: [paola.bagnoli@polimi.it](mailto:paola.bagnoli@polimi.it)

[info.tto@polimi.it](mailto:info.tto@polimi.it)

Politecnico di Milano - Piazza Leonardo da Vinci 32, 20133 Milano

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