

# Energy Storage IP Strategy

Battery Tech Expo

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# Outline

- Patent something...
- ...but not everything
- Own your own IP
- Think about the geography
- Move fast and get patents granted

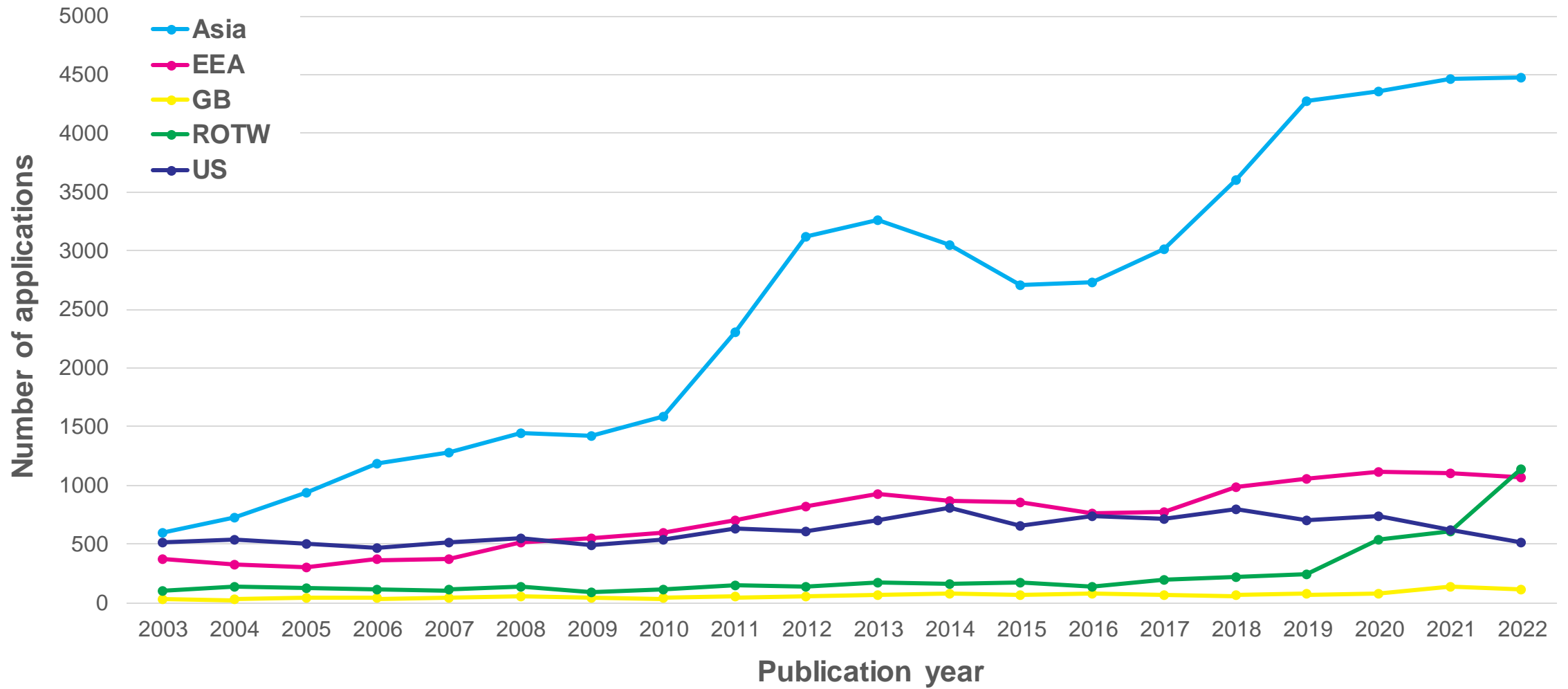




*“So the royalties started to roll in. I’m not sure how many tens of millions they made but I did notice one year, the headline in the Business section of the Daily Telegraph was ‘Battery Powered’ ”*

Philip Wiseman, 2017

## European patent applications classified as relating to batteries



# Patent something...

- Strong patent protection could be fundamental to the value of your business
- Patents provide a 20-year monopoly
- Consider educating your technical team – they may be sitting on patentable inventions





## ...but don't patent everything

- Patents are expensive
- Patents tell the world about your invention – and might not be granted
- Keep in mind trade secrets or “know-how” – this is another valuable form of intellectual property



# Own your own IP

- Many innovative energy storage firms start out small, which can lead to questions over IP ownership
- University spinouts
  - IP ownership might transfer to the university
- Help from friends and contractors
  - Might they have a claim to the IP?

**The Big Read** Intellectual property

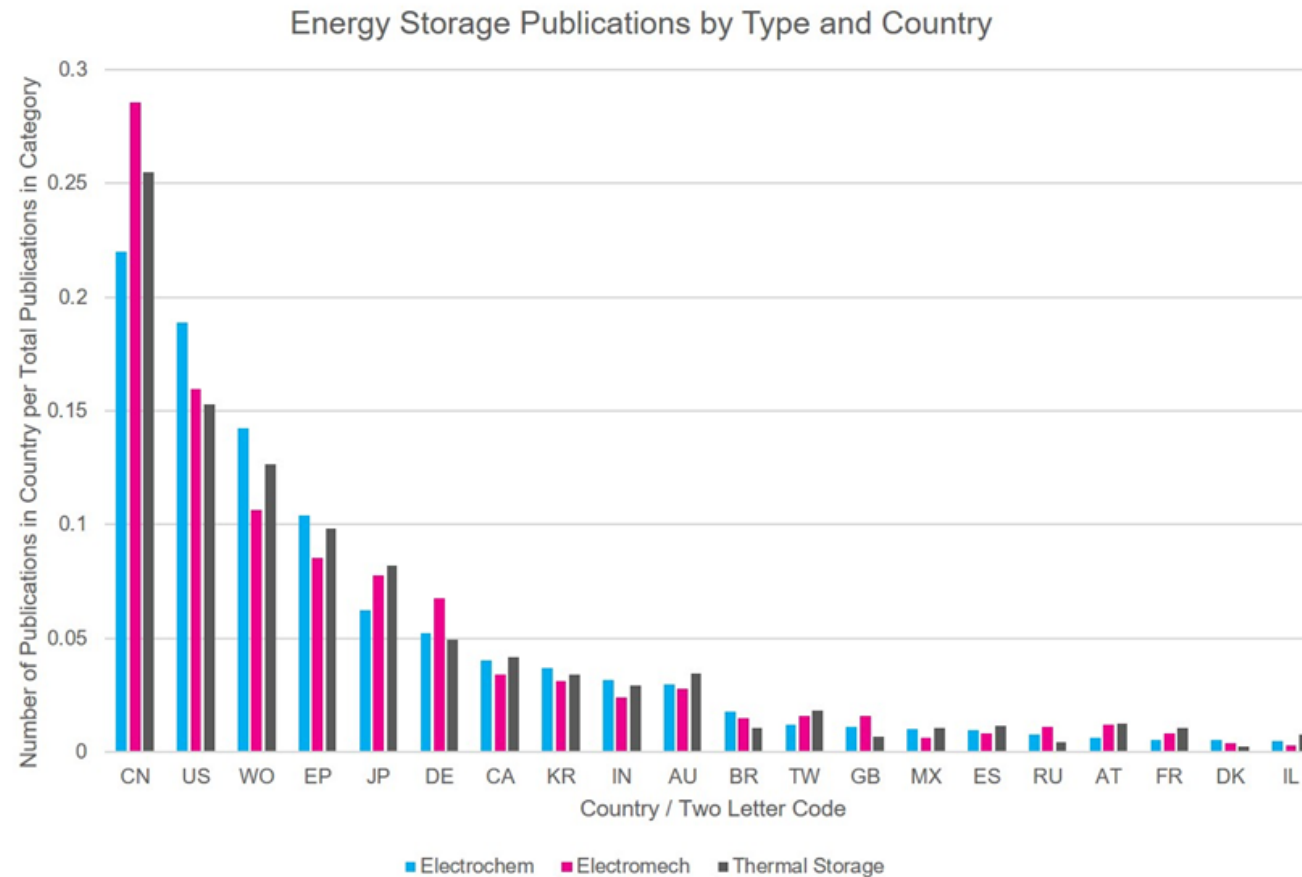
+ Add to myFT

## **The growing tensions around spinouts at British universities**

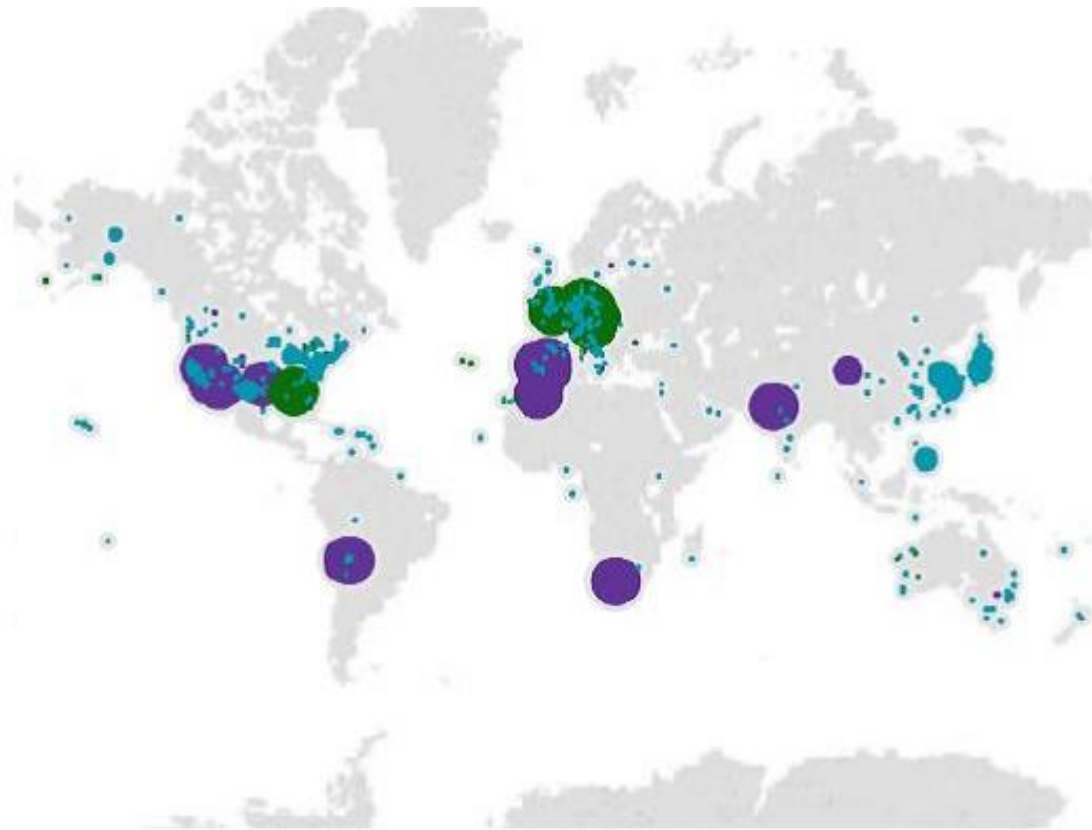
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Millions of pounds are being invested to turn scientific research into global companies. But some founders say they have to give up too much equity

# Geography – why it matters (especially now)

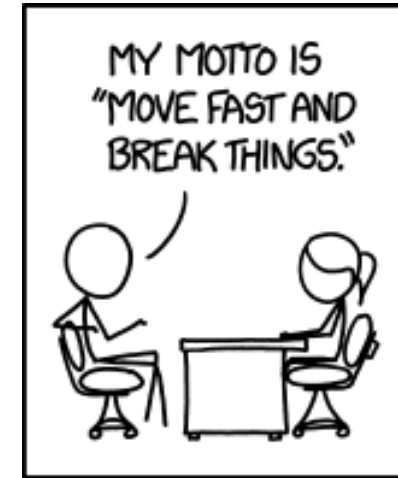


# Geography – why it matters (especially now)



# Move fast and get patents granted

- Patent applications typically move slowly
  - Could be at least five years until grant
  - Useful for some strategies but too slow for some investors?
- Speeds things up with the “Green Channel” at the UK Intellectual Property Office
  - Accelerated examination for inventions of “environmental benefit”
  - No extra cost
- Could have a positive indication on patentability within 2-3 months



JOBS I'VE BEEN  
FIRED FROM

FEDEX DRIVER  
CRANE OPERATOR  
SURGEON  
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER  
PHARMACIST  
MUSEUM CURATOR  
WAITER  
DOG WALKER  
OIL TANKER CAPTAIN  
VIOLINIST  
MARS ROVER DRIVER  
MASSAGE THERAPIST

# Summary

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- ...but not everything
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Thank you

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# European Patent No. 0 017 400

## Claims

1. An electrochemical cell comprising a liquid or solid electrolyte arranged between solid-solution electrodes, characterised in that at least one of the solid-solution electrodes is constituted by an ion conductor of the formula  $A_xM_yO_2$  having the layers of the  $\alpha$ -NaCrO<sub>2</sub> structure, in which formula A is Li, Na or K; M is a transition metal of atomic number from 23 to 28; x is 0.8 or less and y is approximately equal to 1.



# Trade Secrets

- "Trade Secret" means information which meets all of the following requirements:
- (a) is secret in the sense that it is not, as a body or in the precise configuration and assembly of its components, generally known among or readily accessible to persons within the circles that normally deal with the kind of information in question;
- (b) has commercial value because it is secret; and
- (c) has been subject to reasonable steps under the circumstances, by the person lawfully in control of the information, to keep it secret.