

Table 3
Regimes of patenting behaviour : a taxonomy

	Definition	Number of firms %	Number of patents %
Single patentors	one short spell (3 years maximum) few patents (2 patents maximum)	2397 71.62	2748 12.47
Heavy patentors	one long spell (13 years minimum) many patents (10 patents minimum)	75 2.24	10268 46.58
Medium patentors	one spell (between 2 and 10 patents)	408 12.19	5749 26.08
Sporadic patentors	more than one spell	467 13.95	3279 14.87
Total		3347 100.00	22044 100.00