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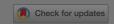
# Huawei's catch-up in the global telecommunication industry: innovation capability and transition to leadership

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# ABSTRACT

Using Huawei as an example, this paper analyses the catch-up process of latecomers from emerging markets during their transition towards global technological frontiers. We designed innovative indicators using USPTO patent data and used them to measure Huawei's catch-up in an established and an emerging technology field. We measure

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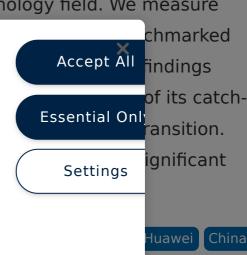
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# Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

# Notes

1 In 2013, Huawei overtook Ericsson to become the largest telecom manufacturer in the world, according to market research and consulting firm Infonetics Research (<a href="http://www.infonetics.com/whitepapers.asp">http://www.infonetics.com/whitepapers.asp</a>).

2 In 2016, Huawei was ranked by Thomson Reuters among the most innovative one hundred firms in the world along with such innovative firms from advanced economies as Apple and Google. It is the only firm on this list from mainland China.

3 Huawei's Annual Report 2017, https://wwwfile.huawei.com/-/media/CORPORATE/PDF/annual-report/annual report2017 en.pdf? <u>la=en</u>, accessed on July 9, 2018.

4 http://www.wipo.int/pressroom/en/articles/2018/article 0002.html, accessed on July 9, 2018.

5 We chose USPTO patent data for two principal reasons: first, the US is the world's most competitive telecommunication market, and, second, US patent information is one of the most comprehensive measures in innovation in the telecommunication industry (Godinho and Ferreira 2013).

6 In 2000, only one non-telecommunication related patent was filed by Huawei at

USPTO.

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9 The results are available upon request.

10 It is worth mentioning that, as shown in Figure 3(b), Huawei achieved a breakthrough in the share of seminal patents in 2010, when our analysis of this dimension stopped. Since then the firm has made considerable progress in 4G technologies.

11 The numbers shown in these figures are the value of any specific firm divided by the group mean in any given year.

12 For example, leading business media (e.g., Forbes, CNBC and The Verge) reported that in 2017 Huawei became the second largest smartphone provider after Samsung.

# Additional information

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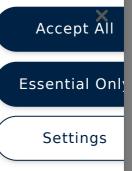
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