



- ◆The data used come from the Survey on Business Strategies (ESEE). This survey is built on information from Spanish manufacturing firms.
- ◆Accounting and innovation data was collected for the years 2001-2013. After removing firms with missing data for the analysed variables, the final sample consisted of 3,116 observations

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- ◆ Technological innovation. Completely new product or make important changes on their products (product innovation) and/or introduction of significant changes in production and/or distribution process (process innovation).
- ◆ R&D intensity. Total expenditures for R&D divided by total sales
- ◆ Performance below aspiration level based on own prior performance (historical aspiration) is constructed by comparing the level of the firm aspiration level in period t-1 and the aspiration level from the prior period t-2. The second proxy of aspiration level, "social aspiration" is built comparing Firm's performance in period t-1 with the performance of a typical firm in the same industry for the same period.
- ◆ Financial Slack. Firm's current ratio (current assets divided by current liabilities).
- ◆ Family management. Continuous variable counting the number of family members involves into the top management team of the firm.

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| Variables | 5 | 6 | |
|--|-----------------------|---------------------|---|
| Main effect | 0.450*** | 0.456*** | |
| R&D intensity $_{t\cdot 1}(\beta_1)$ | 0.159*** (0.040) | 0.156*** (0.039) | |
| Moderator | (0.010) | (0.000) | |
| Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) $_{t\cdot 1}$ (eta_{21a}) | 1.138* (0.648) | - | |
| Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) $_{t\cdot 1}$ (eta_{21b}) | - | 1.152* (0.642) | |
| Interaction effect | | | |
| R&D intensity $_{t\cdot 1}$ * Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) $_{t\cdot 1}(\beta_{31a})$ | 1.749** (0.739) | - | |
| R&D intensity $_{\rm t,1}$ * Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) $_{\rm t,1}(\beta_{\rm 31b})$ | - | 1.744** (0.738) | |
| Controls | | | |
| Firm size | 0.531*** | 0.529*** | |
| | (0.163) 1.393*** | (0.163) 1.396*** | |
| Subsidies | (0.176) | (0.176) | |
| Technological opportunity | 1.017*** | 1.023*** | |
| , | (0.253) 0.232*** | (0.253) 0.231*** | |
| Firm age | (0.074) | (0.074) | |
| Performance over aspiration level (Historical aspirations) | 0.086 | | |
| | (0.366) | 0.139 | |
| Performance over aspiration level (Social aspirations) $_{ m t\cdot 1}$ | | (0.329) | |
| Territorial specificities dummies | Yes | Yes | _ |
| Number of observation Log likelihood | 3116 -754.831 | 3116 -754.774 | |
| Log likelinood Model y [∠] | -/54.831 295.63*** | -/54.//4 295.55 | |
| Pseudo R ² | 0.120 | 0.120 | |
| Wald test: Total effects | | | |
| $(\beta_1 + \beta_{21})$ $(\beta_2 + \beta_{22})$ | 1.908** | 1.900** | |

Technological innovation= θ_1 R&D intensity $_{t,1}$ + θ_{21} Performance below aspiration level + θ_{23} Unabsorbed Slack $_{t,1}$ + θ_{31} R&D Intensity $_{t,1}$ * Performance below aspiration level + θ_{34} R&D Intensity $_{t,1}$ * Unabsorbed Slack $_{t,1}$ + θ_{35} Performance below aspiration level y $_{t,1}$ * Unabsorbed Slack $_{t,1}$ + θ_{35} Performance below aspiration level Y Unabsorbed Slack $_{t,1}$ + Controls + ε Variables 2 4 Main effect -0.102* -0.100** R&D intensity $_{t-1}(\beta_1)$ (0.055) (0.055) Moderator 2.326*** Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) $_{t-1}$ (β_{21a}) (0.796) 2.345*** Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) $_{+,1}$ (β_{21h})) (0.781) 0.101*** 0.114*** Unabsorbed slack $_{t\text{-}1}$ (β_{22}) (0.038) (0.038) Interaction effect R&D intensity $_{1,1}^{**}$ Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) $_{1,1}$ (β_{31a}) R&D intensity $_{1,1}^{**}$ Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) $_{1,1}$ (β_{31b}) 3.021*** (0.919)3.011*** (0.916) 0.151*** 0.153*** R&D intensity $_{t-1}$ * Unabsorbed Slack $_{t-1}$ (β_{34}) (0.038) 1.628*** (0.037) Performance below aspiration level (Historical refromance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations), ..., Unabsorbed Slack ... (β_{3c_0})
Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations), ..., Unabsorbed Slack ... (β_{3c_0})
R&D intensity ..., Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations), ..., Unabsorbed Slack ... (0.568)1.622*** (0.567) 1.662*** (0.627) R&D intensity t.1* Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) t.1* Unabsorbed Slack t.1 1.653*** (0.624) (β_{42h}) Control Variables...

 $\label{eq:thm:continuous} \textit{Technological innovation} = \theta_1 \, \text{R\&D intensity}_{t:1} + \theta_{21} \, \text{Performance below aspiration level} + \theta_{22} \, \text{Family management}_{t:1}, \theta_{31} \, \text{R\&D Intensity}_{t:1} * \text{Family management}_{t:1}, \theta_{33} \, \text{Performance below aspiration level y}_{t:1} * \text{Family management}_{t:1}, \theta_{41} \, \text{R\&D Intensity}_{t:1} * \text{Performance below aspiration level * Family management}_{t:1}, \text{Controls} + \mathcal{E}$

| Variables | 2 | 4 | |
|---|----------|---------------------|---|
| lain effect | | | - |
| R&D intensity $_{t-1}(\beta_1)$ | 0.132*** | 0.129*** | |
| | (0.040) | (0.038) | |
| Moderator | | | |
| Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) | 0.893 | _ | |
| .1 (β _{21a}) | (0.689) | 0.047 | |
| Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) t-1 | - | 0.847 | |
| β _{21h}) | 0.182** | (0.656) 0.212*** | |
| amily management $_{t-1}$ (β_{22}) | (0.077) | (0.070) | |
| nteraction effect | (0.077) | (0.070) | |
| R&D intensity _{t-1} * Performance below aspiration level | 1.978** | | |
| Historical aspirations) $_{t-1}$ (β_{313}) | (0.797) | - | |
| 1. 1. 2. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. | (0.757) | | |
| R&D intensity 1.1* Performance below aspiration level | - | 1.972*** | |
| (Social aspirations) _{t-1} (β _{31h}) | | (0.751) | |
| | 0.169** | 0.235*** | |
| R&D intensity ₁ *Family management ₁ (β ₃₂) | (0.074) | (0.082) | |
| Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) | 0.241 | | |
| $_{1}$ * Family management $_{1-1}(\beta_{33a})$ | (1.267) | | |
| reformance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) | , | 0.473 | |
| Family management $_{t-1}(\beta_{23h})$ | - | (0.501) | |
| ranny management (1.1 (Þ33h) | | (0.501) | |
| R D interester. * Deufermanne heleur comination level | -0.583 | | |
| R&D intensity t-1* Performance below aspiration level | (1.524) | - | |
| Historical aspirations) $_{t-1}$ * Family management $_{t-1}$ (β_{41a}) | | | |
| | | -1.582** | |
| &D intensity t-1* Performance below aspiration level | - | (0.706) | |
| Social aspirations) ₊₋₁ * Family management ₊₋₁ (β _{Δ1b}) | | , , | |
| Control Variables | | | |



- ❖ Referent and historical target-performance gaps matter when analysing firms' conversion rate: risky decisions (Chrisman and Patel, 2012; Gómez-Mejía et al., 2007) and different strategic actions (Holmes et al. 2011).
- ❖ When managers detect deviations of performance outcomes below the aspiration level, they become more likely to obtain better conversion rates (giving the best, change firm strategic and tactic behaviour, exceptionally talented and receptive,...).

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- Slack helps firms to improve the conversion rate of R&D into TI also under vulnerability.
- ❖ Managers utilize slack to enlarge exploitation of current advantages and to explore new opportunities and new occasions for business from internal sources (Kotlar et al., 2014).
- Unabsorbed slack offers managers potentially utilizable resources that help them to achieve their goals, particularly relevant when firms are under their aspiration performance levels

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- ❖ Vulnerability means for F-MFs a higher willingness to reach a critical mass of R&D, and a greater ability to orchestrate unique resources, able to generate better conversion rates. However, the decisions affecting the process of the conversion are not immediately effective (Hall & Oriani, 2006).
- Consistent with economic considerations, family managers try to improve conversion rate to overcome declining performance, but when the preservation of the firm's discretion and socioemotional wealth is endangered, they opt for adopting a technological strategy which accepts below target performance.

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- ❖ Family managers consider a loss of competitive advantage relative to industry as the most important reference when actions regarding the process of achievement of TI from R&D investments have to be carried out.
- Utilizing a continuous measure of the level of family management allow us to explore heterogeneity across family firms in their efficiency of converting R&D expenses into TI in a context of losses
- ❖ Finally, this paper answers the call of Duran, et al. (2015) for additional research on the conversion rate of innovation input into output, by studying this relationship taking into consideration vulnerable situations (Gómez-Mejia et al., 2015).

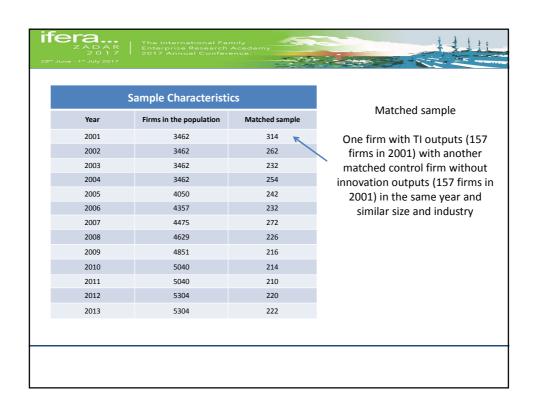
Introduction

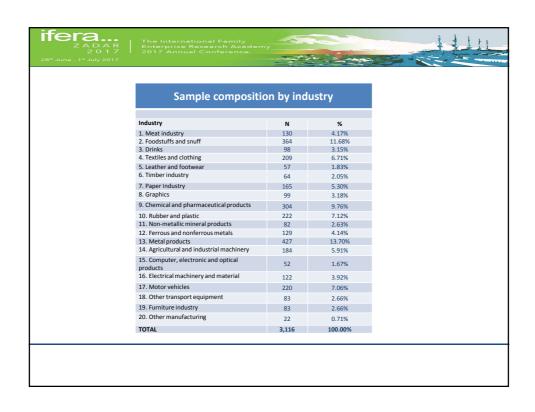
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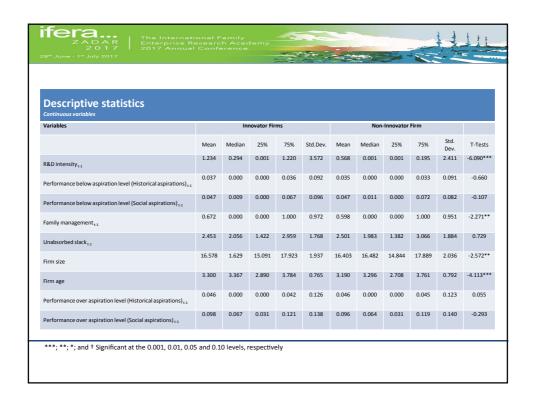
Method

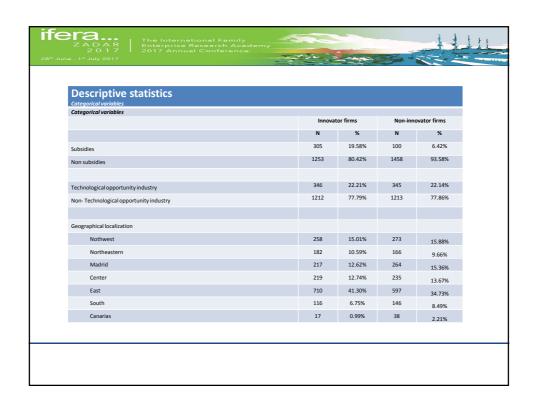
Findings and Contributions

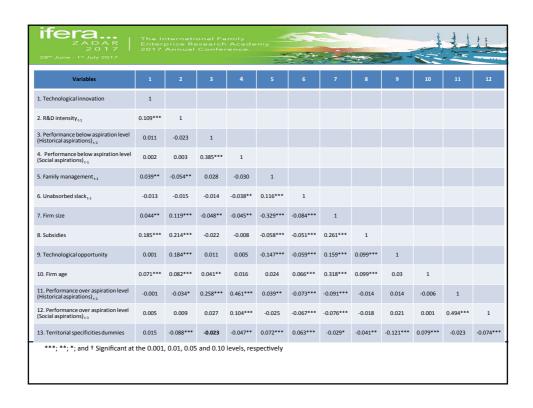


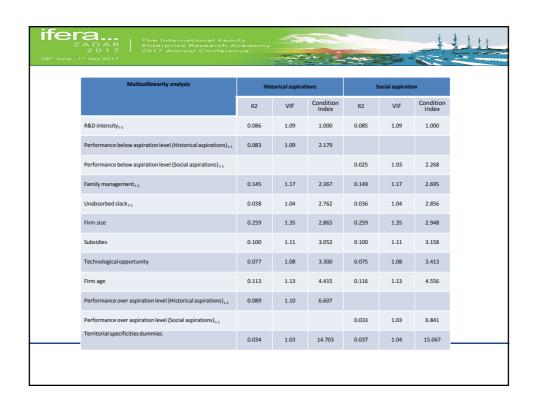


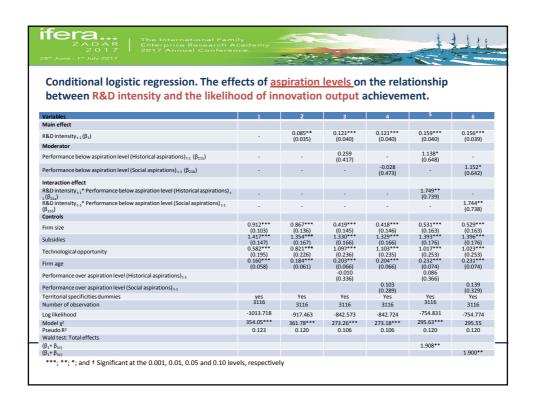












| Variables Main effect R&D intensity $_{51}(eta_1)$ Moderator Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) $_{13}(eta_{21a})$ | 0.121*** (0.040) | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| R&D intensity $_{1}(eta_1)$ Moderator Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) $_{11}(eta_{21a})$ | | | | |
| Moderator $\text{Performance below as piration level (Historical aspirations)}_{t:1}\left(\beta_{21a}\right)$ | (0.040) | -0.102* | 0.119*** | -0.100** |
| 102.0 24 | | (0.055) | (0.040) | (0.055) |
| | 0.257 (0.419) | 2.326*** (0.796) | | - |
| Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) ₁₋₁ (β _{21b})) | | - | -0.037 (0.466) | (0.781) |
| Unabsorbed slack _{t-1} (β ₂₂) | -0.013 (0.022) | 0.114*** (0.038) | 0.079 ⁺ (0.047) | 0.101*** (0.038) |
| R&D intensity $_{\text{b1}}^*$ Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) $_{\text{b1}}(\beta_{31a})$ | | 3.021*** (0.919) | | - |
| R&D intensity $_{\imath,1}$ * Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) $_{\imath,1}(\beta_{31b})$ | | - | | 3.011*** (0.916) |
| R&D intensity _{1.1} * Unabsorbed Slack _{1.1} (β ₃₄) | | (0.038) | | (0.037) |
| Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) _{t-1*} Unabsorbed Slack _{t-1} (β _{35a}) | | 1.628*** (0.568) | | - |
| Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) _{5.1*} Unabsorbed Slack _{5.1} (β _{35b}) | | - | | 1.622*** (0.567) |
| R&D intensity $_{b1}$ * Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) $_{b1}$ * Unabsorbed Slack $_{b1}$ (β_{a2}) | | 1.662*** (0.627) | | |
| R&D intensity $_{\rm t.1}$ * Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) $_{\rm t.1}$ * Unabsorbed Slack $_{\rm t.1}$ ($\beta_{\rm 42b}$) | | | | 1.653*** (0.624) |
| Controls | | | | |
| Firm size | (0.146) | (0.158) | (0.146) | 0.572*** (0.158) |
| Subsidies | 1.329*** | 1.308*** (0.175) | 1.324*** (0.166) | 1.311*** |
| Technological opportunity | 1.096*** (0.236) | 1.114*** (0.246) | 1.089*** (0.236) | 1.121*** (0.246) |
| Firm age | (0.067) | (0.075) | (0.066) | (0.075) |
| Performance over aspiration level (Historical aspirations), 1 | -0.038 (0.338) | 0.108 (0.353) | (0.000) | (5.5.5) |
| Performance over aspiration level (Social aspirations) _{t-1} | | | 0.099 (0.289) | 0.149 (0.329) |
| Territorial specificities dummies | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Number of observation Log likelihood | 3116 -842.422 | 3116 -738.344 | 3116 -841.107 | 3116 -738.292 |
| Model χ^2 | 273.60** | 297.13** | 279.14** | 297.51** |
| Pseudo R ² | 0.106 | 0.139 | 0.108 | 0.140 |
| Wald test: Total effects $\{\beta_1 + \beta_{31a}\}$ | | 2.919*** | | |
| (B.+ B) | | 2.525 | | 2.911*** |
| $(\beta_1 + \beta_{34}) = (\beta_1 + \beta_{34} + \beta_{42a})$ | | 0.051* 4.734*** | | 0.051 |

| Variables | | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|--|------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Main effect | 0.122*** | 0.132*** | 0.121*** | 0.129*** |
| R&D intensity $_{t\cdot 1}(\beta_1)$ | (0.042) | (0.040) | (0.041) | (0.038) |
| Moderator | | | | |
| Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) $_{t\cdot 1}$ (β_{21a}) | 0.240 (0.413) | 0.893 (0.689) | | |
| Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) _{1.1} (β _{21b}) | - | - | 0.273 (0.399) | 0.847 (0.656) |
| Family management , , (β ₂₂) | 0.102** | 0.182** | 0.103** | 0.212*** |
| Interaction effect | (0.049) | (0.077) | (0.051) | (0.070) |
| R&D intensity, $_{11}$ * Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations), $_{11}(\beta_{31a})$ | | 1.978** (0.797) | | |
| R&D intensity, 1* Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) 1.1 (β31b) | | - | | 1.972*** |
| National Terrormance below aspiration level (30ctal aspirations) to (P _{31b}) | | 0.169** | | (0.751) 0.235*** |
| R&D intensity, 1*Family management, 1 (β ₃₂) | | (0.074) | | (0.082) |
| Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) $_{t,1}$ * Family management $_{t,1}(\beta_{33a})$ | - | 0.241 (1.267) | | |
| Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) $_{t:1}$ * Family management $_{t:1}(\beta_{33b})$ | - | - | | 0.473 (0.501) |
| R&D intensity $_{v1}$ * Performance below aspiration level (Historical aspirations) $_{v1}$ * Family management $_{v1}$ (β_{u3}) | - | -0.583 (1.524) | - | - |
| R&D intensity $_{{\mathfrak b}1}^*$ Performance below aspiration level (Social aspirations) $_{{\mathfrak b}1}^*$ Family management $_{{\mathfrak b}1}$ (${\mathfrak b}_{41b}$) Controls | - | | | -1.582** (0.706) |
| Firm size | (0.164) | (0.159) | (0.164) | (0.162) |
| Subsidies | 1.378*** | 1.356*** | 1.382*** | 1.368*** |
| | (0.177) | (0.176) | (0.178) | (0.177) 1.015*** |
| Technological opportunity | (0.255) | (0.249) | (0.255) | (0.252) |
| Firm age | 0.217*** | 0.228*** | 0.216*** | 0.224*** |
| Performance over aspiration level (Historical aspirations) _{t-1} | (0.073) 0.121 | (0.074) -0.583 | (0.073) | (0.074) |
| | (0.342) | (1.524) | 0.204 | 0.189 |
| Performance over aspiration level (Social aspirations) _{t-1} | | | (0.321) | (0.333) |
| Territorial specificities dummies | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| Number of observation Log likelihood | 3116 -759,748 | 3116 -745.151 | 3116 -759,624 | 3116 -741.588 |
| Model x ² | 297.24** | 292.68** | 297.15** | 292.60** |
| Pseudo R ² | 0.115 | 0.132 | 0.115 | 0.136 |
| Wald test: Total effects | 0.113 | | 0.113 | 0.130 |
| $(\beta_1 + \beta_{31a})$ | | 2.110** | | 2 40444 |
| $(\beta_1 + \beta_{310})$ $(\beta_1 + \beta_{32})$ | | 0.301*** | | 2.101** 0.364*** |
| $(\beta_{21b}^{1+}\beta_{33b}^{2})$ | | 0.301 | | 0.602* |