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## **The patent system for fundamental scientists: an opportunity or nonsense?**

Abstract: “By coupling research and innovation, Horizon 2020 is helping to achieve this with its emphasis on excellent science, industrial leadership and tackling societal challenges. The goal is to ensure Europe produces world-class science, removes barriers to innovation and makes it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation” [1]. Similar statements can be read in common calls for proposals. This means that research has to get closer to industry and should be more applied. There are several opportunities to meet such requirements, one is a collaboration with an industrial partner. Another one would be to do industrial related science and show these connections by publishing relevant articles or even patents. In this talk, we introduce utility patents by answering the questions: What is a patent? What can be patented? What is the validity and the relevance of a patent? How can the worth of a patent be measured? To this end, we would like to close the talk by a discussion on the compatibility of good scientific work and patents.