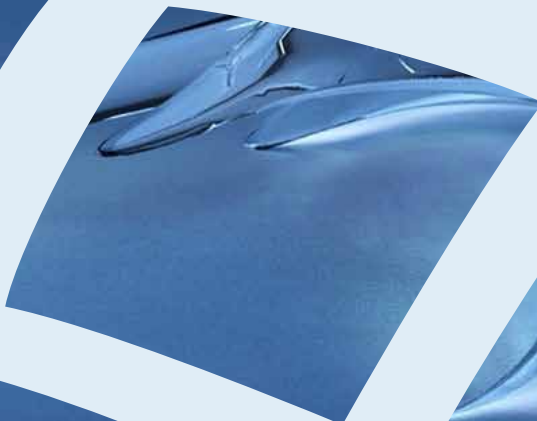




**“Patenting in the UK”  
Master Report**

[www.patanalyse.com/uk\\_patents](http://www.patanalyse.com/uk_patents)

# UK PATENT ATTORNEYS



# Introduction

PatAnalyse is in the business of delivering IP intelligence to its clients. We use pre-structured patent information to guide strategic corporate decision making – thus we have to get the patent data right. PatAnalyse has spent a lot of effort developing the most advanced patent search management tools and proprietary patent management tools to ‘clean’ bibliographic patent data. As an exercise to show how well these tools work we undertook to analyse the pattern of patenting by UK inventors using the most up to date information in the patent database. The benchmarking of patent activities of various UK companies is interesting in itself – our analysis shows which companies are patenting the most, reveals the clustering of UK assignees by technology sectors and helps to provide a critical review of patenting activities by UK universities. This report can be downloaded at [www.patanalyse.com/UK\\_patents](http://www.patanalyse.com/UK_patents)

This current report is a supplement to the main report on UK patenting activities. The set of patent maps presented below provide for the first time clear intelligence regarding the activities of major UK patent attorney firms.

According to the patent portfolio developed for the current study, UK patent attorneys are responsible for drafting, filing and prosecuting about 75 % of all patents of UK inventions, out of which 17% are handled by in-house corporate patent attorneys located in the UK.

Supporting UK inventors is only one aspect of UK patent attorneys’ business - they are also heavily involved in prosecuting foreign patents before the European Patent Office. On average UK patent attorneys support the prosecution of five times more patents originated from outside of the UK for each one invented in the UK. In spite of such differences in work volume the difference in terms of income is, we believe, much smaller due to the fact that with domestic patents UK patent attorneys are involved in both the initial drafting and in sending and monitoring the prosecution of patents before various other national patent offices including PCT, US, Japan, China, and others depending on the geographical coverage requested by the UK client. With patents originated elsewhere, UK patent attorneys are typically involved in the affairs of a single patent office – mainly the European Patent Office (with about ten times smaller volume of foreign patents filed with the PCT).

The main competitors for private UK patent attorney firms are corporate patent attorneys (who reduce the volume of domestic patent applications for private patent attorney firms) and German patent attorneys who are taking a substantial volume of foreign patents before the European Patent Office - benefiting from the location of EPO headquarters in Munich. German patent attorneys greatly outnumber UK patent attorneys as they are drafting, filing, and prosecuting about four times more domestic patents, compared to UK attorneys. A typical patent attorney in Germany will have a PhD degree in a science discipline received at the age of 30, when in UK a typical patent attorney will have a Masters degree received just after four years at University at the age of 22. This allows German patent attorneys to win a substantial volume of business from non-English speaking clients. For instance German patent attorneys are handling more than three times larger volumes of patents from Asian clients compared to their UK counterparties.

However UK patent attorneys are much more successful with US clients - winning a slightly larger share of the business from US clients than German attorneys due to the closer cultural links between the US and the UK and the lack of language barriers.

In next chapters we plot a set of patent maps for the portfolio of patents restricted to the patents with priorities from 2007, which show the major clients of the main UK patent attorneys. In order to avoid double counting we organise all patents in simple patent families. The data about different patent attorneys working with the same patent family helps us to establish the relationship between patent attorney firms from different countries and to plot various patent maps, e.g. such as the clustering of US patent attorneys sending work to the EPO via UK patent attorneys.

Most patent maps presented below are clustered in order to reveal some details which will be missed otherwise. Clustering of data is a part of the proprietary patent map builder tool developed by PatAnalyse for presenting statistical information on patent portfolios. The set of patent maps presented here overturn our understanding of reciprocity relationships between US and UK patent attorneys. There is no statistical evidence for a correlation between the names of US firms used by UK patent attorneys to file UK inventions in the US and the names of US clients who are using UK patent attorneys to file foreign patents at the EPO. For instance, one of the largest UK firms, Marks & Clerk, has substantial business with more than 20 US patent attorneys firms. However only two US companies from this list are working with Marks & Clerk both as a meaningful client and as a meaningful contractor. Another UK patent attorney firm Frank B. Dehn & Co is receiving the largest volume of business from US compared to other UK patent attorneys and is serving more than 15 US patent attorney firms – however without sending them any work back from its UK domestic portfolio.

This lack of reciprocity is further confirmed by the fact that, in order to save costs, many UK patent firms are sending work to the US Patent Office via less expensive Canadian patent firms. There is no evidence for any sizeable workflow back from Canadian firms to UK patent attorneys.

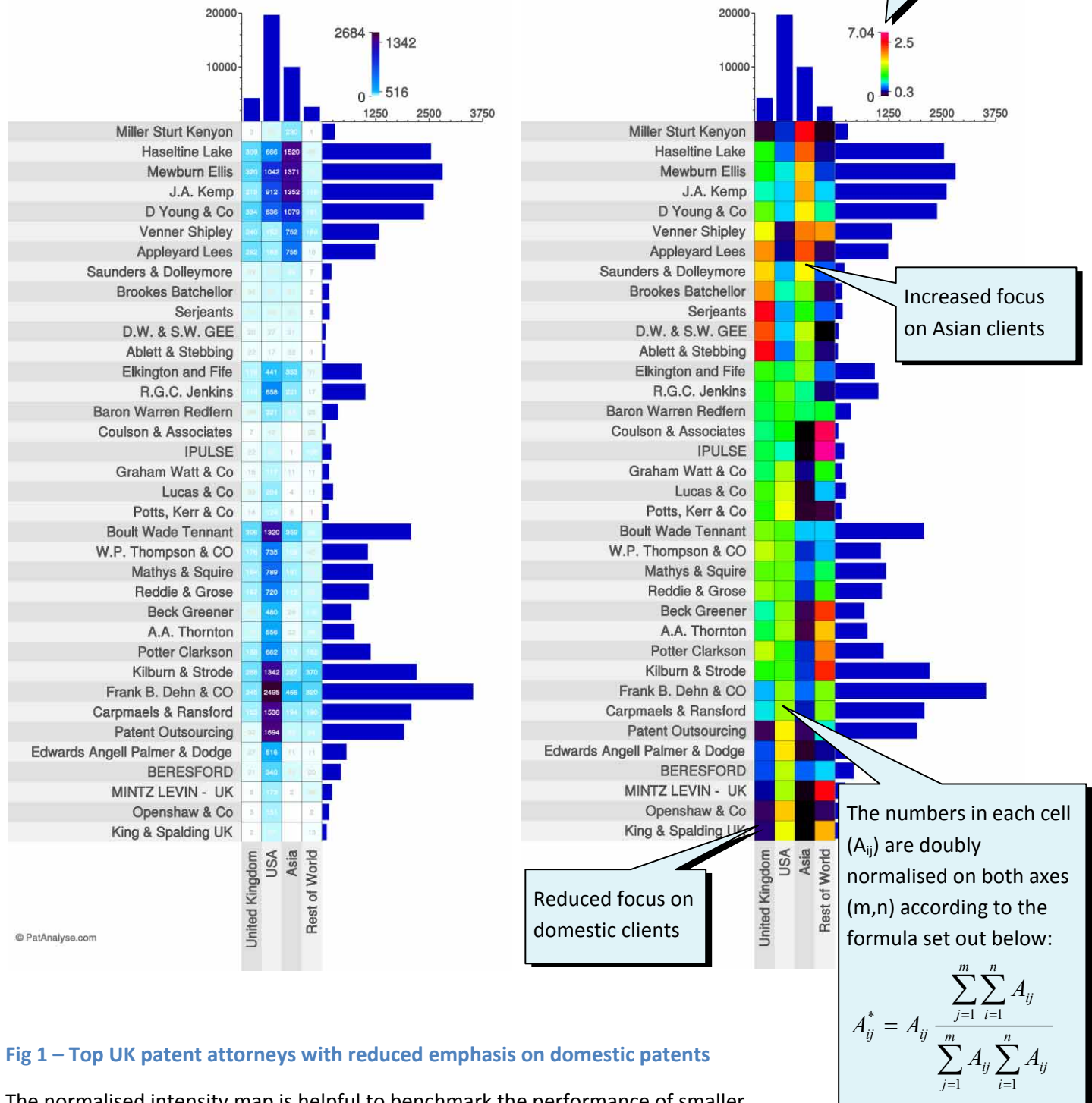
This report will be of major interest to UK patent attorneys themselves but also to any of their clients, wishing to understand better the specialisations and reputations of particular UK patent attorney firm.

The report is organised in four chapters.

- » The first chapter provides an overview of top UK patent attorney firms by clustering their activities according to the geography of their clients.
- » The second chapter provides an in-depth analysis of the UK client base for UK patent attorney firms with a separate patent map related to academic clients.
- » Chapter Three shows the clustering of the US clients of UK patent attorneys. We also show the clusters of US patent attorneys and the Canadian patent firms used by UK patent attorneys to file UK inventions in the US patent office.
- » The fourth chapter reveals the industrial Asian clients of UK patent attorneys.

# Chapter 1

## Clustering UK attorneys according to the geography of their clients



**Fig 1 – Top UK patent attorneys with reduced emphasis on domestic patents**

The normalised intensity map is helpful to benchmark the performance of smaller players, whose actual trend is otherwise unclear from the absolute intensity map. The colour scale shows the deviation of activities of each company from the common trend. A company which follows the trend will look predominantly green (this colour represents a value equal to one). The colder (e.g. blue) colours correspond to activities well below the average; the warmer colours (e.g. red) emphasise levels of activity well above the average.

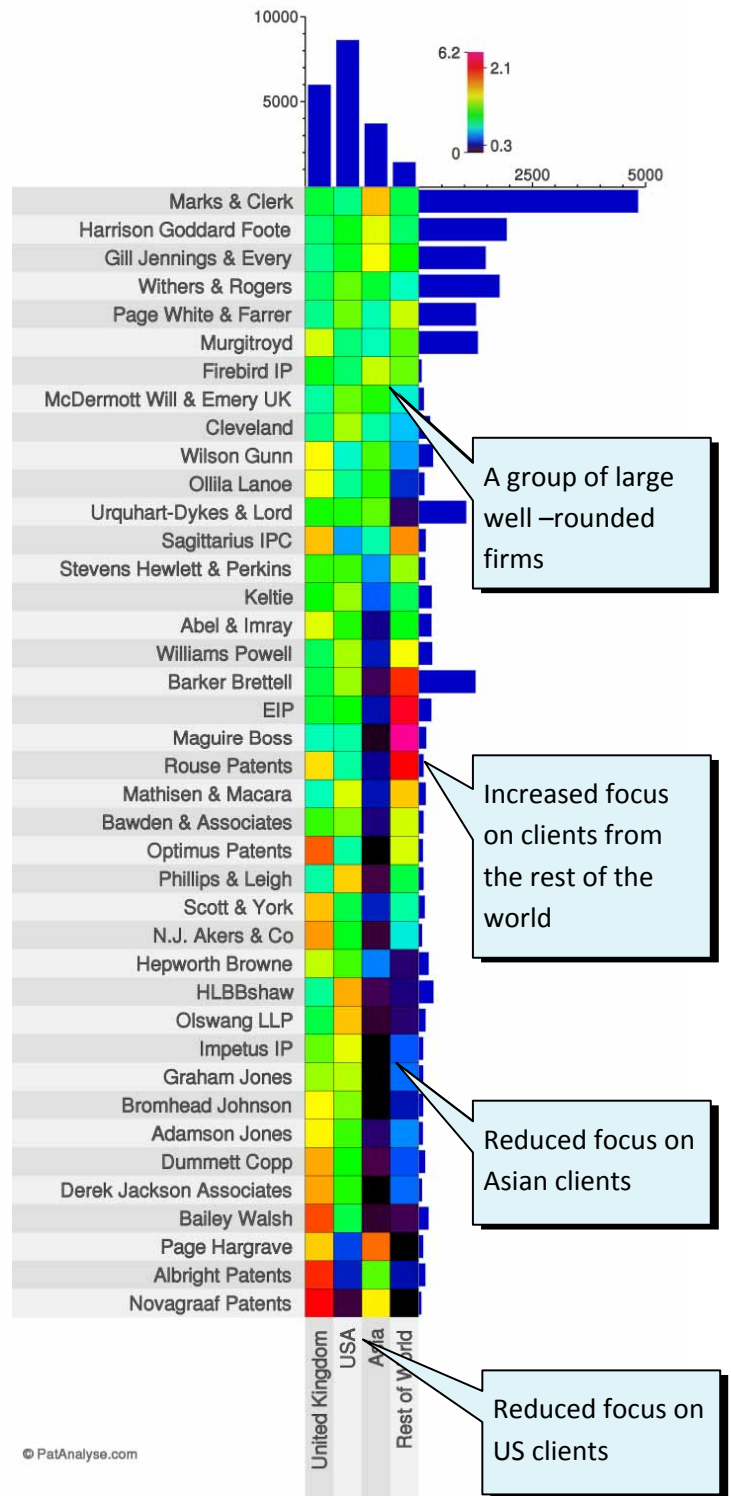
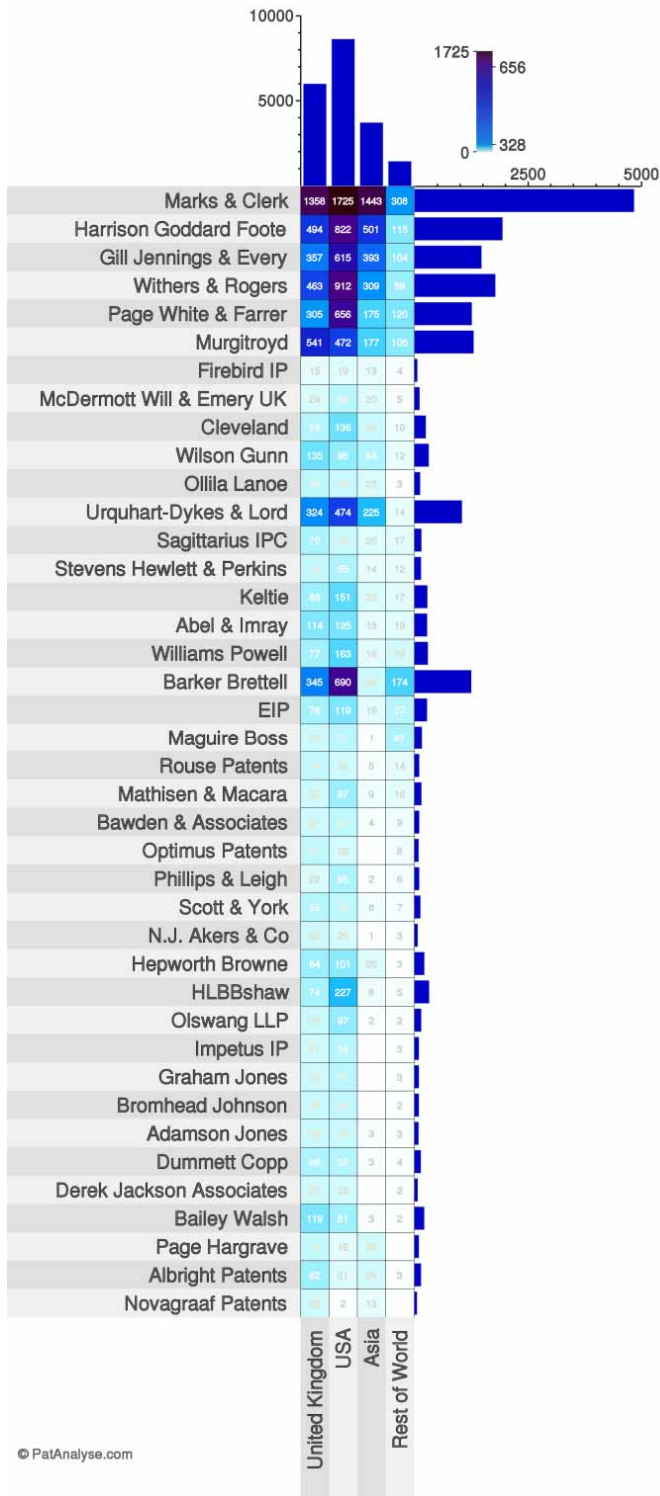


Fig 2 – Top UK patent attorneys with substantial emphasis on foreign patents



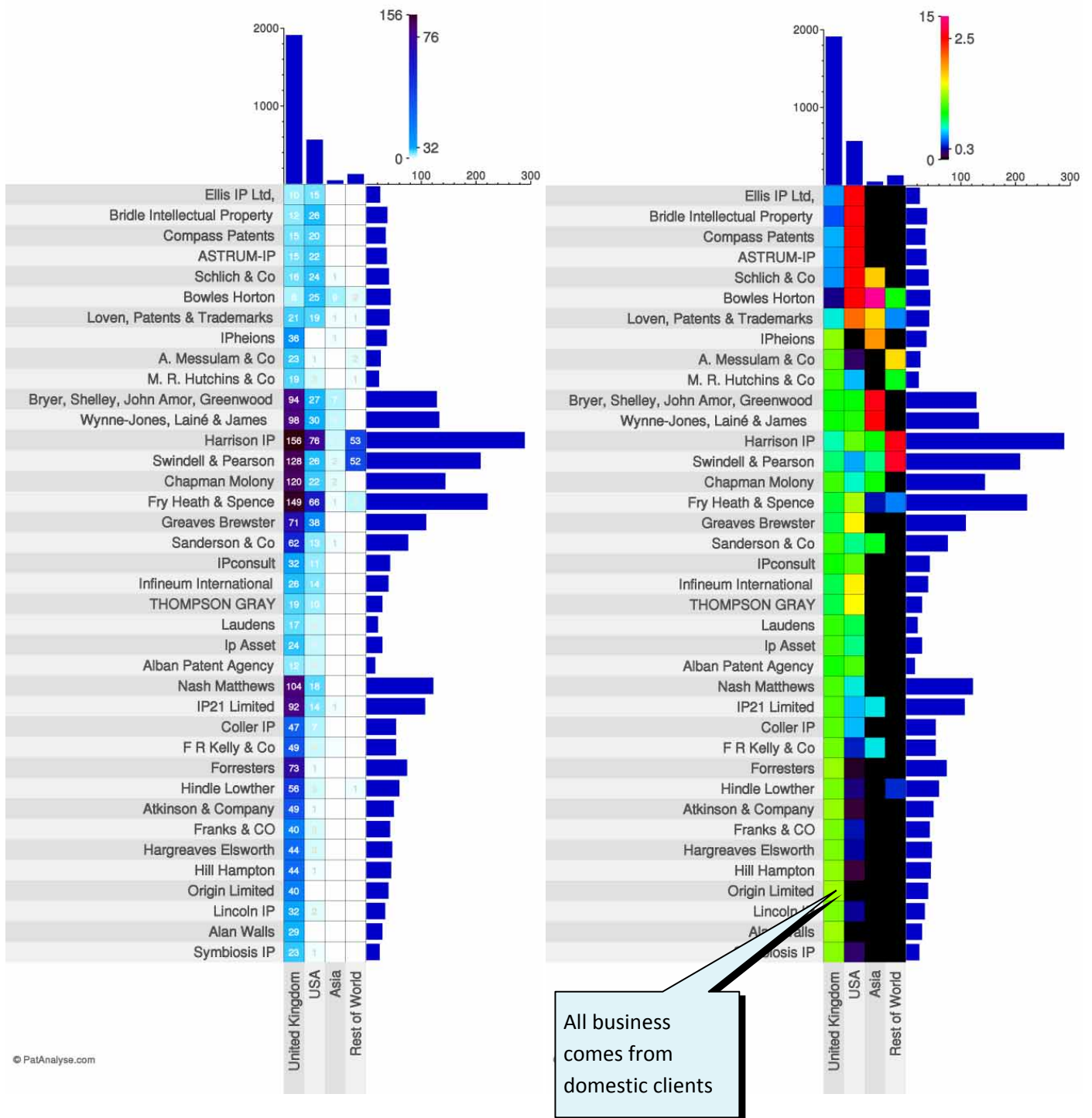


Fig 3 – Top UK patent attorneys with main focus on domestic patents

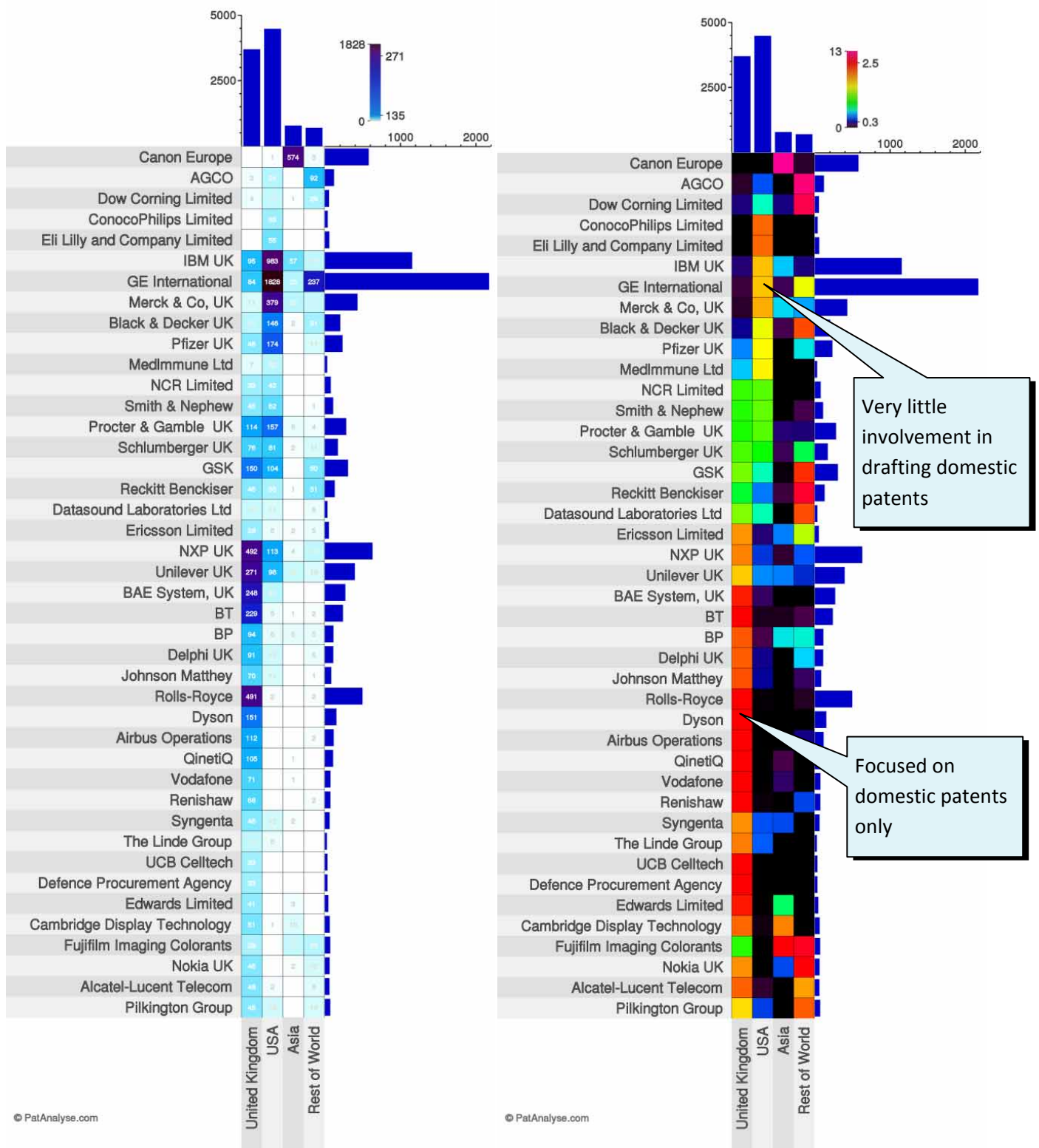


Fig 4 – Top corporate UK patent attorneys

# Chapter 2

## Domestic activities of UK patent attorneys

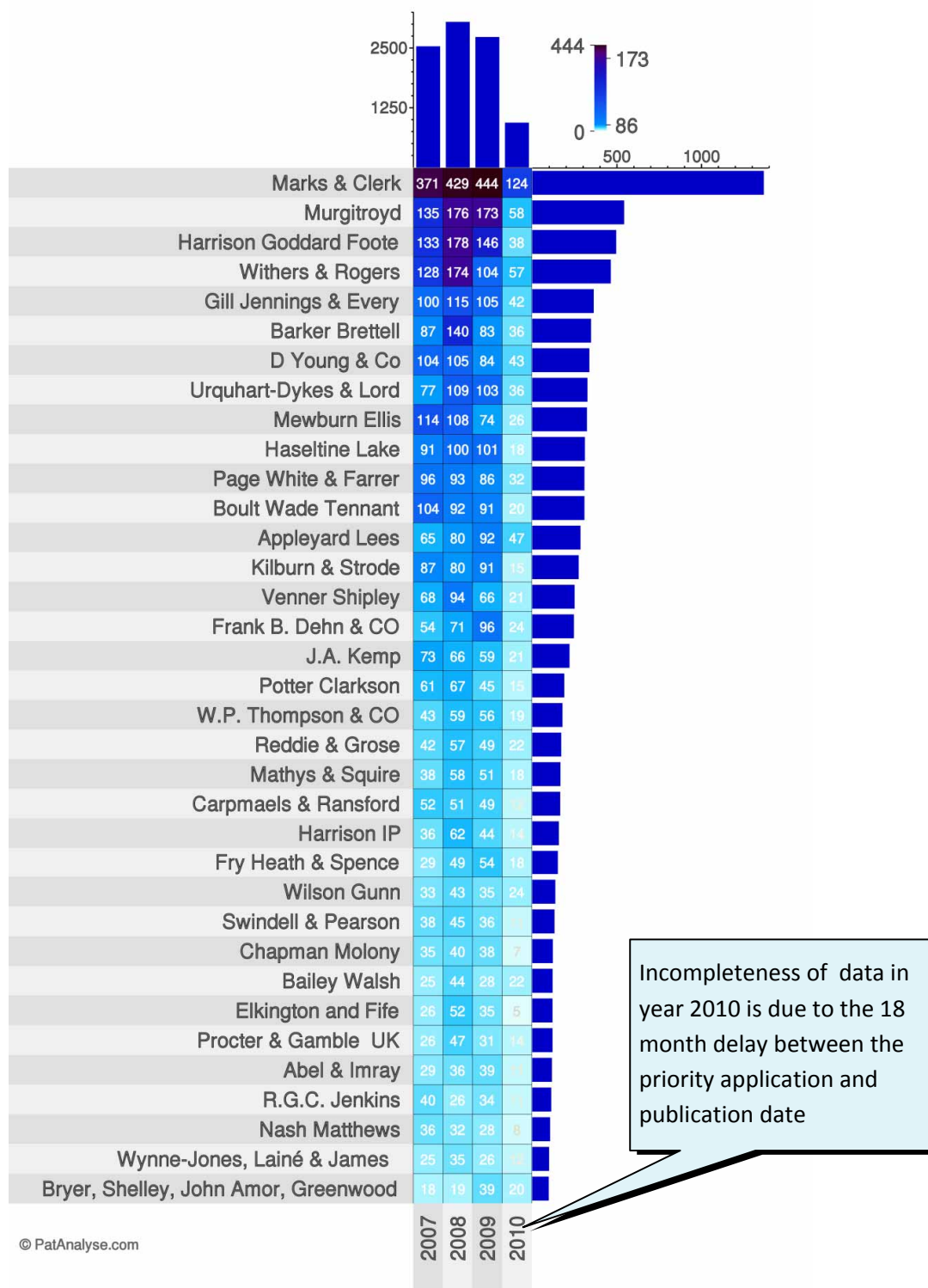


Fig 5– Top UK patent attorneys dealing with domestic clients



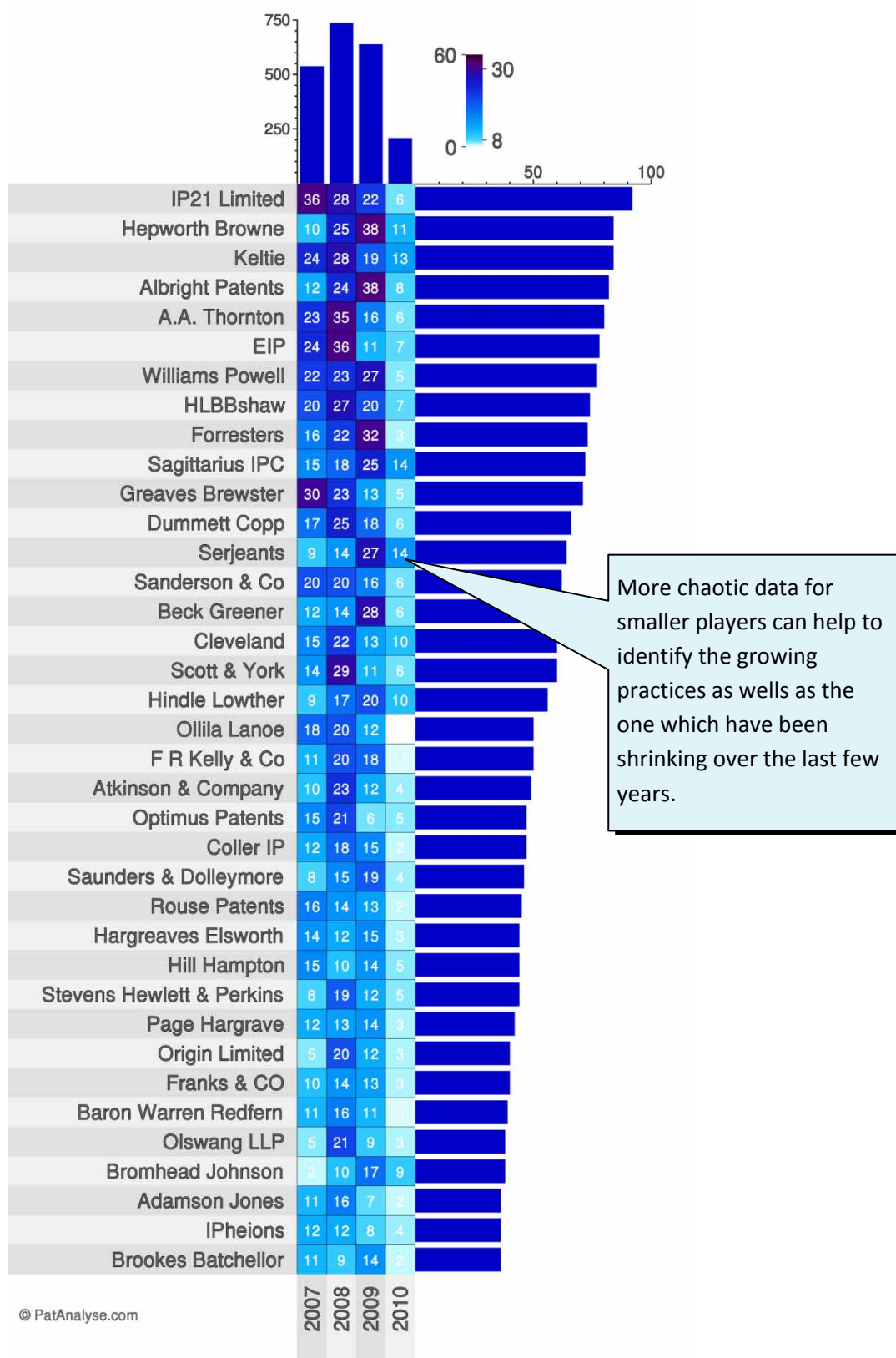


Fig 6– Second tier UK patent attorneys dealing with domestic clients

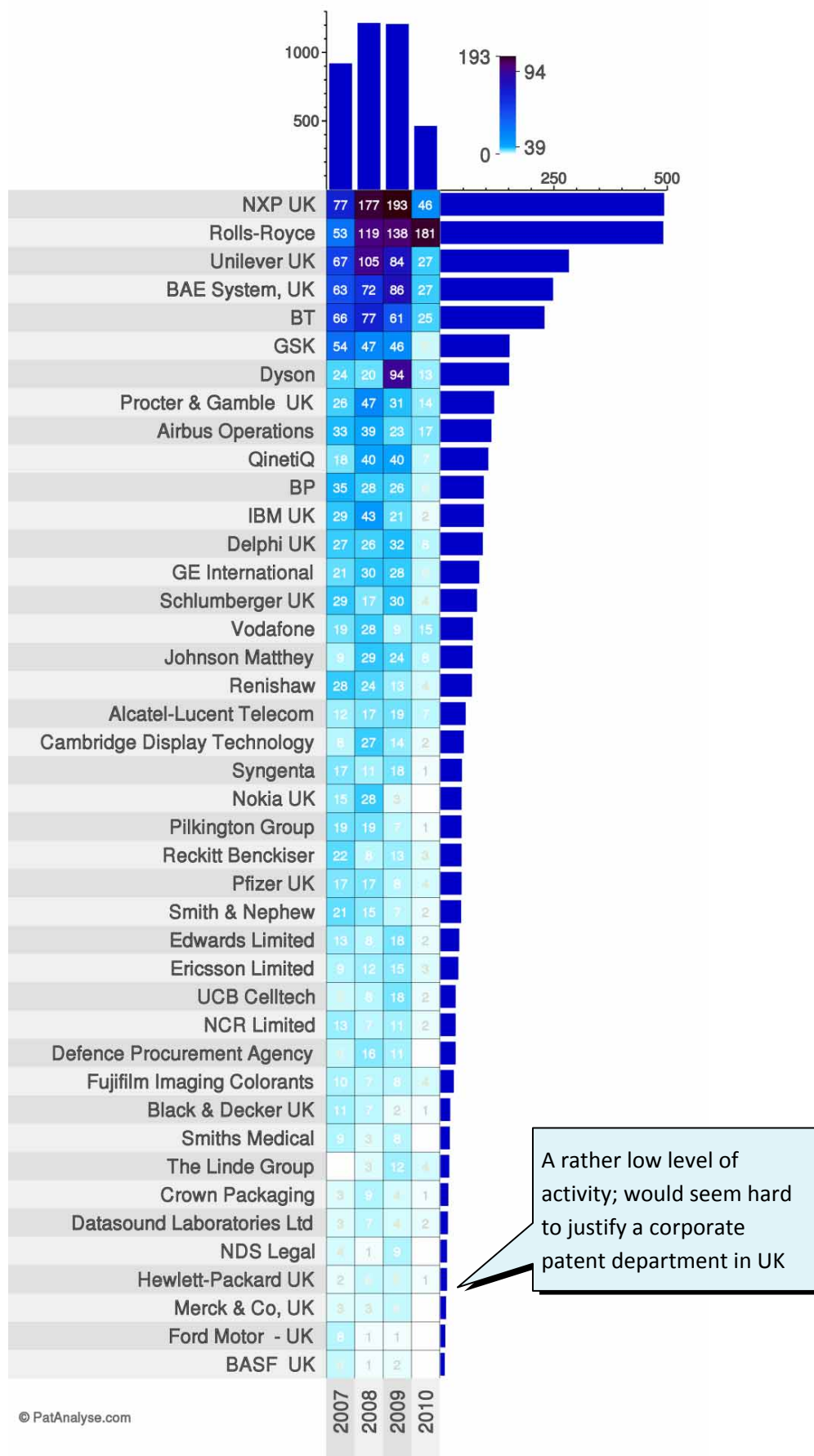


Fig 7– Top corporate UK patent attorneys dealing with domestic clients

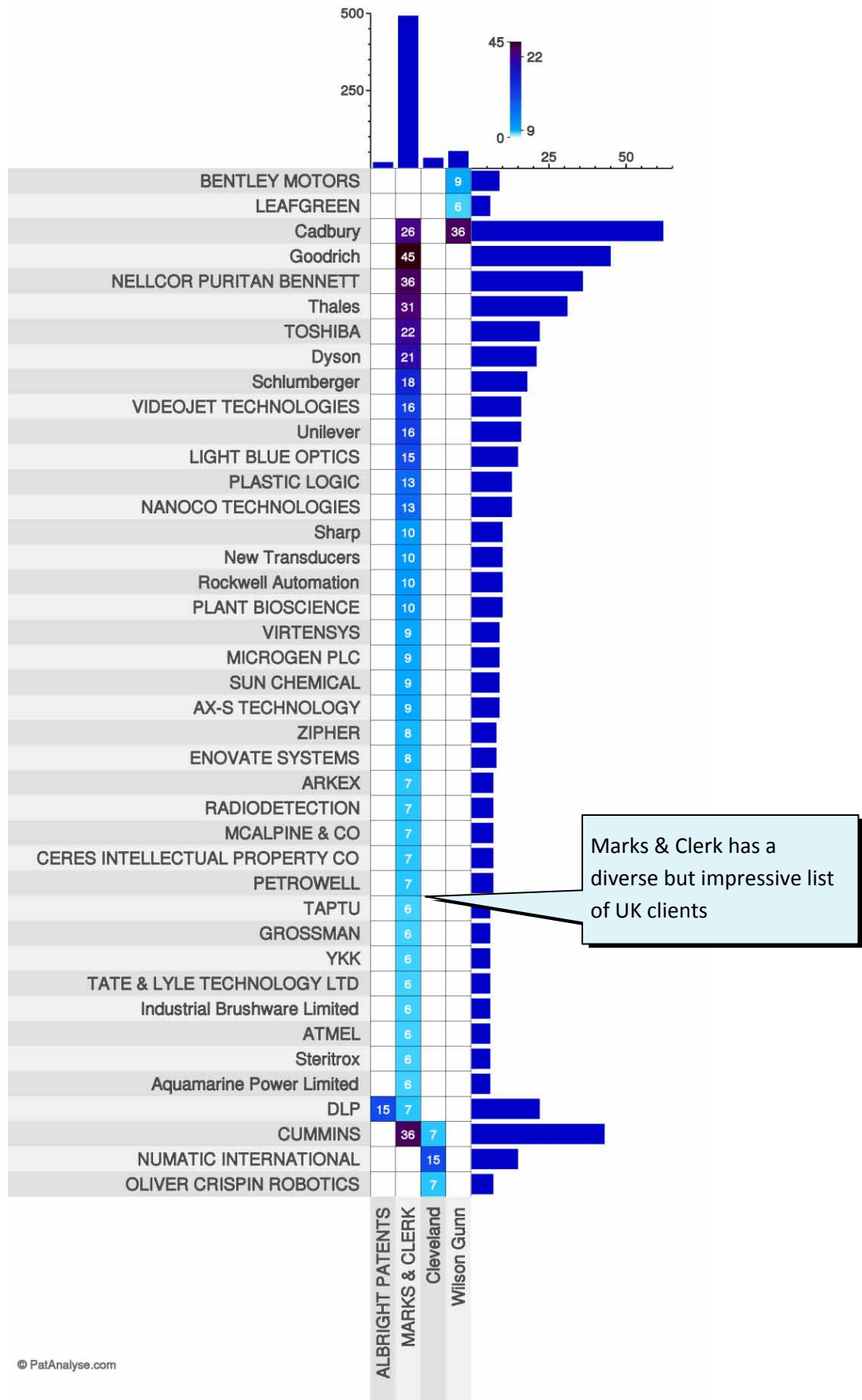


Fig 8.1 – UK clients of UK patent attorneys

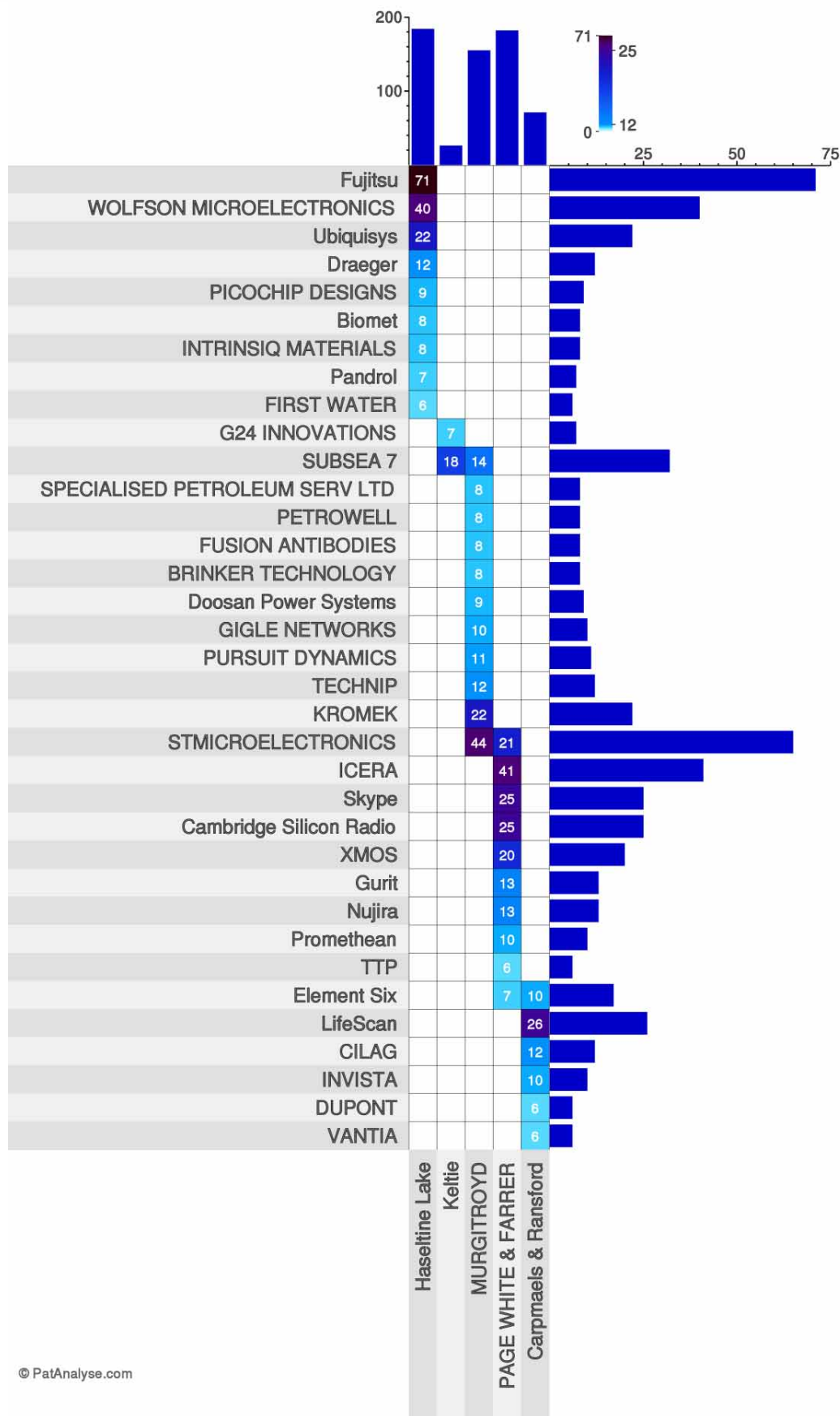
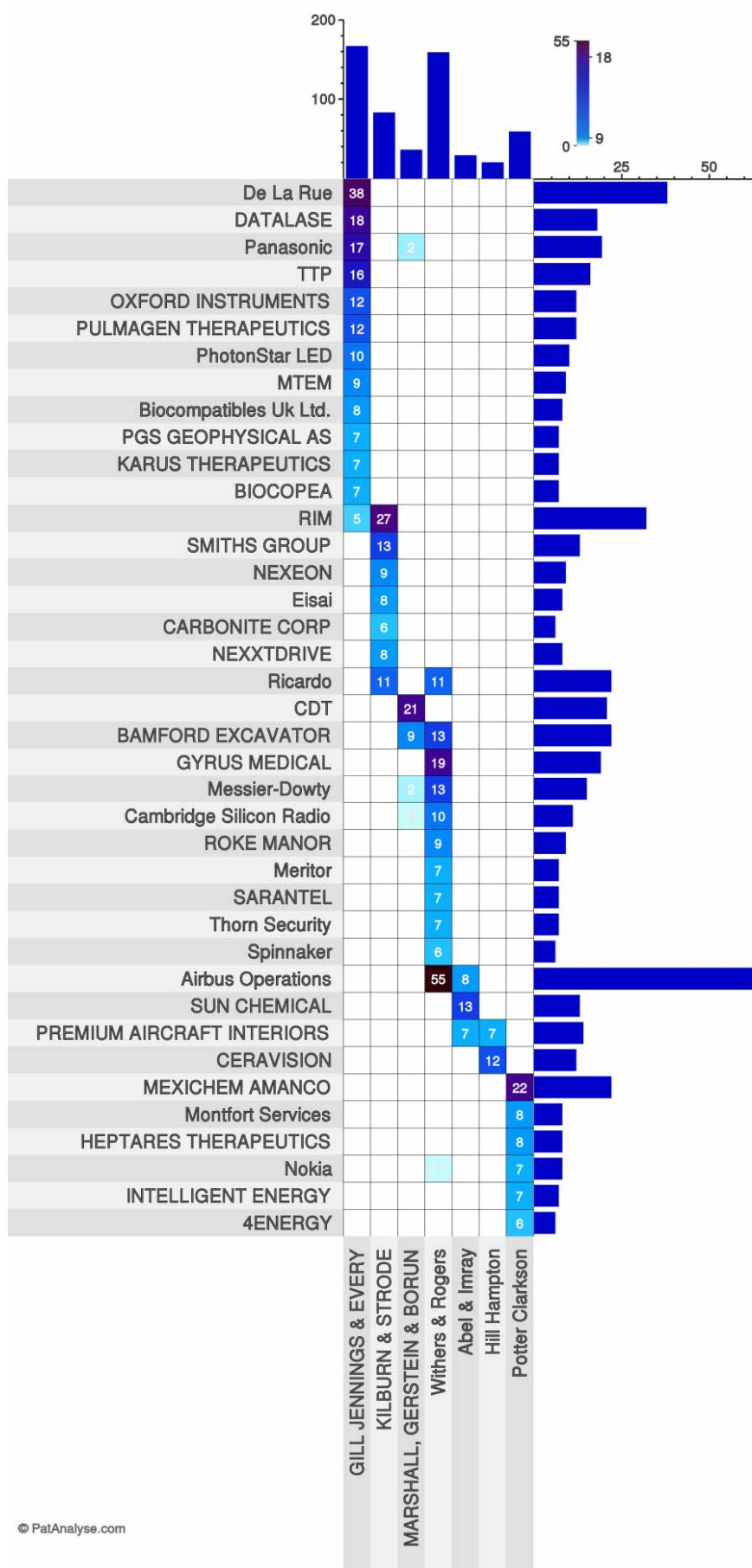


Fig 8.2 – UK clients of UK patent attorneys





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Fig 8.3 – UK clients of UK patent attorneys

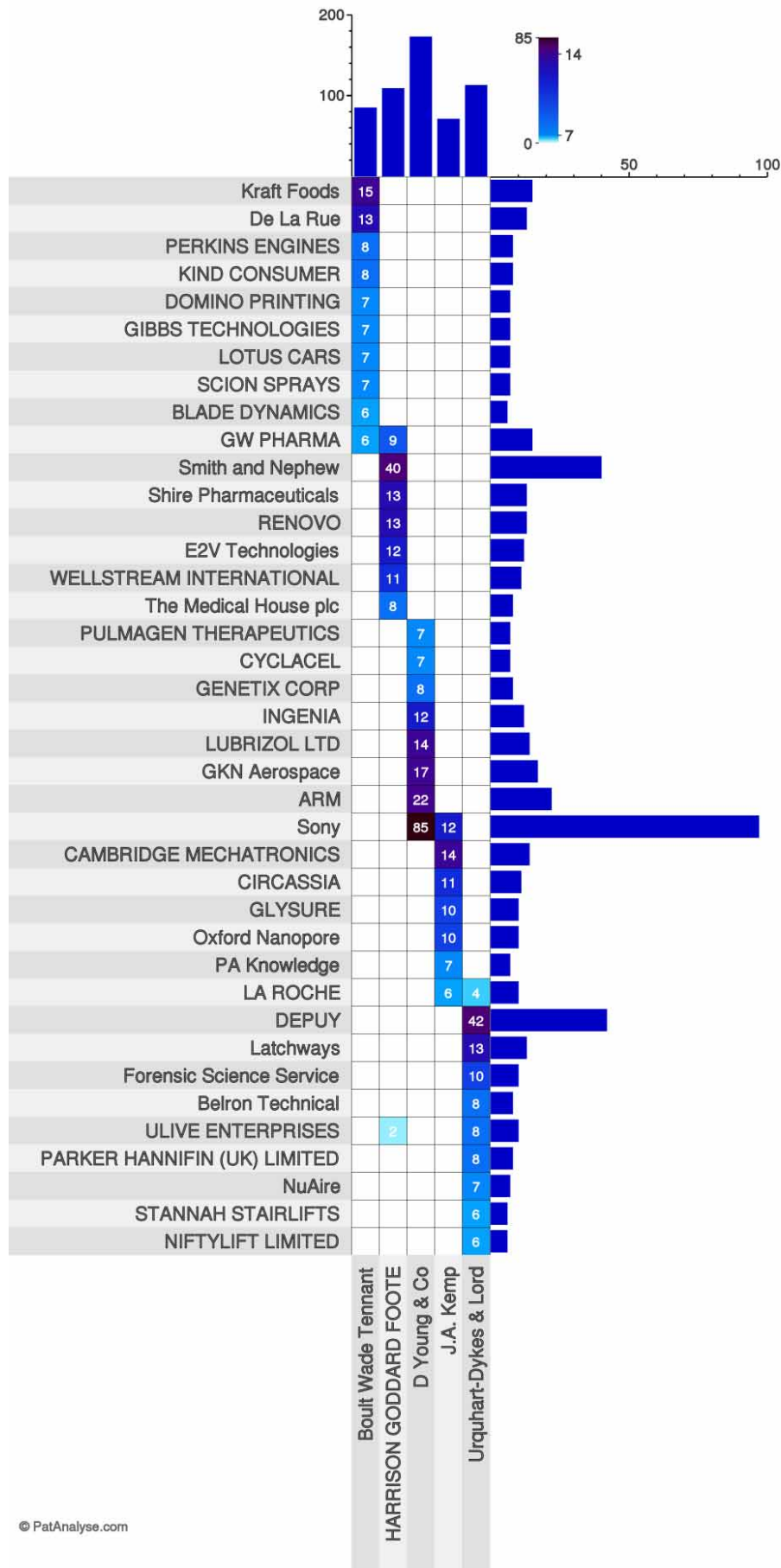


Fig 8.4 – UK clients of UK patent attorneys



**Fig 8.5 – UK clients of UK patent attorneys**

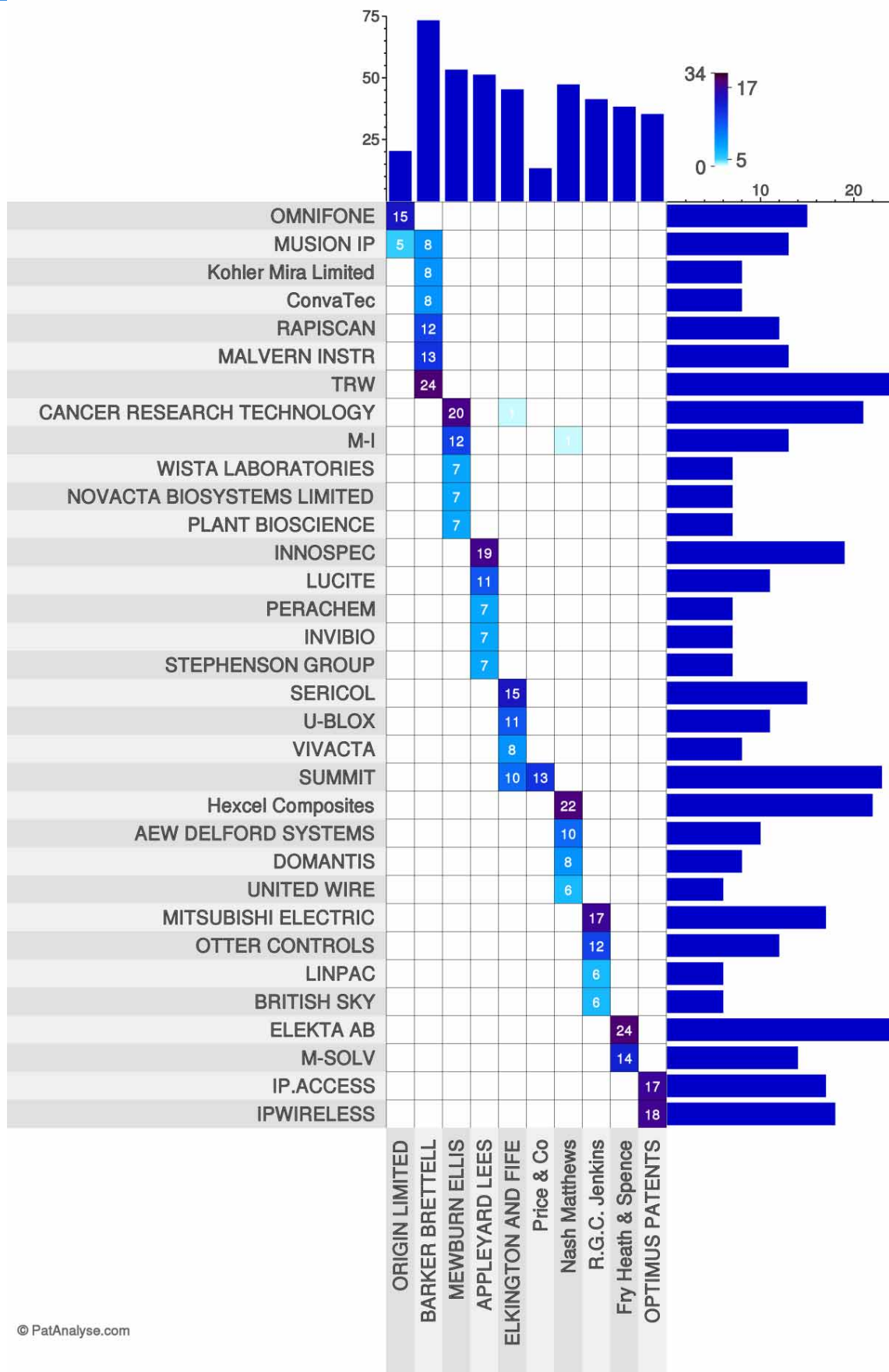


Fig 8.6 – UK clients of UK patent attorneys



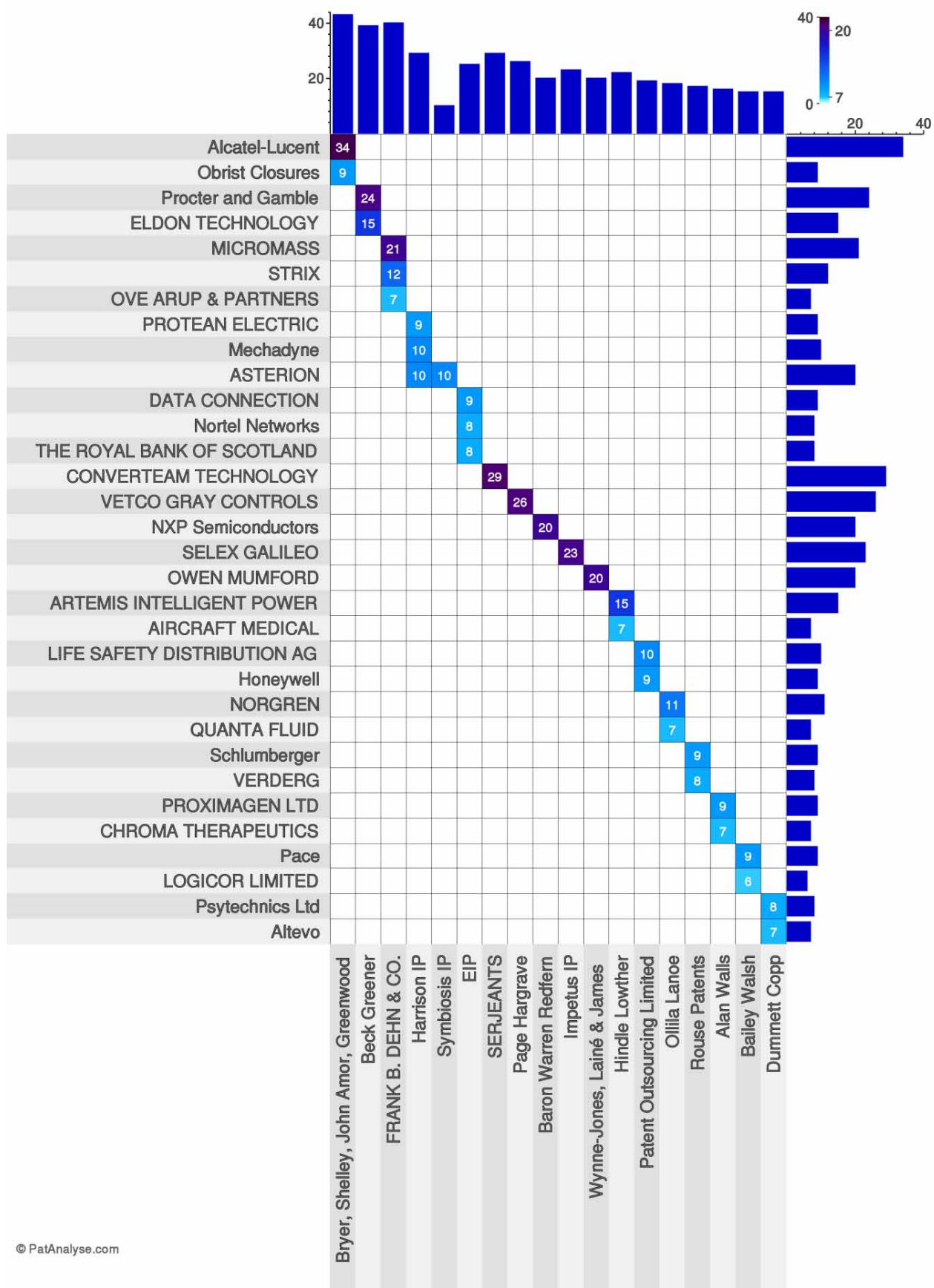


Fig 8.7 – UK clients of UK patent attorneys

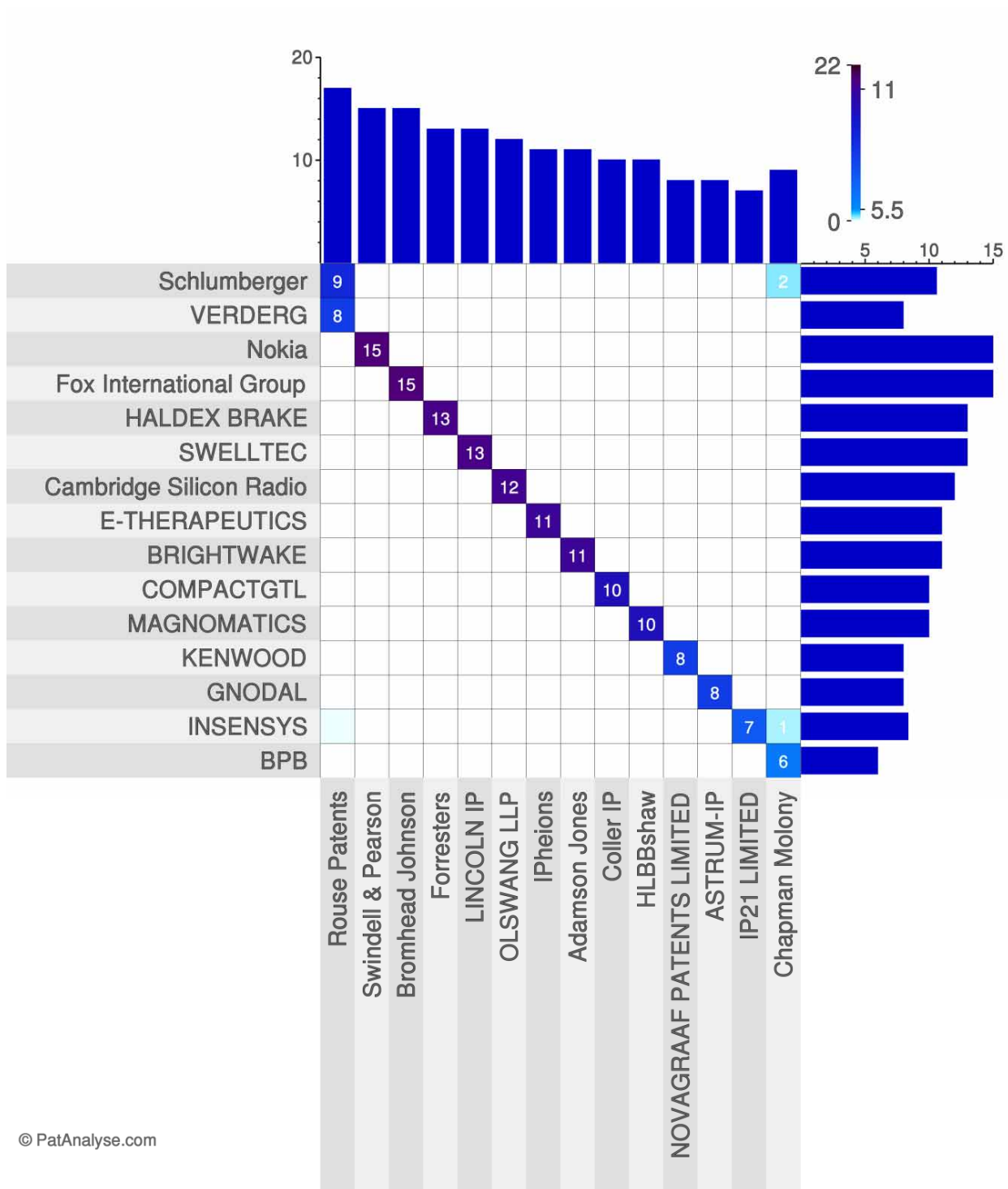


Fig 8.8 – UK clients of UK patent attorneys

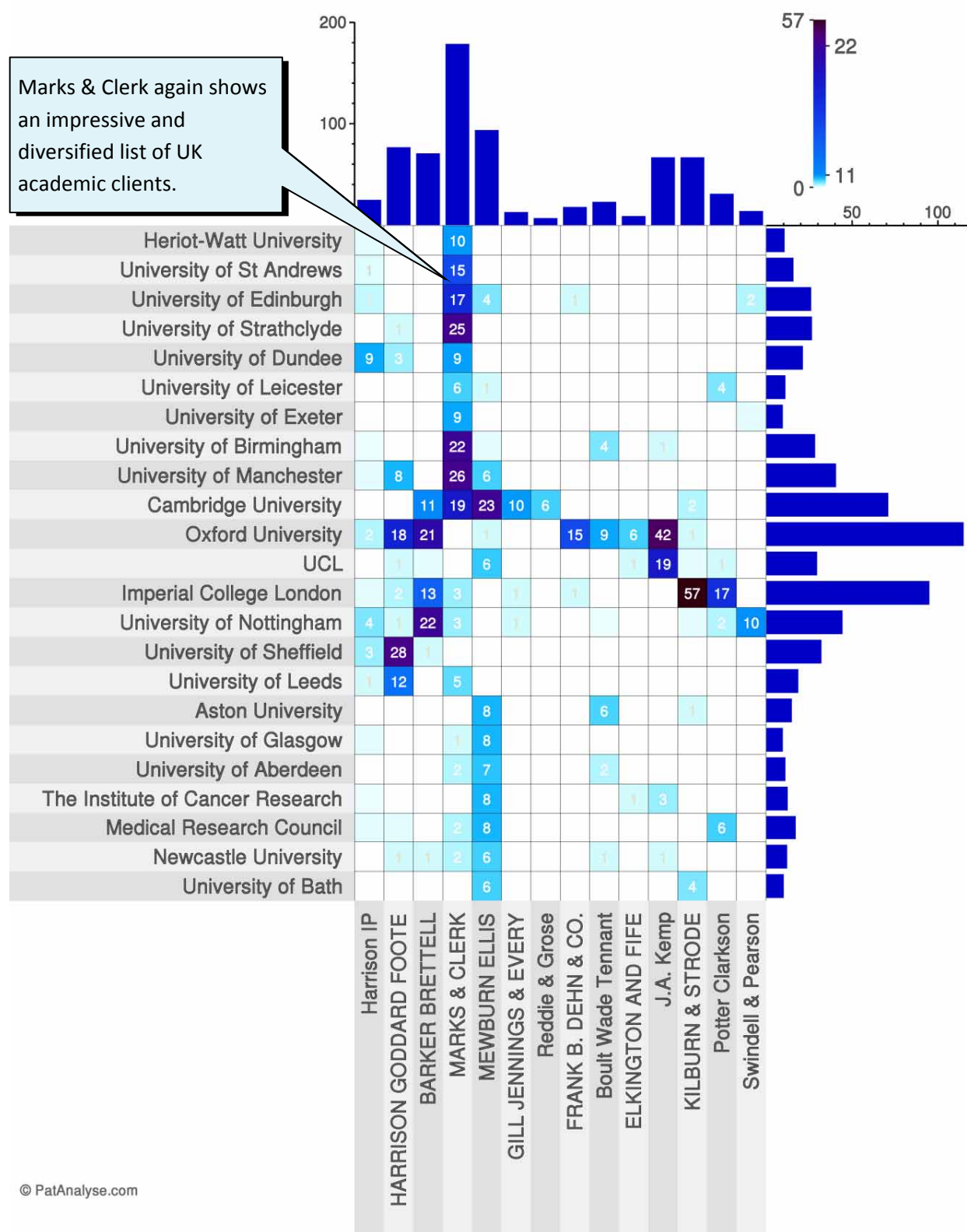


Fig 9.1 – Academic clients of UK patent attorneys

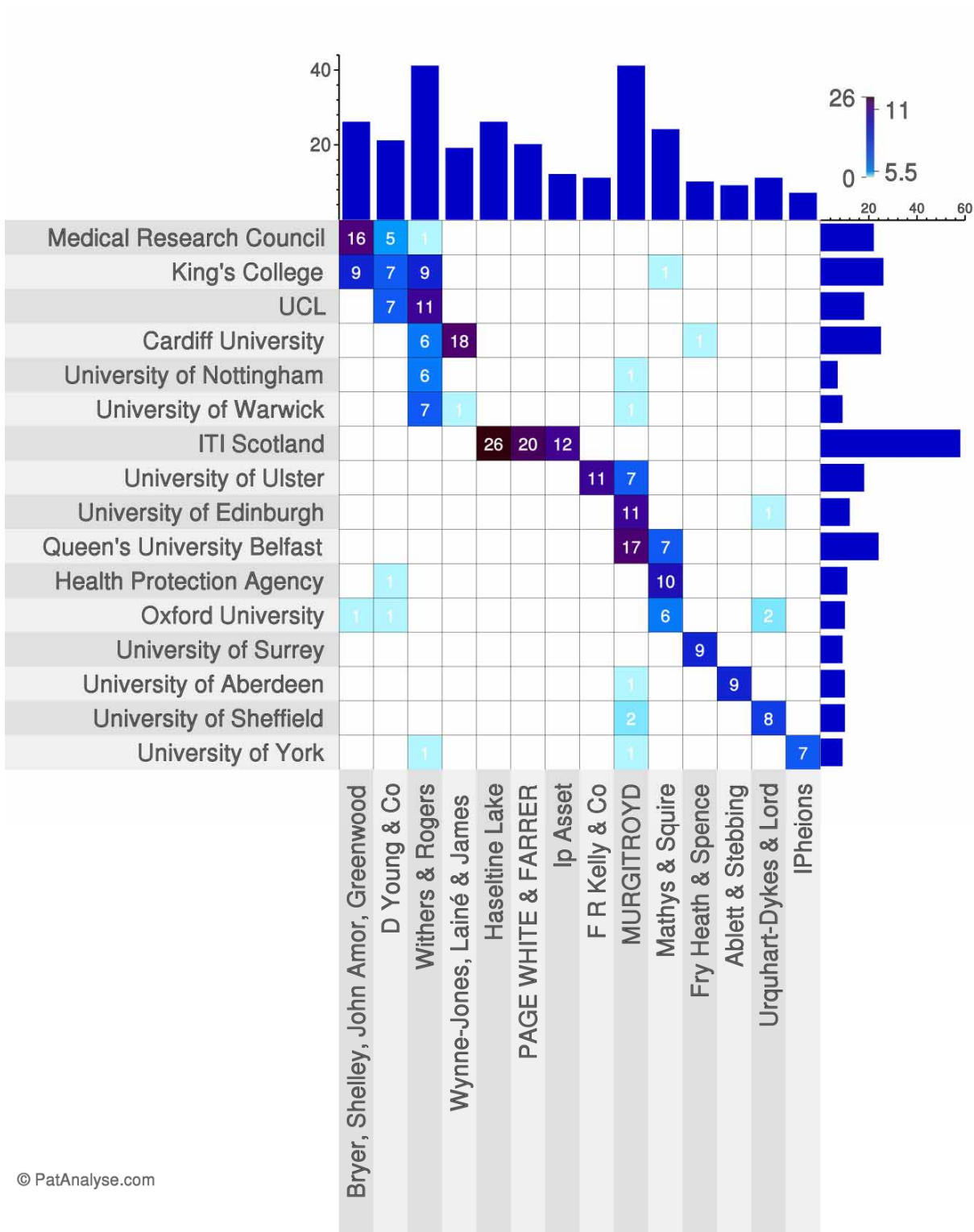


Fig 9.2 – Academic clients of UK patent attorneys



# Chapter 3

## US activities of UK patent attorneys

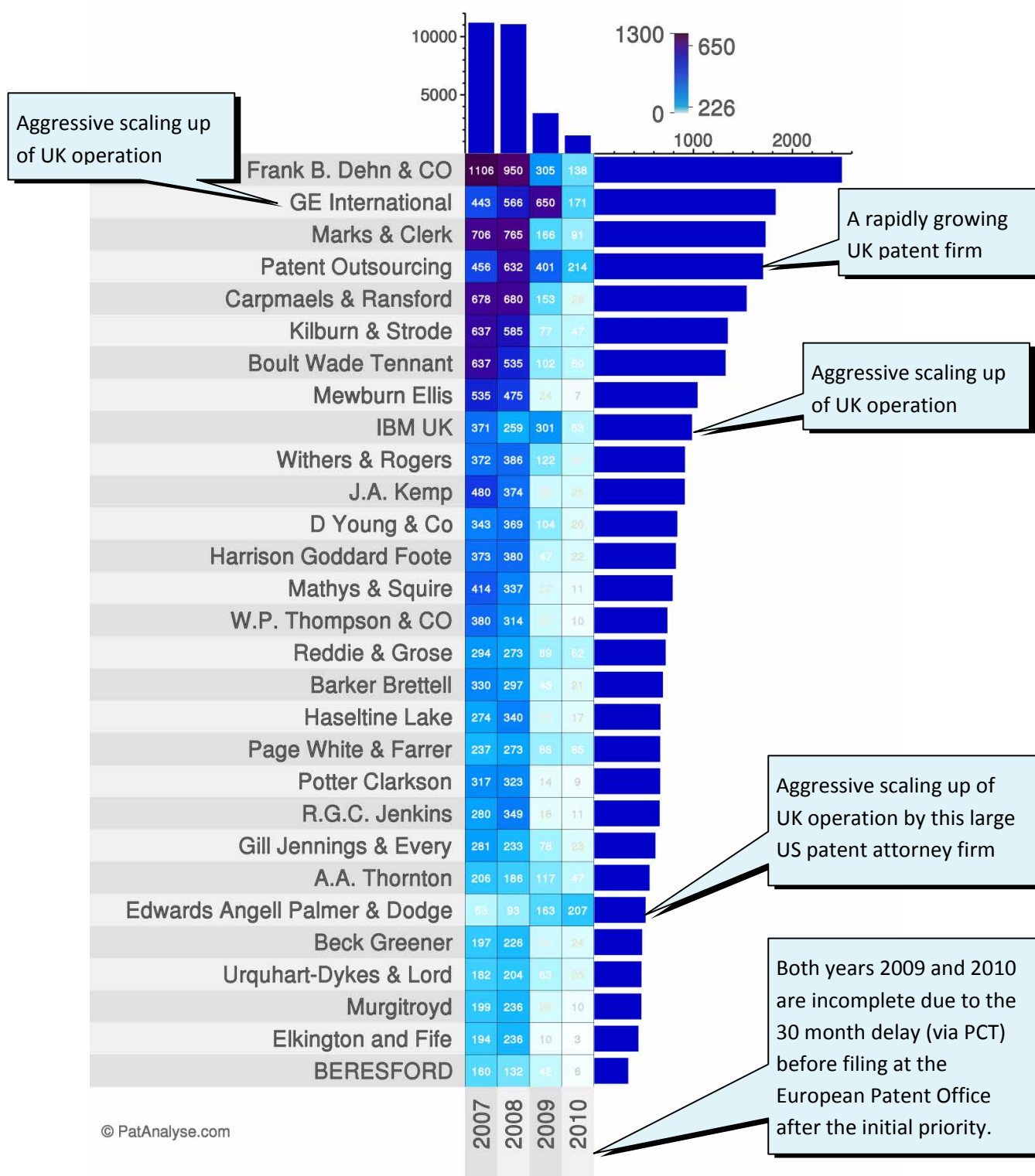


Fig 10 – Top UK patent attorneys working with US clients

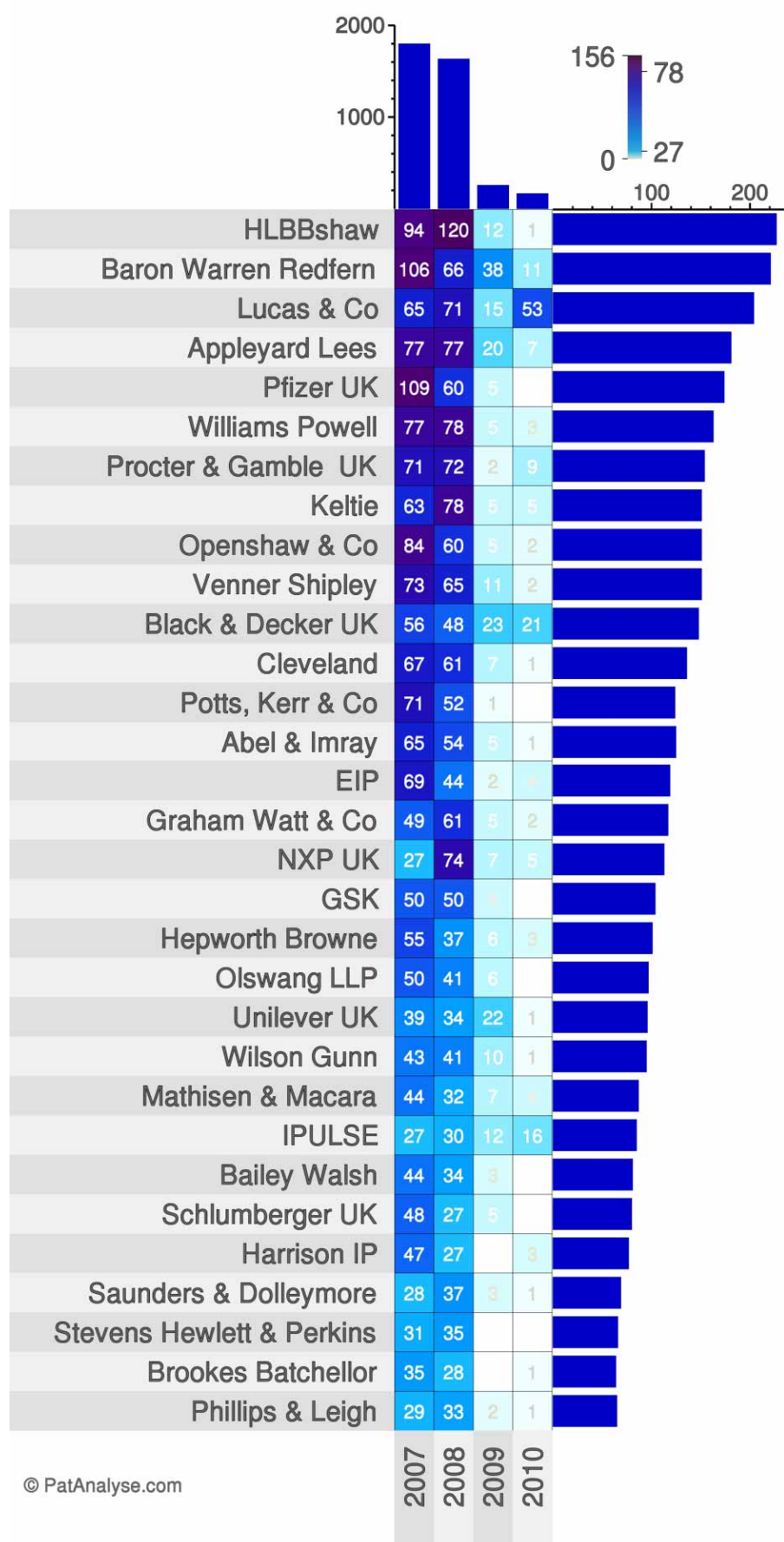
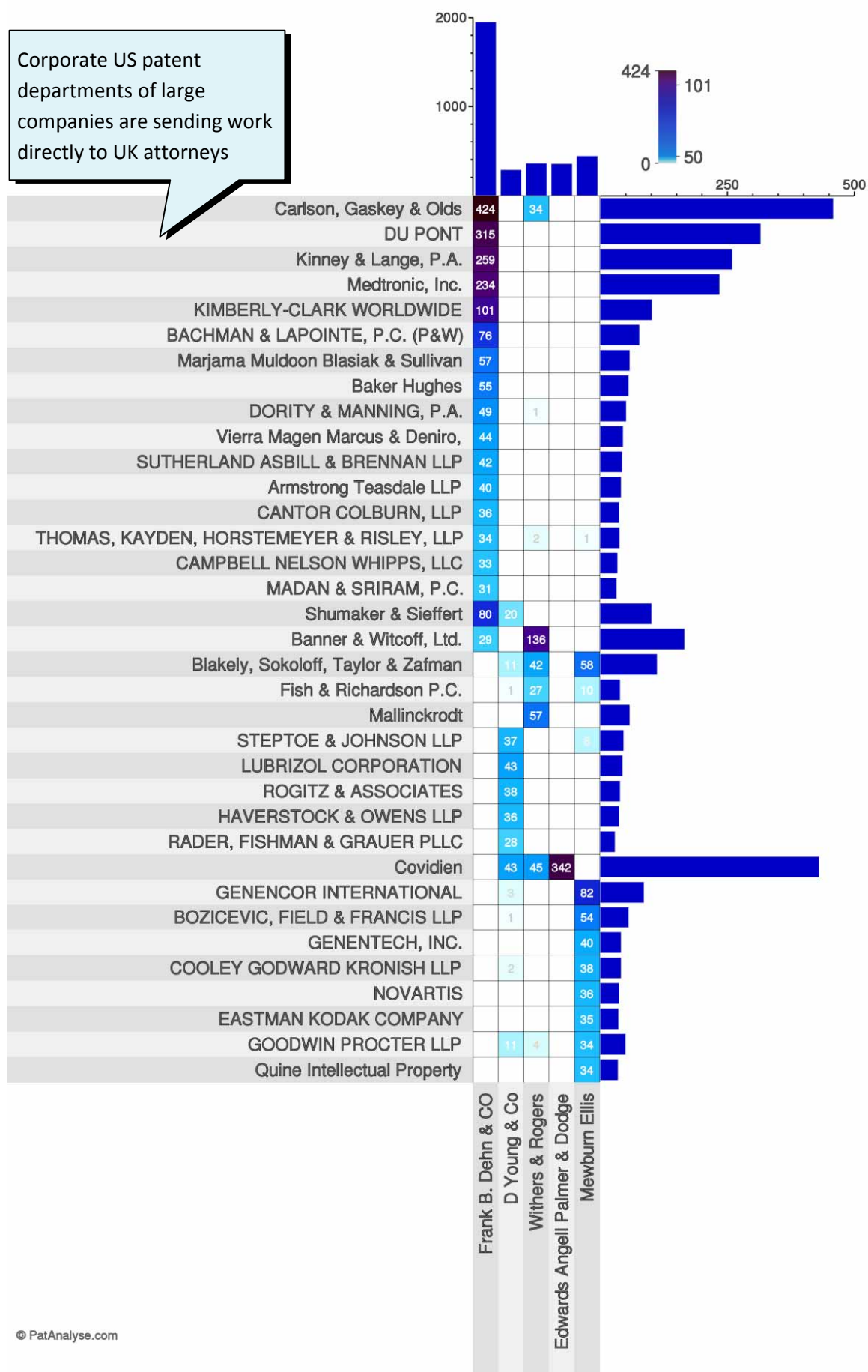


Fig 11 – Second tier UK patent attorneys working with US client

Corporate US patent departments of large companies are sending work directly to UK attorneys



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Fig 12.1 – US clients of UK patent attorneys

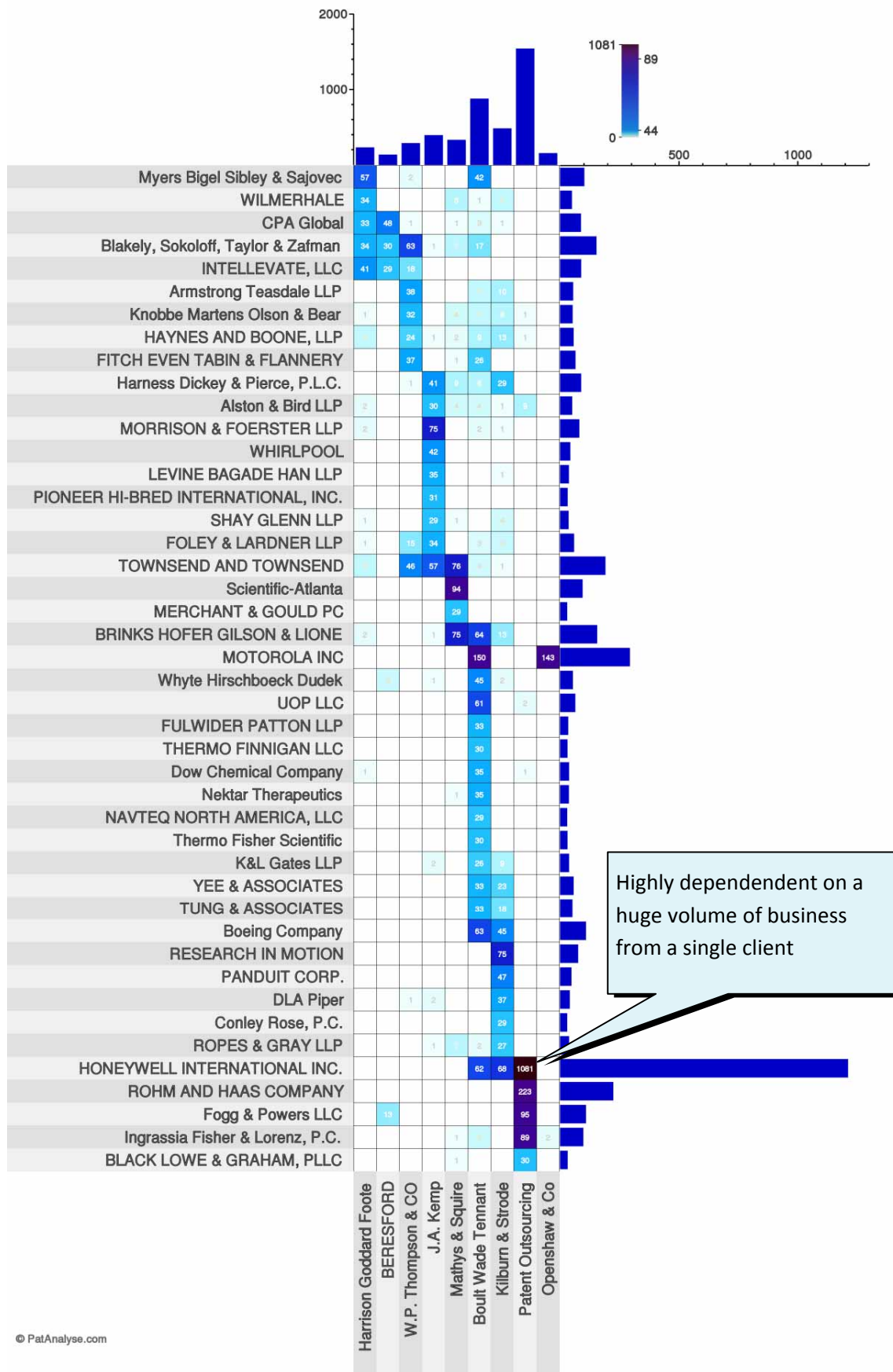
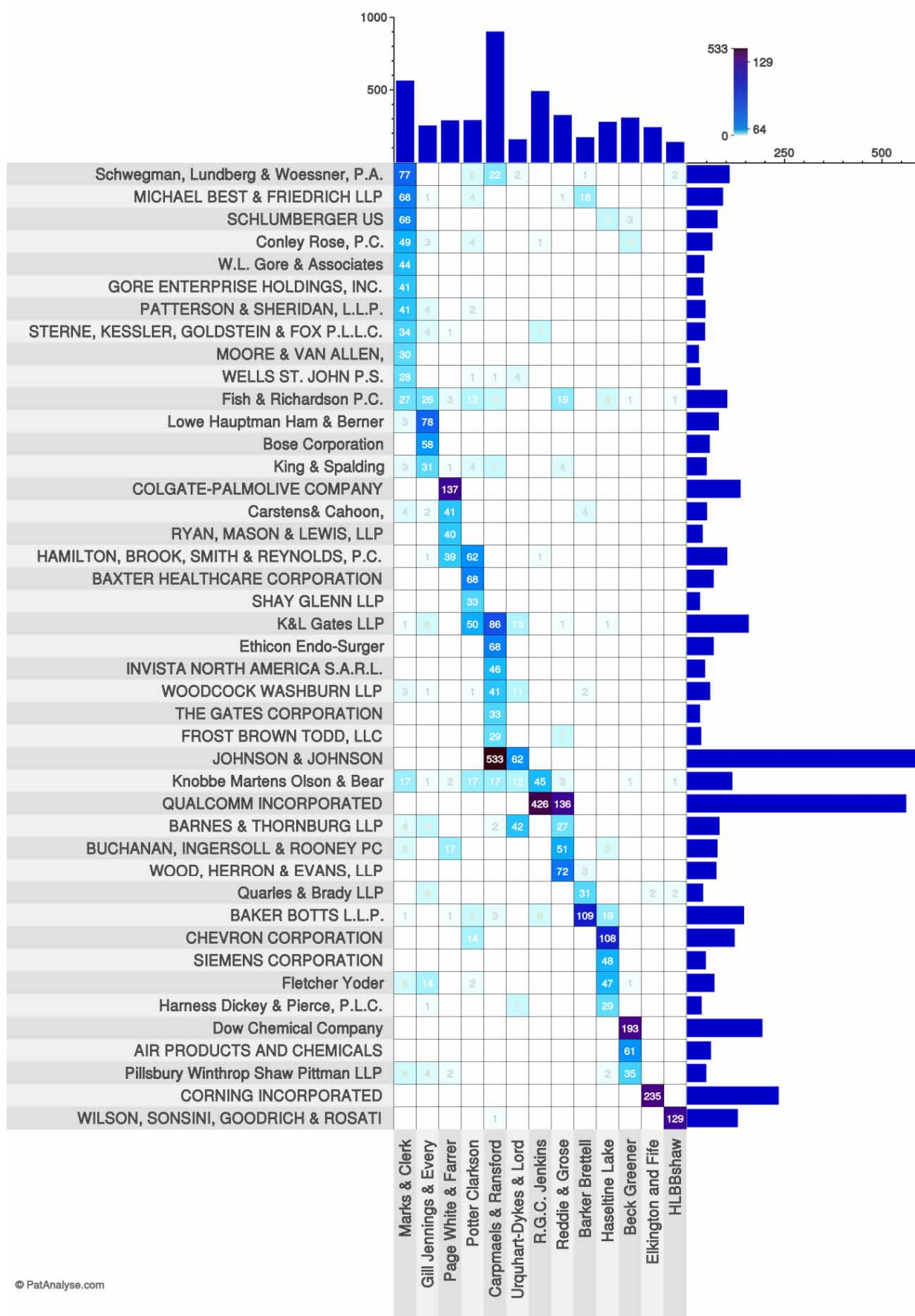


Fig 12.2 – US clients of UK patent attorneys





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Fig 12.3 – US clients of UK patent attorneys

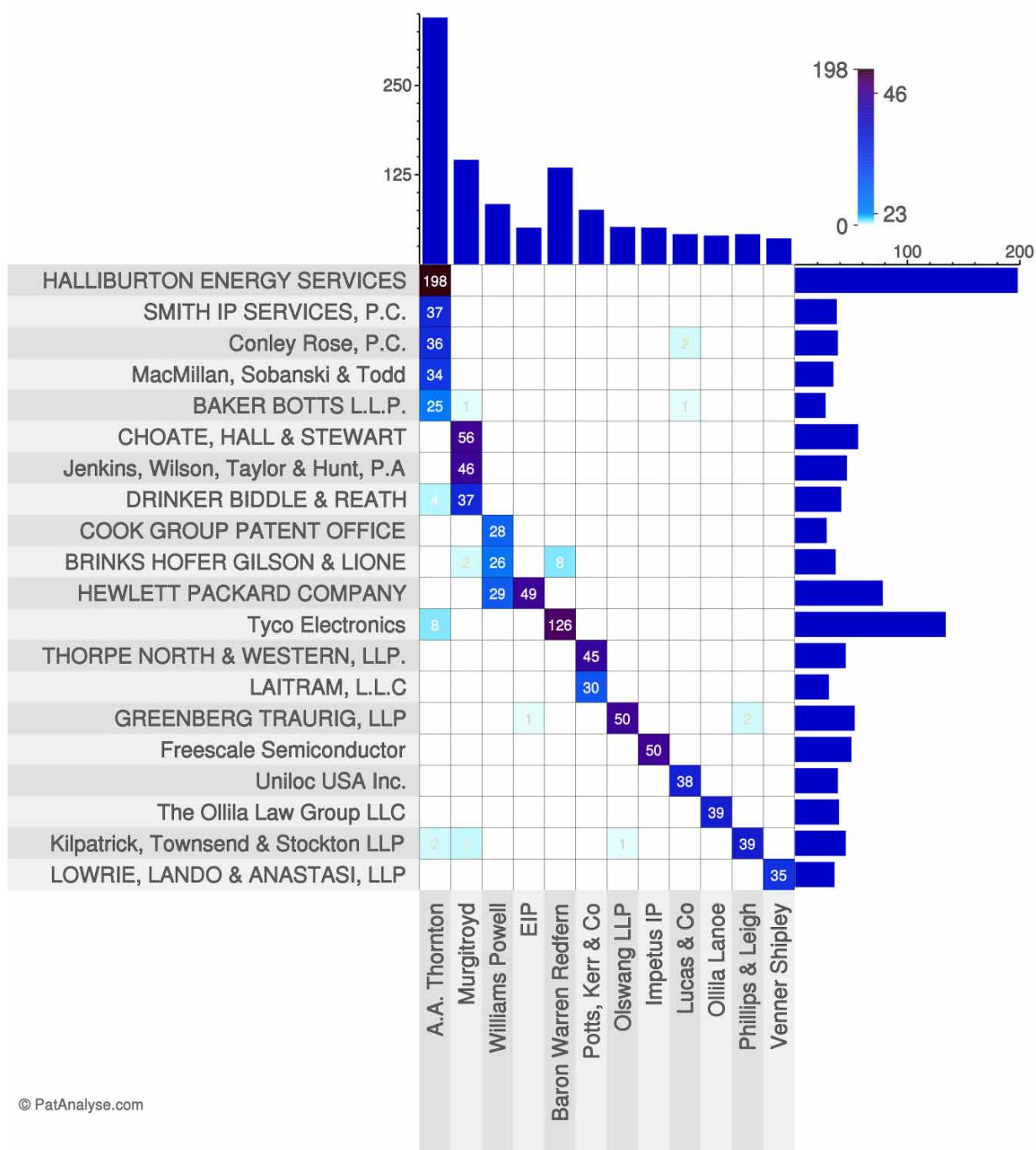


Fig 12.4 – US clients of UK patent attorneys

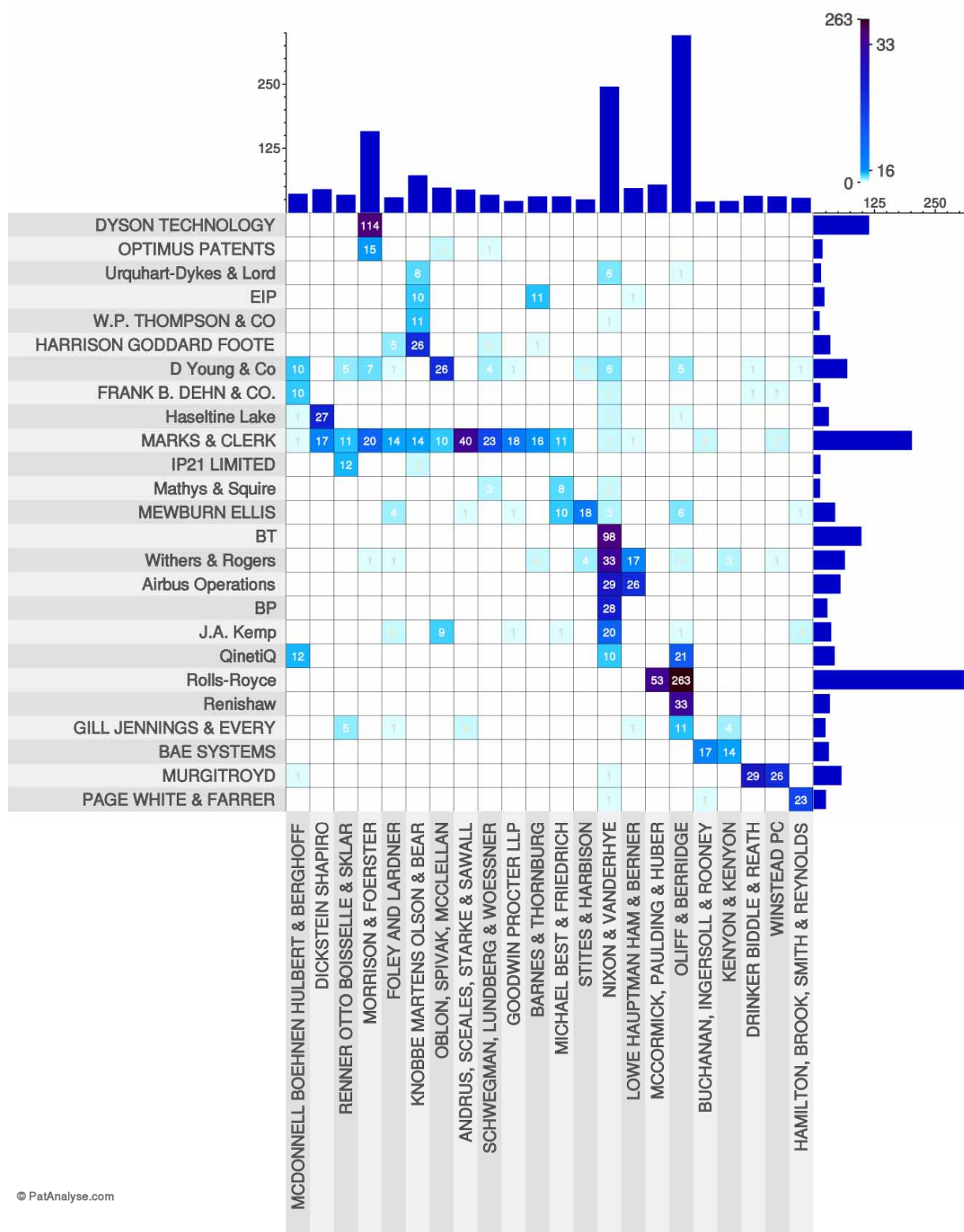


Fig 13 – UK patent attorneys sending work to US patent attorneys

This set of patent maps are overturns the conventional wisdom about the nature of reciprocity relationships between US and UK patent attorneys. There is no statistical evidence for a correlation between the US firms used by UK patent attorneys to file in the US and the US clients of UK patent attorneys filing foreign patents at the EPO. For instance, one of the largest UK firms, Marks & Clerk, has substantial business with more than 20 US patent attorneys firms. Only two companies from this list are working with Marks & Clerk both as a client and as a contractor.

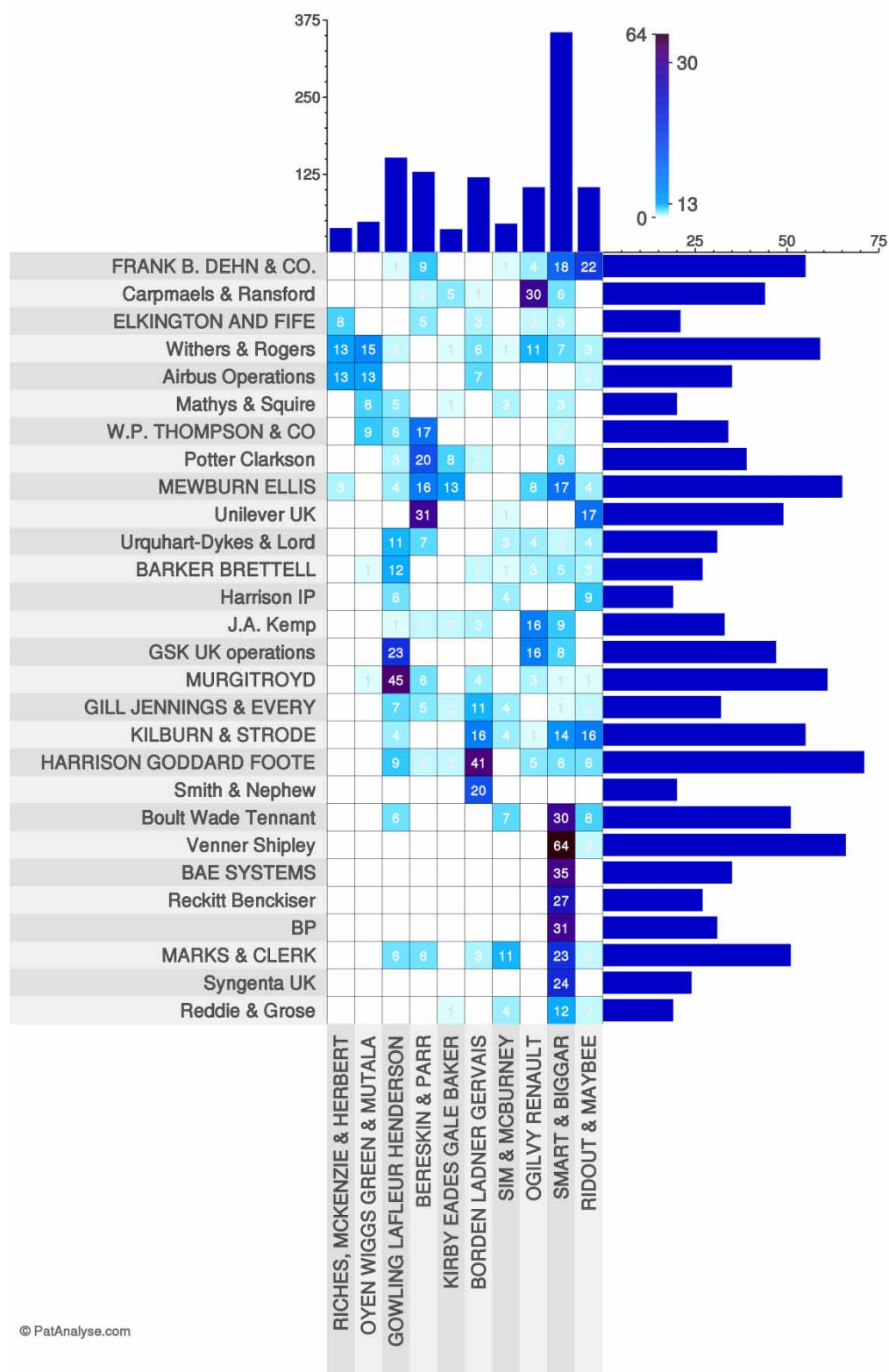


Fig 14 – UK patent attorneys sending work to Canadian patent attorneys

This absence of reciprocity is further confirmed by the fact that, in order to save costs, many UK patent firms are sending work to the US Patent Office via less expensive Canadian patent firms. There is no evidence for any sizeable workflow back from these Canadian firms to UK patent attorneys.

# Chapter 4

## Asian activities of UK patent attorneys

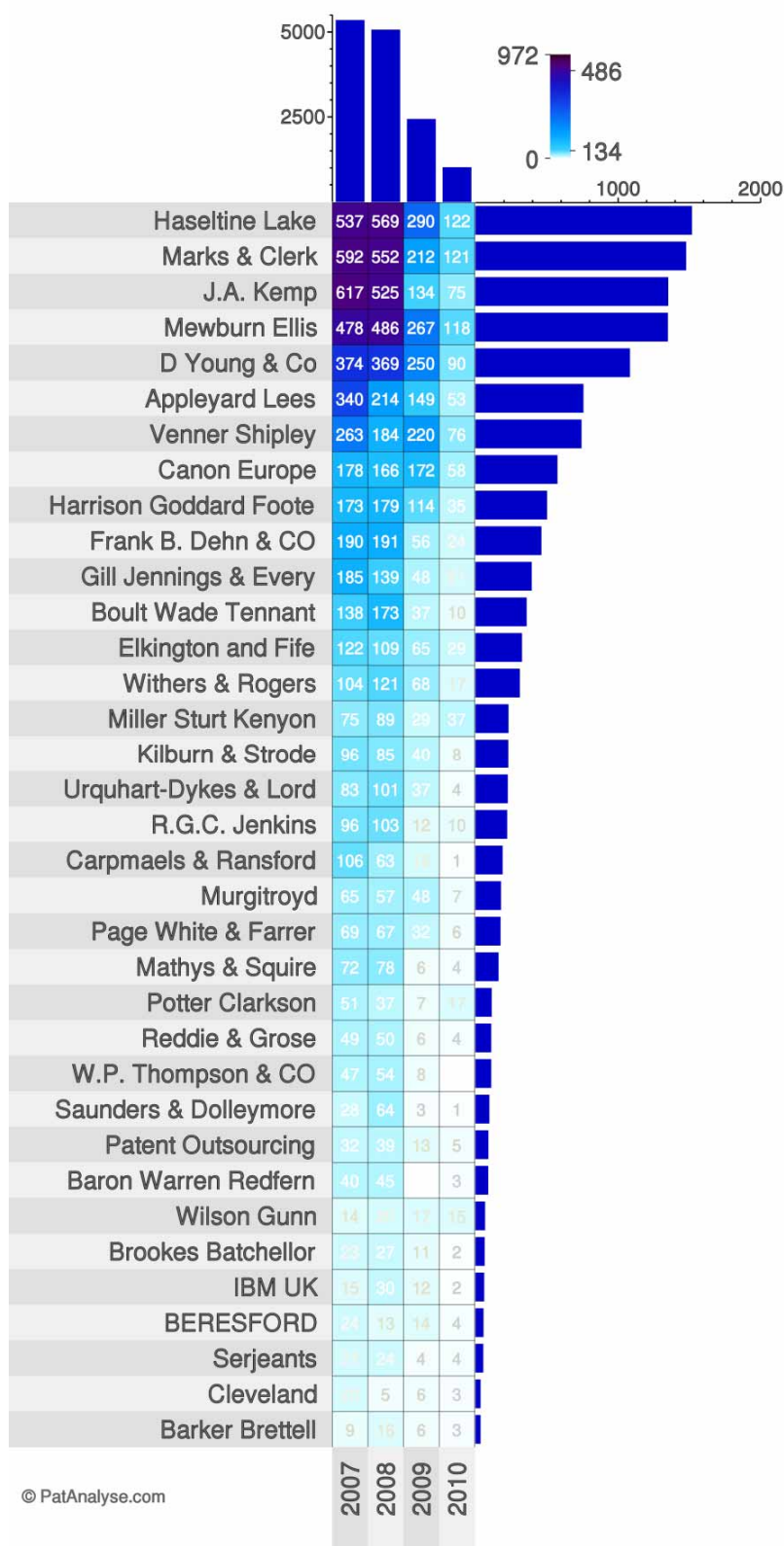


Fig 15 – Top UK patent attorneys serving Asian clients



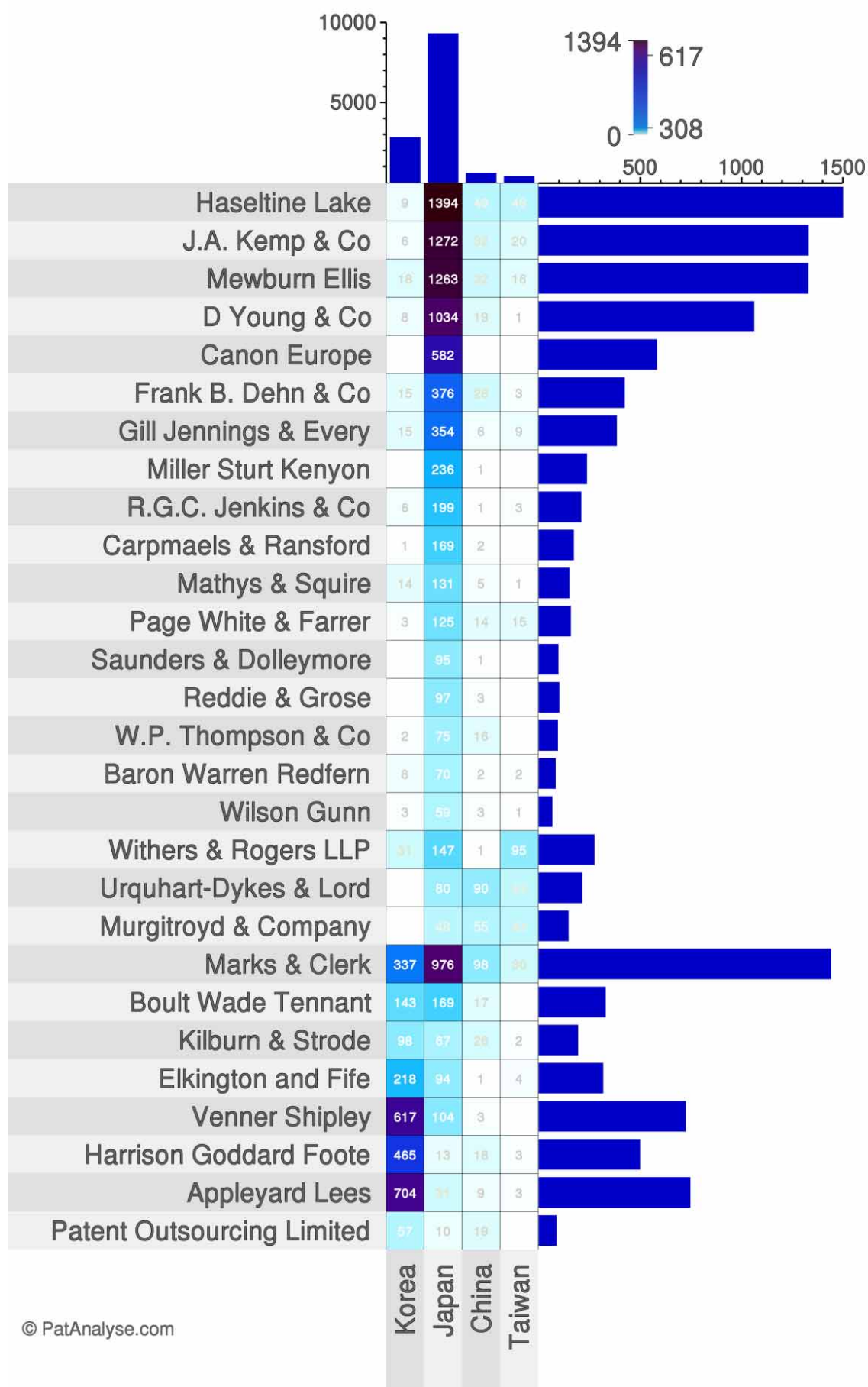


Fig 16 – Clustering UK patent attorneys by the country of origin of their Asian clients

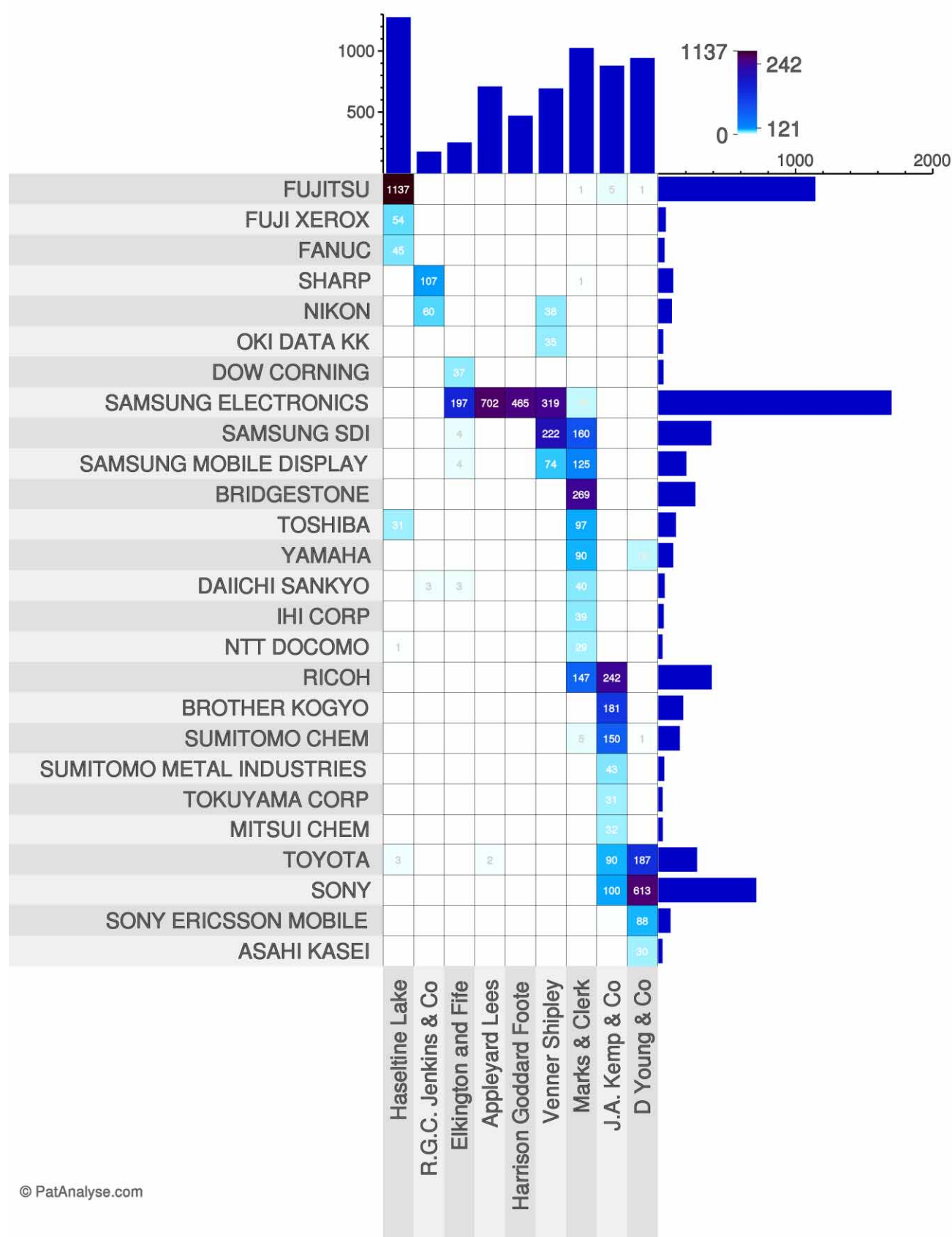
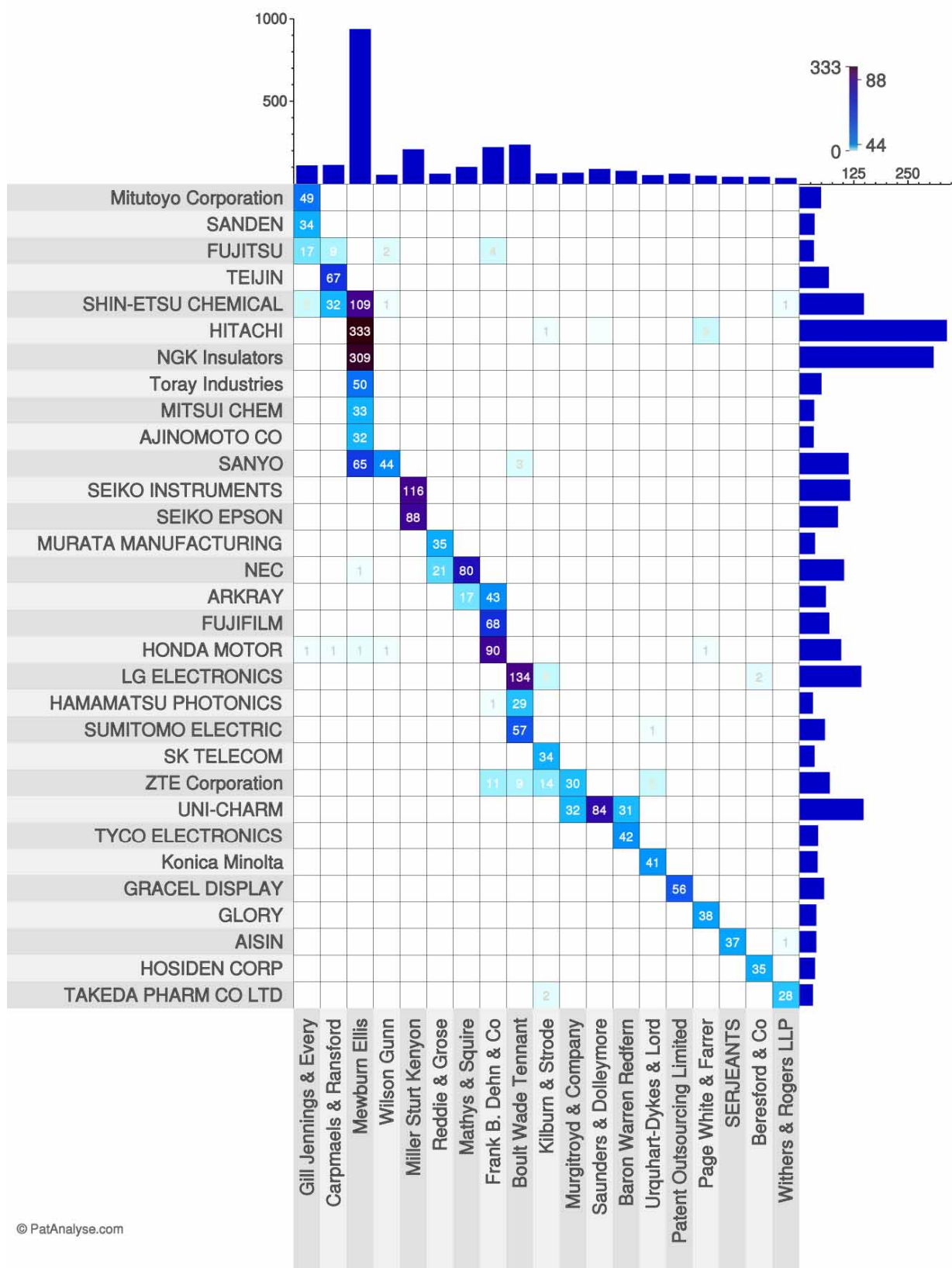


Fig 17.1 – Industrial Asian clients of UK patent attorneys



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Fig 17.2 – Industrial Asian clients of UK patent attorneys

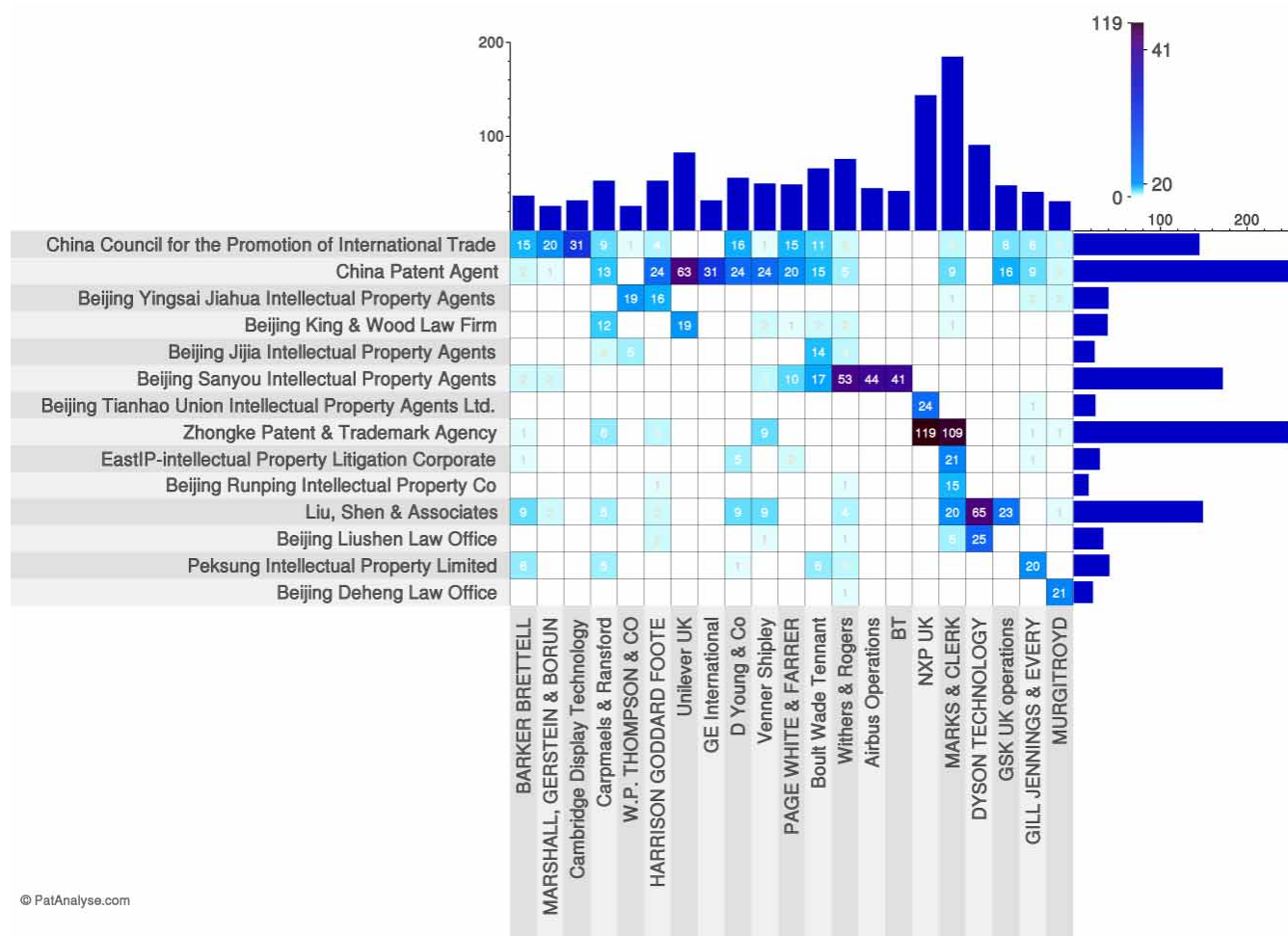


Fig 18 –Chinese patent attorneys used by UK patent attorneys to file patents in China

Because of the deficiency of bibliographic data from the Japanese and Korean patent offices it is impossible to present data regarding the Japanese and Korean firms used by UK patent attorneys when filing patents originated by UK inventors in Japan or Korea. Bibliographic data from the Chinese patent office are of much higher standard, and so we are able to present such data on the patent map above. Evidence of reciprocity is highly questionable even when considering the relationship between US and UK patent attorney firms. It is widely believed that direct relationships between industrial companies in Asia and UK patent attorney firms are the main channel for establishing workflow for UK patent firms. Such predominantly one-to-one relationships are also evident from Figure 17.1 and 17.2

# Appendix: About the authors



## About Patanalyse

PatAnalyse is an integrated technology consultancy specialising in high quality patent searching and strategic analysis.

We transform the patent search process from 'black magic' into a traceable self-learning iteration process. Our clients are usually shocked when they learn the limitations of the conventional patent search strategies used by their advisors or internal teams.

For over ten years PatAnalyse has delivered IP intelligence to its clients. We take responsibility for finding the patent information required by our clients and then structure and make sense of it.

We use a proprietary search management system to capture expert judgments and combine these with artificial intelligence algorithms to produce a pre-analysed universe of data tailored exactly to each client's needs.

Experience in technology consultancy allows us to provide an interpretation of the competitive intelligence landscape; our analysis is closely aligned to the client's business strategy.

Our client, as the user, first influences how the universe of patent data is gathered and structured and then can exploit it using the on-line patent management system provided by PatAnalyse.

We have significant experience in delivering:

- » patent landscaping - competitor intelligence studies
- » due-diligence studies before in-licensing or acquisition
- » strategic portfolio alignment
- » freedom to operate (FTO) analysis
- » litigation support for nullifying claims of asserted patents

**For further information please contact:**

**Dr Victor Zhitomirsky**

Managing Director

[victor.zh@patanalyse.com](mailto:victor.zh@patanalyse.com)



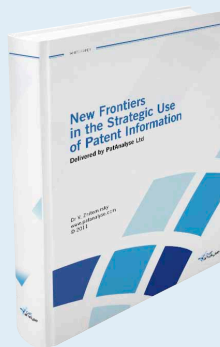


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