



## Patent transactions in Q2 2023

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15 September 2023

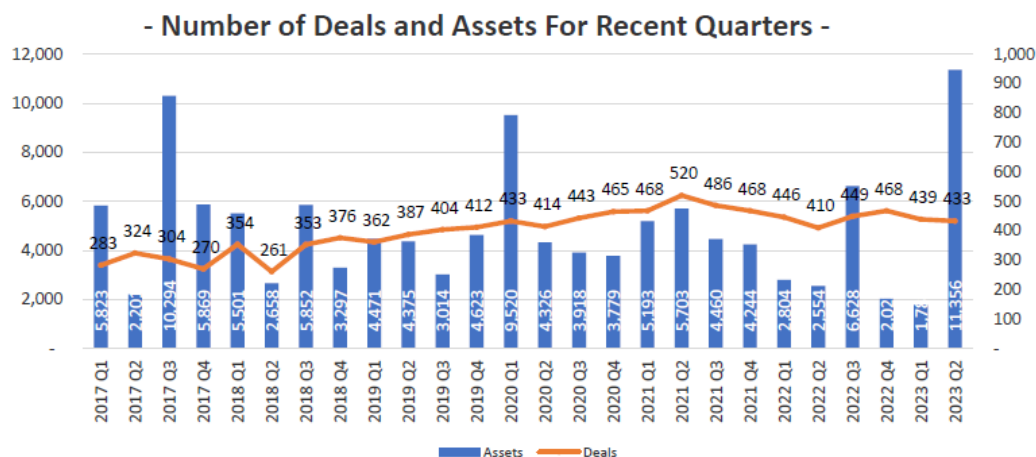


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The number of US patents and patent applications sold in 2023's second quarter surged by 345% year-over-year although the number of deals has remained relatively flat, reports Allied Security Trust, a patent defensive organisation.

The surge is due to 9,702 US patent assets involved in the BlackBerry sale to Key Patent Innovations, which runs Malikie Innovations. It paid \$170 million to close on 11 May – plus \$30 million within three years and revenue sharing. This led to 88% of transacted assets coming from the wireless industry category.

During the second quarter of 2023, there were 433 patent transactions involving nearly 11,400 assets (compared to 2,554 in the year-ago quarter) recorded in the US Patent and Trademark Office. These assets changed hands between 409 sellers and 403 buyers, according to the latest AST Patent Deals Report.



Source: AST Patent Deals Report for Q2 2023

But these numbers are likely to rise as the USPTO processes more patent assignments. In fact, AST has revised its **deals report for 2023's first quarter** up to 439 from 371. This is because 15% of its transactions were recorded in the second quarter due to a lag in assignment record processing at the patent office. The number of transacted assets also rose to 1,781 (from 1,669) in the first quarter.

## Industry category breakdown

In this latest period, 88% of the 11,356 assets were related to wireless technologies and 88% went to non-practicing entities. Among the 403 buyers, 31 were NPEs.

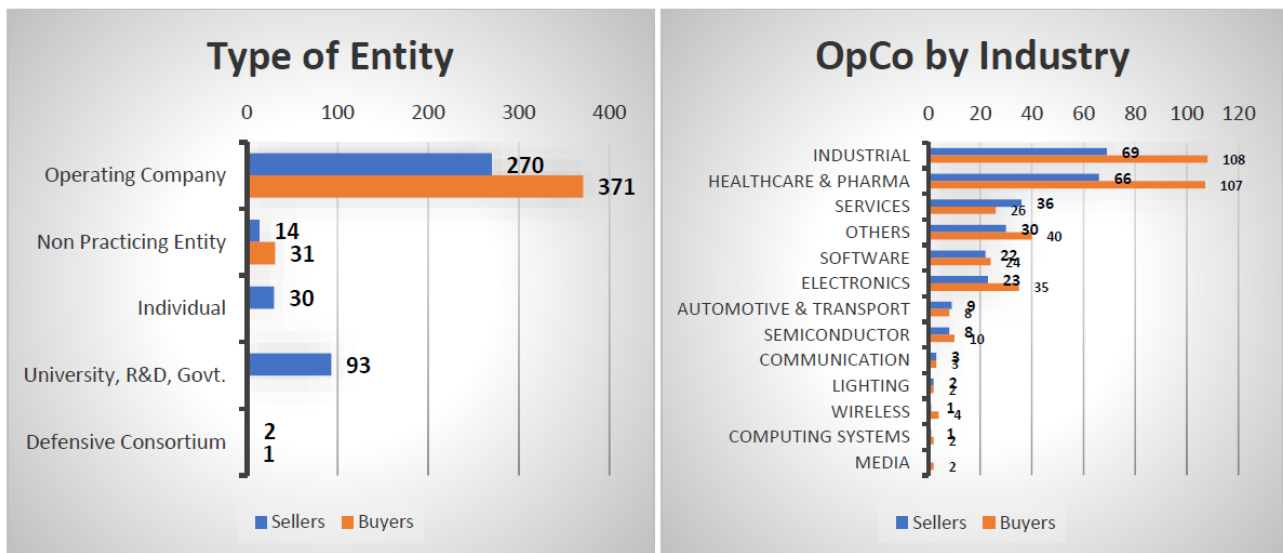
The industry sectors that saw the largest number of deals were:

- Healthcare and pharmaceuticals – 126
- Industrial – 121
- Electronics – 55

## Operating companies and NPEs

Operating companies were the most active sellers – there were 270 – and the most active buyers, with 371. The most active operating companies that were sellers and buyers came from the industrial sector and healthcare and pharmaceutical industry.

In comparison, NPEs comprised just 14 of the sellers and 31 of the buyers. There were also 93 sellers coming from universities, R&D institutions, and government agencies.



Source: AST Patent Deals Report for Q2 2023

## Largest transactions

But aside from BlackBerry's deal, another large batch of assets changed hands between seller ON Semiconductor Corp and buyer MaxLinear Inc. They were also covering wireless technologies.

### Top deals in 2023's Q2

Assets	Seller	Buyer	Industry category
9,702	BlackBerry	Key Patent Innovations	Wireless
160	ON Semiconductor Corp	MaxLinear Inc	Wireless

81	Merck & Co	Universal Display Corp	Industrial
58	Adapt IP Ventures (NPE)	Optimorphix Inc (NPE)	Wireless
42	ZTE Corp	Advanced Standard Communication (NPE)	Wireless

## Top sellers

Three of the sellers listed in the top five by number of deals are Asia-Pacific entities:

- the Chinese Academy of Sciences;
- ZTE; and
- National Taiwan University.

### Top sellers by number of deals in 2023's Q2

Seller	Deals	Assets	Industry category
Chinese Academy of Sciences	4	7	Industrial; healthcare and pharmaceuticals
ZTE	3	72	Wireless; communication
National Taiwan University	3	7	Healthcare and pharma; software
Pathunt IP Management (NPE)	2	23	Software
University of Cambridge	2	19	Software; electronics

## Top buyers

It's worth noting that **Patent Armory Inc.**, an NPE, bought 37 assets among four deals done with two operating companies and two individual sellers. Patent Armory is run by Canadian patent monetisation professional Greg Benoit, who previously ran Cedar Lane Technologies, the top-filing US NPE of 2022.

Also, the AST report says that Jeffrey M Gross, an NPE, bought 12 assets in four deals from two NPEs and one operating company.

### Top buyers by number of deals in 2023's Q2

Buyer	Deals	Assets	Industry category
Siemens	8	8	Industrial; software; healthcare and pharma
Patent Armory	4	37	Software; communication
Jeffrey M Gross	4	12	Software; wireless; communication
Precision Pharmaceuticals	3	13	Healthcare and pharma; other
Roche	3	9	Healthcare and pharma
Tesco The Eastern Specialty Co	3	6	Electronics; industrial

## Methodology



AST monitors USPTO patent assignment records and gathers data from numerous public sources. US assets are reassigned numerous times between multiple parties for different purposes. Such assignment activity is monitored using proprietary methodology and each assignment record is probed for business intelligence, including the involved parties, business types, industries and technologies.

AST defines a “patent deal” as an exchange of assets (including patents and published applications) between the same parties during a set timeframe. Each deal may include multiple assets and multiple reel/frame numbers.

For the 2023 Q2 report, AST analysed nearly 30,800 USPTO assignment records that involved more than 113,000 US patents and patent applications. They were involved in 667 sale assignments recorded from 1 April to 30 June.

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