

Management of Intellectual Property

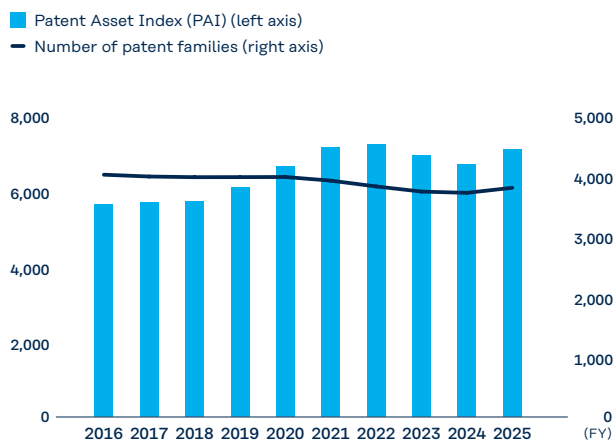
Kuraray Group strategically manages intellectual property (IP) to strengthen business competitiveness and increase profits. Our priorities will be to reinforce intellectual property management in markets outside Japan where we anticipate business expansion, and to identify and develop the talent to support such management, with the aim of advancing our business objectives. In addition, supporting innovation from an intellectual property perspective will drive our growth.

Annual Evolution in Patent Index Scores

Taking into account business conditions and priorities, we continuously develop our patent portfolio*¹ in line with the IP strategy of each business to hone our competitive edge. We also ensure that this portfolio aligns with our management strategy while maintaining the total value of our patent assets (PAI)*².

We will continue to clarify our IP strategy, identify the ideal patent portfolio based on that strategy, and acquire and secure appropriate intellectual property rights. Through these initiatives, we will continue to update our patent portfolio to support the execution of our management and business strategies.

Patent Asset Index and Number of Patent Families*³ (Consolidated)

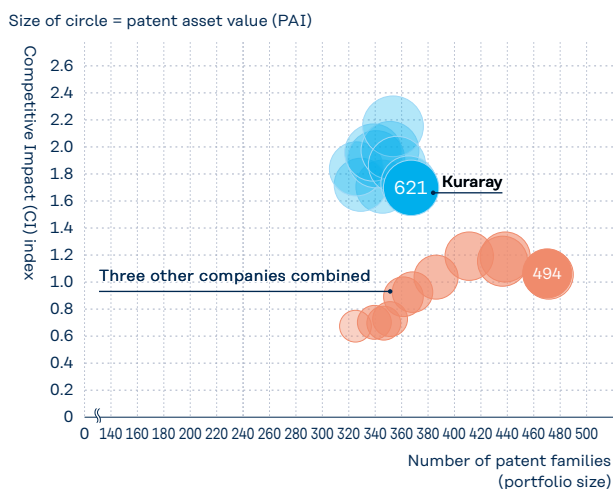


EVAL™ EVOH Resin: Related Patents and Competitive Advantages

Since commercializing EVOH resin in 1972, we have led this industry as a pioneer, working with customers to bring products to market ahead of competitors across a wide range of applications—including food packaging, plastic fuel tanks, underfloor heating pipes, and vacuum insulation panels. At the same time, we have managed the diverse intellectual property arising from the commercialization process and secured rights where appropriate. This has contributed to creating customer value, establishing our market position, and supporting business performance.

The chart below shows the changes over time in the asset value of EVOH-related patents held by

EVOH-related Patents: Portfolio Size and Asset Value



our company and by other EVOH suppliers.

We maintain a patent portfolio befitting a market leader, in terms of both the number of patent families (portfolio size) and the total value of our patent assets (the patent asset index; PAI). Our per-patent Competitive Impact (CI)*⁴, which reflects our influence on other companies, remains at a level that surpasses competitors and continues to underpin our competitive advantage.

Employee IP Skills Development

To strategically acquire and capitalize on intellectual property, it is vital that production, sales, and development staff pursue a common IP strategy in carrying out their respective roles. We have shared our IP strategy across all business units through IP Strategy Meetings. In 2025, we established an in-house IP Skills Standard to further enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of our activities. This standard defines the competencies required for each job function based on the Japan Patent Office's publicly available skills standard for IP professionals.

We will use the in-house skills standard as a benchmark to help employees acquire the necessary skills and carry out effective IP activities, thereby promoting intellectual property management that drives corporate growth.

*1 Created by the Kuraray Group using patent analytics from the LexisNexis® PatentSight+, sourced from U.S.-based LexisNexis.
 *2 An index indicating the total value of a patent portfolio.
 *3 A set of patent applications and acquisitions in multiple countries in relation to a single invention.
 *4 An index of the competitiveness of a patent family calculated by multiplying the market coverage (MC) index by the index of technological value (Technology Relevance), which is based on citations in later-filed patent applications.