FDI and Superstar Spillovers: Evidence from Firm-to-Firm Transactions

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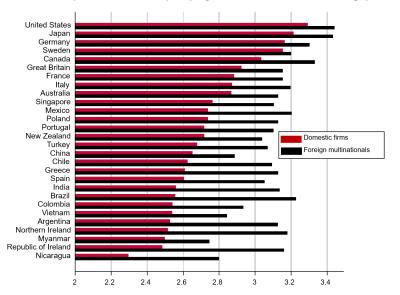




Introduction

- Governments often encourage inward Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) by multinationals
 - FDI firms have well-known advantages of higher productivity, pay, technologies, management,....
 - Also see this when looking at takeovers (with lag & much variance). Example: Bloom, Sadun & Van Reenen (2013, AER) on management & IT productivity

DIRECT EFFECT: MULTINATIONALS SEEM TO TRANSPLANT BETTER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES WHEREVER THEY LOCATE



Source: Bloom, Sadun and Van Reenen (2017), World Management Survey

Management score

Introduction

- Policy rationale assumes FDI firms also generate "spillover" benefits to local firms
- Case studies often positive: Iacovone, Javorcik, Keller & Tybout (2015) on Wal-Mex; Sutton (2004) on Toyota; Bloom, Van Reenen & Melvin (2013) on Gokaldas/Nike









Introduction

- General Econometric studies mixed: e.g. Aitken & Harrison (1999) find negative effects (horizontal FDI); Javorcik (2004) find positive effects (from downstream FDI)
 - Use industry level data on MNE exposure. But do benefits require having direct relationship with MNE (like case studies suggest)?
 - Alfaro-Urena, Manelici & Vasquez (2019) use firm-to-firm sales from Costa-Rica. Positive TFP effects in selling to MNE (event study).
- Does this result generalize to richer countries? Is it FDI or any "superstar firm" (e.g. heavy exporter and/or very large domestic firms)? If so, what is the mechanism?

Summary of this paper

- Use B2B firm-level panel data 2002-2014 on universe of Belgian firms.
 - Diff-In-Diff Event studies find positive TFP effects for firms who start selling to a FDI firm (~8% after 4+ years). Also increase in outputs, inputs (intermediates, labor, capital), international trade, etc.
- We also find similar performance when start selling to heavy exporters and very large firms (even if these are not globally engaged)
- By contrast, no effect from starting to sell to a non-"superstar" firm (e.g. smaller firms) & relationship robust to controls for unobserved TFP shocks
- Mechanisms:
 - Tech transfer: treatment effects particularly large when a superstar firm intensive in R&D, ICT or human capital
 - Match making: Number of buyers increases, but particularly to other firms in the superstar firms' network
- Suggests benefits of high productivity "anchor" firms goes beyond FDI

Some Existing Literature

- Higher productivity of FDI firms: Bloom, Sadun & Van Reenen (2013);
 Helpman et al. (2004); Chaney (2014), Antràs and Chor (2013), Eaton et al. (2011), Antràs et al. (2017), Lim (2018), Dhyne et al. (2021).
- FDI Spillovers: Alfaro-Urena, Manelici & Vasquez (2019), Aitken & Harrison (1999); Javorcik (2004); Alvarez & Lopez (2008), Keller & Yeaple (2009), Setzler and Tintelnot (2021), Keller (2021)
- Impact of large firm entry: "Million Dollar Plants" Greenstone, Hornbeck, and Moretti (2010); Bloom et al (2019)
- Production Networks: Acemoglu et al. (2012, 2017); Liu (2019);
 Acemoglu & Azar (2020); Atalay et al. (2011); Iyoha (2021); Kikkawa et al (2019);
 Bernard and Moxnes (2018); Bernard et al (2019)
- Rise of Superstar Firms: Furman and Orszag (2018); Autor et al (2020); Bajgar et al (2018); Philippon (2019); de Loecker et al (2020)

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Econometric Strategy

Baseline Results

Extensions

Mechanisms

Superstar Spillover Mode

Data

- National Bank of Belgium (NBB) B2B Transaction dataset (Dhyne et al, 2015) – value of sales between all buyer-seller relationships in Belgium from 2002 to 2014 based on VAT declarations (all >€250)
- Company accounts from NBB Central Balance Sheet office (all incorporated firms) – sales, labor, intermediate inputs, capital
- NBB Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) survey
- Intrastat trade survey (intra-EU) & customs trade data (extra EU)
- TFP measurement Baseline is Wooldridge (2009) but compare with Ghandi et al (2020), Collard-Wexler & de Loecker (2020), ACF, OP, etc.

Summary statistics

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Empirical Strategy

- Event study Diff-in-Diffs
- Define Superstar firm j in three separate ways (& look at each)
 - Foreign multinational (>10% foreign owned, inward FDI)
 - Exporter (non-wholesalers with >10% of sales exported)
 - Large Firm (top 0.1% of the sales distribution)
- Examine a firm i who starts selling to superstar firm j at time t
 - focus on "serious relationships": firm i must sell at least 10% of its sales to the superstar:

$$y_{i,t} = \sum_{t=-5}^{5} \beta_t I_{i,t} + \delta_i + \gamma_{s,t} + \epsilon_{i,t}$$

- $I_{i,t}=1$ when firm i starts selling to superstar, otherwise zero (so t=5 indicates 4+ years after event); $\delta_i=$ firm FE; $\gamma_{s,t}=4$ digit NACE (648 industries) by year FE

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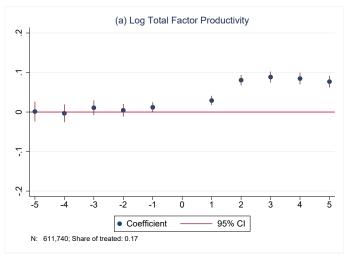
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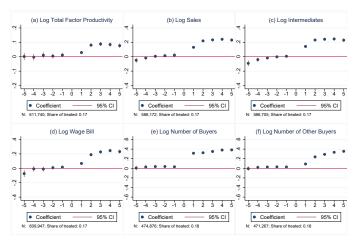
Superstar Spillover Mode

Selling to FDI firm increases TFP by $\sim 8\%$ after 4 years



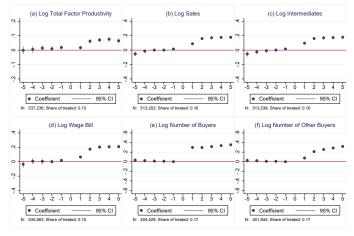
Notes: t=1 first year of treatment; t=5 is all years ≥ 5 (i.e. 4+ years after event). Regressions include 4-digit industry by year dummies and firm fixed effects. TFP estimated by Wooldridge (2009) method.

Selling to FDI firm also increases sales, intermediates, labor & no. of business buyers



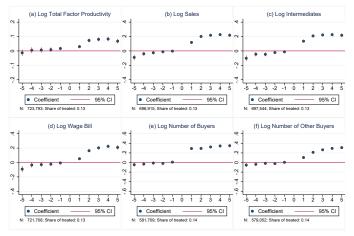
Notes: t=1 first year of treatment; t=5 is all years ≥ 5 . Regressions include 4 digit industry by year dummies and firm fixed effects. TFP estimated by Wooldridge (2009) method.

Selling to a "Serious exporter" also increases TFP, sales, intermediate inputs, labor & #Buyers



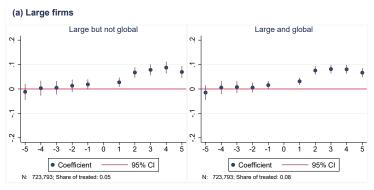
Notes: t=1 first year of treatment; t=5 is all years ≥ 5 . Regressions include 4 digit industry by year dummies and firm fixed effects. TFP estimated by Wooldridge (2009) method. Serious exporter is a (non-wholesale) firm with an export to sales ratio of 10% or more.

BUT selling to a Very Large Firm also increases TFP, sales, intermediate inputs, labor & #Buyers



Notes: Two-thirds of large firms are also FDI and/or serious exporters. t=1 first year of treatment; t=5 is all years ≥ 5 . Regressions include 4 digit industry by year dummies and firm fixed effects. TFP estimated by Wooldridge (2009) method. "Very large" is defined as being in the top 0.1% of the sales distribution (> \in 199m)

Large domestic firms give just as big a TFP pay-off as large global firms.



Notes: t=1 first year of treatment; t=5 is all years ≥ 5 . Regressions include 4 digit industry by year dummies and firm fixed effects. TFP estimated by Wooldridge (2009) method.



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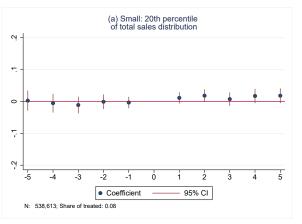
Mechanisms

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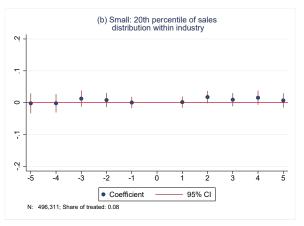
- Placebos on non-Superstar Firms
- Matched Controls: Nearest Neighbor
- Endogeneity of superstar relationships: control functions
- Alternative TFP measurement
- Other Robustness

No TFP effect from starting to sell to non-superstar firms: Small Firms



Notes: t=1 first year of treatment; t=5 is all years ≥ 5 . Regressions include 4 digit industry by year dummies and firm fixed effects. TFP estimated by Wooldridge (2009) method.

No TFP effect from starting to sell to non-superstar firms: Small Firm (within industry)



Notes: t = 1 first year of treatment; t = 5 is all years ≥ 5 . Regressions include 4 digit industry by year dummies and firm fixed effects. TFP estimated by Wooldridge (2009) method.



Matching: Nearest Neighbor

	Log Total Factor Productivity (1)	Log Total Sales (2)	Log Total Inputs (3)	Log Wage Bill (4)	Log Number of Buyers (5)	Log Number of Other Buyers (6)
FDI						
t1: Year of event	0.058***	0.176***	0.190***	0.182***	0.330***	0.113***
	(0.006)	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.011)
1 or more years after event	0.080***	0.218***	0.231***	0.232***	0.318***	0.261***
	(0.007)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.013)
Observations	125,983	124,979	125,140	125,666	99,280	96,923
Adjusted R ²	0.640	0.857	0.871	0.817	0.780	0.778
Exporters						
t1: Year of event	0.041***	0.145***	0.141***	0.162***	0.325***	0.102***
	(0.007)	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.012)
1 or more years after event	0.066***	0.179***	0.176***	0.214***	0.305***	0.245***
	(0.007)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.014)	(0.013)	(0.013)
Observations	102,102	101,397	101,473	101,835	80,065	78,387
Adjusted R ²	0.632	0.847	0.861	0.809	0.738	0.734
Large						
t1: Year of event	0.057***	0.187***	0.200***	0.175***	0.333***	0.147***
	(0.006)	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.011)
1 or more years after event	0.069***	0.227***	0.241***	0.222***	0.312***	0.252***
	(0.007)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.013)
Observations	120,658	119,684	119,814	120,392	99,199	97,420
Adjusted R^2	0.654	0.871	0.879	0.840	0.813	0.811

Notes: We match on the basis of the pre-treated average values of TFP, sales, inputs and average wages. Each treated firm is matched to exactly one control firm.

Correlated TFP shocks: A Control Function Approach

• Consider the two-period case:

$$\triangle TFP_{i,t} = \beta \triangle I_{i,j,t} + \gamma_s + \triangle \epsilon_{i,t}$$

- If TFP shocks to firm i increase chances of forming a superstar relationship, $E(\triangle I_{i,i,t}\triangle\epsilon_{i,t})>0$ and $\hat{\beta}>\beta$
- Write sales growth between firm i and j (cf. Amiti & Weinstein, 2018 allows for new relationships):

$$\triangle Y_{i,j,t}/Y_{i,j,t} = \mu_{it} + \pi_{jt} + u_{ijt}$$

- We recover firm i specific shock μ_{it} and construct control function $Control_{it} = \hat{\mu}_{it} Y_{it-1}$ and condition on $f(Control_{it})$ in main equation
- Implies identification effectively from shocks to firm *j* (not *i*)
- Allows for selection on permanent component of firm i & match-specific ij productivity, & shocks to firm i (μ_{it})

Results from Control Function Approach (emp \geq 10 sample)

Dep. var.: Log TFP	FDI			Exporters			Large		
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
1 or more years after event	0.070*** (0.017)	0.059*** (0.021)	0.046** (0.021)	0.091*** (0.022)	0.074*** (0.027)	0.071*** (0.027)	0.067*** (0.015)	0.056*** (0.019)	0.046** (0.019)
Control _{it}			0.027*** (0.004)			0.029*** (0.004)			0.026*** (0.003)
Observations Adjusted R ²	26,092 0.749	16,680 0.775	16,680 0.777	23,689 0.740	14,522 0.772	14,522 0.775	37,736 0.741	25,690 0.768	25,690 0.770

Notes: TFP estimated using Wooldridge (2009) methodology. Regressions include 4-digit NACE industry-year and firm fixed effects. SEs clustered at firm level. All regressions include indicator for the year of the event (t1).

Alternative TFP measures

	WR	WR with wagebill	ACF	ACF with translog	GNR	OP	CWDL	OLS
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
FDI								
t1: Year of event	0.025***	0.035***	0.001	0.060***	0.025***	0.015**	0.014**	0.002
	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.004)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.006)
$\boldsymbol{1}$ or more years after event	0.077***	0.098***	0.039***	0.168***	0.046***	0.059***	0.067***	0.034***
	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.008)	(0.004)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.006)
Observations	611,740	613,615	609,820	614,396	581,735	610,362	611,188	609,047
Adjusted \mathbb{R}^2	0.647	0.679	0.606	0.795	0.796	0.611	0.615	0.541
Exporters								
t1: Year of event	0.010	0.014**	-0.006	0.043***	0.014***	0.003	-0.005	-0.010
	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.008)	(0.004)	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.006)
$\boldsymbol{1}$ or more years after event	0.059***	0.073***	0.029***	0.144***	0.033***	0.044***	0.046***	0.021***
	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.008)	(0.004)	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.006)
Observations	537,236	538,823	535,728	539,469	509,097	536,068	536,727	535,093
Adjusted \mathbb{R}^2	0.644	0.680	0.605	0.798	0.762	0.606	0.609	0.534
Large								
t1: Year of event	0.025***	0.035***	0.008	0.065***	0.034***	0.019***	0.013**	0.006
	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.004)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.006)
1 or more years after event	0.069***	0.088***	0.036***	0.159***	0.051***	0.054***	0.053***	0.027***
	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.008)	(0.004)	(0.006)	(0.006)	(0.006)
Observations	723,793	725,826	721,576	726,859	692,643	722,290	723,063	720,935
Adjusted \mathbb{R}^2	0.649	0.682	0.606	0.799	0.795	0.611	0.616	0.542

Notes: WR = Wooldrige (2009). ACF = Ackerberg, Caves, and Frazer (2015). GNR = Gandhi, Navarro, and Rivers (2020). OP = Olley and Pakes (1996). CWDL = Collard-Wexler and De Loecker (2020).

Other Robustness

- Thresholds for "serious" relationships
- Balanced Panel
- Thresholds for FDI ownership, export intensity



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Mechanism I: Tech transfer – impact on TFP much larger for high tech/high skill superstar firms

Dependent variable:		Log TFP					
Indicator variable:	RD	ICT	Skill labor				
	(1)	(2)	(3)				
FDI							
1 or more years after event	0.072***	0.068***	0.065***				
	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.006)				
x indicator variable	0.030***	0.028***	0.040***				
	(0.011)	(0.009)	(0.010)				
Observations	611,740	611,740	611,740				
Adjusted R ²	0.647	0.647	0.647				
Exporters							
1 or more years after event	0.056***	0.056***	0.060***				
	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.008)				
x indicator variable	0.022*	0.010	-0.001				
	(0.013)	(0.010)	(0.010)				
Observations	537,236	537,236	537,236				
Adjusted R ²	0.644	0.644	0.644				
Large							
1 or more years after event	0.060***	0.062***	0.059***				
	(0.006)	(0.007)	(0.006)				
× indicator variable	0.065***	0.019**	0.041***				
	(0.012)	(0.009)	(0.011)				
Observations	723,793	723,793	723,793				
Adjusted R ²	0.649	0.649	0.649				

Notes: (1) top decile of R&D/Sales; (2) top quartile of ICT spend/Purchases, (3) top quartile of share of workers with college degree. All regressions include 4-digit industry-year and firm FE. $_{23/47}$

Mechanism II: Dating Agency – impact on buyers within the superstar's network is strong

Dependent variable:	Number of buyers in network (1)	Number of buyers outside network (2)		
FDI				
1 or more years after event	1.14*** (0.22)	3.74*** (0.44)		
Observations Adjusted R^2	471,267 0.93	471,267 0.84		
Exporters				
1 or more years after event	0.33*** (0.05)	2.84*** (0.20)		
Observations Adjusted R^2	396,418 0.90	396,418 0.85		
Large				
1 or more years after event	2.21*** (0.59)	4.74*** (0.64)		
Observations Adjusted \mathbb{R}^2	579,052 0.80	579,052 0.88		

Notes: Mean of Number of buyers in Superstar's network is 0.62 for FDI; 0.37 for Exporters; 0.73 for Large. Mean Number of buyers outside network 12.6 for FDI; 8.8 for exporters; and 15.2 for Large.

Larger Treatment effects for Young Firms

	Log Total Factor Productivity (1)	Log Total Sales (2)	Log Total Inputs (3)	Log Wage Bill (4)	Log Number of Buyers (5)	Log Number of Buyers In Network (6)	Log Number of Buyers Outside Network (7)
FDI			. ,	. ,			. ,
1 or more years after event	0.068***	0.222***	0.240***	0.215***	0.339***	0.100***	0.226***
	(0.006)	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.012)	(0.012)	(0.007)	(0.010)
x Young	0.059***	0.029***	0.026***	0.049***	0.002	0.014**	-0.063***
	(0.006)	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.011)	(0.009)	(0.006)	(0.009)
Observations	611,702	586,134	586,667	609,909	474,849	474,849	474,849
Adjusted R ²	0.647	0.855	0.873	0.807	0.842	0.877	0.856
Exporters							
1 or more years after event	0.053***	0.170***	0.173***	0.189***	0.318***	0.062***	0.243***
	(0.006)	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.012)	(0.012)	(0.005)	(0.010)
x Young	0.043***	0.015*	0.006	0.042***	-0.000	0.009	-0.039***
	(0.007)	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.012)	(0.010)	(0.006)	(0.009)
Observations	537,195	513,161	513,497	535,522	404,493	404,493	404,493
Adjusted R ²	0.644	0.844	0.865	0.809	0.806	0.819	0.823
Large							
1 or more years after event	0.061***	0.225***	0.236***	0.208***	0.335***	0.119***	0.227***
	(0.006)	(0.009)	(0.011)	(0.012)	(0.012)	(0.008)	(0.010)
x Young	0.056***	0.031***	0.032***	0.061***	-0.003	0.022***	-0.065***
	(0.007)	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.012)	(0.010)	(0.007)	(0.009)
Observations Adjusted \mathbb{R}^2	723,753	696,875	697,504	721,668	581,678	581,678	581,678
	0.649	0.860	0.877	0.814	0.851	0.888	0.864

 $\textbf{Notes} \hbox{:} \ \, \textbf{The Young indicator equals one if the age of the firm is less than or equal to five years.}$

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Set Up

- Stage 1: firms (i=1,....,N) enter & draw TFP (ϕ_i) from distribution, $\bar{F}(.)$
- Stage 2: A Superstar Firm (SS) enters, forms contract with 1 firm (via procurement auction)
 - In long-run, marginal cost c_i is reduced to γc_i ($\gamma < 1$) from this relationship
- Stage 3: Firm i's sell on spot market under monopolistic competition
 - with production $q_i = \phi_i G(x_i)$; x = competitively supplied input vector

Output market (Stage 3)

Price cost markup

$$\frac{p_i - c_i}{p_i} = \frac{1}{\eta} \tag{1}$$

 $\eta, \eta > 1$, = elasticity of consumer demand; $p_i =$ firm's product price.

Profits

$$\pi_i = \widetilde{\eta} \left(\frac{1}{c_i} \right)^{\eta - 1} \tag{2}$$

$$\widetilde{\eta} = \eta^{-\eta} \left(\eta - 1 \right)^{\eta - 1} > 0.$$

Superstar Relationship (Stage 2)

- First price sealed bid auction. $\bar{q}^{SS} = SS$ contract; I = #Bidders; Revenue from winning the auction is Z_i .
- Opportunity costs, $\sigma(\phi_i) = \pi_{0i}^{SS} \pi_{1i}^{SS}$ profit difference in spot market of not having a SS relationship (π_{0i}^{SS}) vs. having one (π_{1i}^{SS})
- Bid solves (usual trade-off):

$$\max_{Z_i}(Z_i - \sigma_i) Pr(D_i = 1|Z_i)$$
 (3)

• A firm with productivity ϕ_i bids s_i (Milgrom and Weber, 1982):

$$s_i = \sigma_i \delta_i$$
; where $\delta_i = 1 + \frac{\int_{\sigma_i}^{\bar{\sigma}} [1 - F(\bar{\sigma})]^{l-1} d\bar{\sigma}}{\sigma_i [1 - F(\sigma_i)]^{l-1}}$ (4)

- $\delta_i \ge 1$ is **markup over op. cost**, decreases with #Bidders (1):
- This defines unique symmetric equilibrium. Winner:

$$D_i = 1\{s(\phi_i) < s(\phi_{i'})\}, \forall i' \neq i \text{ such that } i, i' \in \mathcal{H}$$

• Supplies SS and obtains lower costs, γc_i

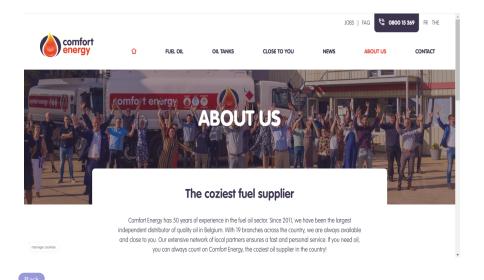
Implications

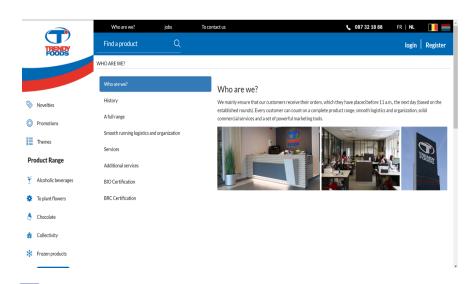
- Impact on seller of forming a relationship with a SS firm:
 - Increases TFP
 - Increases output (both to SS and non-SS)
 - Increases inputs
- The firms who form relationships with SS will tend to be
 - Higher TFP firms
 - Larger firms

Summary statistics Pre and Post

Conclusions

- Forming a relationship with a superstar firm improves outcomes (TFP, outputs, inputs & survival)
 - Non-trivial magnitudes
 - Likely through both transfer of know-how & match making
- But does not have to be a MNE or globally engaged firm. Local superstars also bring benefits
- Does not rule out more general spillovers (these are absorbed by industry by year effects)
- Policy: barriers to firms to grow to become future superstar could be costly (misallocation). e.g. Aghion, Bergeaud & Van Reenen (2021) on regulations
- Next Steps: quantification; modeling dating agency





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Robustness Additional Outcomes (FDI)

	Firm survival (1)	Log employment (2)	Log tangible fixed assets (3)	Export value (4)	Export dummy (5)	Export varieties (6)	Import value (7)	Import dummy (8)	Import varieties (9)
FDI									
t1: Year of event	0.046***	0.078***	0.104***	-0.026	0.004**	0.019	-0.054*	0.010***	-0.023
	(0.002)	(0.009)	(0.013)	(0.023)	(0.002)	(0.072)	(0.031)	(0.002)	(0.131)
1 or more years after event	0.046***	0.201***	0.164***	0.063***	0.011***	0.291***	0.052***	0.025***	0.421***
	(0.003)	(0.010)	(0.015)	(0.015)	(0.002)	(0.091)	(0.018)	(0.002)	(0.161)
Observations	1,128,950	606,260	610,328	611,740	611,740	611,740	611,740	611,740	611,740
Adjusted R ²	0.548	0.799	0.806	0.903	0.677	0.867	0.895	0.642	0.746

Notes: These specifications are the same as in the baseline results except with a different outcome variable as the dependent variable. All regressions include 4-digit NACE industry-year and firm fixed effects. Standard errors are clustered at the firm level. The mean of the firm exit variable is 0.886.

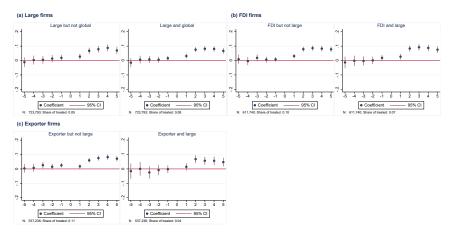


Robustness Additional Outcomes

	Firm survival (1)	Log employment (2)	Log tangible fixed assets (3)	Export value (4)	Export dummy (5)	Export varieties (6)	Import value (7)	Import dummy (8)	Import varieties (9)
FDI									
t1: Year of event	0.046***	0.078***	0.104***	-0.026	0.004**	0.019	-0.054*	0.010***	-0.023
	(0.002)	(0.009)	(0.013)	(0.023)	(0.002)	(0.072)	(0.031)	(0.002)	(0.131)
1 or more years after event	0.046***	0.201***	0.164***	0.063***	0.011***	0.291***	0.052***	0.025***	0.421***
	(0.003)	(0.010)	(0.015)	(0.015)	(0.002)	(0.091)	(0.018)	(0.002)	(0.161)
Observations	1,128,950	606,260	610,328	611,740	611,740	611,740	611,740	611,740	611,740
Adjusted \mathbb{R}^2	0.548	0.799	0.806	0.903	0.677	0.867	0.895	0.642	0.746
Exporters									
t1: Year of event	0.048***	0.055***	0.120***	-0.001	0.001	-0.142	0.002	0.004*	0.156
	(0.002)	(0.010)	(0.014)	(0.001)	(0.002)	(0.201)	(0.005)	(0.002)	(0.115)
1 or more years after event	0.061***	0.162***	0.175***	0.004	0.005***	-0.442	0.016**	0.013***	0.335***
	(0.003)	(0.011)	(0.017)	(0.004)	(0.002)	(0.580)	(0.006)	(0.002)	(0.122)
Observations	995,232	532,126	536,024	537,236	537,236	537,236	537,236	537,236	537,236
Adjusted R ²	0.550	0.801	0.805	0.622	0.515	0.319	0.728	0.536	0.738
Large									
t1: Year of event	0.046***	0.072***	0.131***	0.040**	0.007***	0.244**	0.032**	0.011***	0.130
	(0.002)	(0.009)	(0.013)	(0.016)	(0.002)	(0.119)	(0.016)	(0.003)	(0.125)
1 or more years after event	0.051***	0.190***	0.197***	0.116***	0.014***	0.464**	0.119***	0.024***	0.680***
	(0.003)	(0.010)	(0.016)	(0.022)	(0.002)	(0.191)	(0.023)	(0.003)	(0.171)
Observations Adjusted R^2	1,323,549	717,441	722,141	723,793	723,793	723,793	723,793	723,793	723,793
	0.549	0.806	0.803	0.826	0.684	0.752	0.784	0.663	0.767

Notes: These specifications are the same as in the baseline results except with a different outcome variable as the dependent variable.

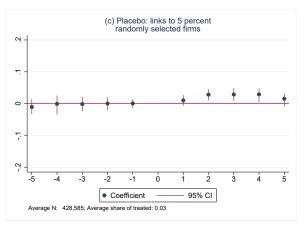
TFP gains from selling to Large vs Global Firms



Notes: t=1 first year of treatment; t=5 is all years ≥ 5 . Regressions include 4 digit industry by year dummies and firm fixed effects. TFP estimated by Wooldridge (2009) method.



No TFP effect from starting to sell to non-superstar firms: Random firm partners



Notes: t = 1 first year of treatment; t = 5 is all years ≥ 5 . Regressions include 4 digit industry by year dummies and firm fixed effects. TFP estimated by Wooldridge (2009) method.



Summary Statistics-Sample and Cleaning

Sample cleaning

	Averag	Share of sample dropped		
Sample	N firms (thousands)	Employment (millions)	N firms	Employment
Full sample NBB	368.19	1.78		
Drop missing intial emp	364.50	1.78	1.0	
Drop firms not in B2B	286.46	1.72	21.4	3.6
Drop firms with no TFP measure	170.40	1.49	40.5	13.1

Summary statistics

Variable	P5	P50	P95	Mean	SD
In(TFP _{WR})	-1.43	-0.25	0.78	-0.28	0.67
$\Delta ln(TFP_{WR})$	-0.60	0.02	0.62	0.02	0.40
Sales (millions euros)	0.08	0.60	11.01	4.40	114.39
Inputs (millions euros)	0.03	0.37	8.86	3.77	127.88
Wage bill (millions euros)	0.01	0.09	1.69	0.61	6.53
# buyers (hundreds)	0.01	0.15	2.54	0.66	2.85
Employment (FTE)	0.25	2.80	36.70	12.39	124.54
Total fixed assets (millions euros)	0.00	0.10	1.75	0.87	17.40
Export value (millions euros)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.85	27.83
Export dummy	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.12	0.32
Export varieties	0.00	0.00	10.00	5.16	75.73
Import value (millions euros)	0.00	0.00	1.36	0.80	31.15
Import dummy	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.17	0.38
Import varieties	0.00	0.00	36.00	6.94	39.49



Summary Statistics by Treatment Type

Total N		491,155	
Treatment type	FDI	FX	Large
N	2,841	4,260	491
Share of firms	0.58	0.87	0.10
Share of employment	25.11	20.12	24.06
FDI intensity	71.79		
Export intensity (average)		45.51	
Out of treated, share of:			
FDI		13.38	57.84
Large	10.00	3.71	
FX	20.06		32.18
FDI or FX			66.40
Large or FX	25.98		
Large or FDI		14.37	
High TFP (1 percentile)	14.75	4.08	45.42
RD top-10 percentile cutoff	0.271	1.394	0.924
ICT top-25 percentile cutoff	2.072	1.203	2.196
Skill labor top-25 percentile cutoff	68.044	26.376	68.20
Networks			
Median number of buyers	32	37	132
Mean number of buyers	499	115	1,588
Mean number in network as share of all potential buyers	0.024	0.008	0.139
Median sales (million euros)	0.107	0.042	0.384
Mean sales (million euros)	1.104	0.277	3.438



Summary Statistics Pre- and Post-Treatment

		FDI		Exporters			Large		
Variable	Pre	Post	Control	Pre	Post	Control	Pre	Post	Control
In(TFP _{WR})	0.082	0.123	-0.022	0.051	0.111	-0.016	0.110	0.146	-0.020
	(0.669)	(0.666)	(0.670)	(0.645)	(0.645)	(0.671)	(0.671)	(0.666)	(0.663)
In(Sales)	0.148	0.430	-0.071	0.149	0.375	-0.056	0.262	0.569	-0.070
	(1.217)	(1.283)	(1.215)	(1.094)	(1.148)	(1.202)	(1.317)	(1.350)	(1.210)
In(Inputs)	0.206	0.514	-0.086	0.215	0.437	-0.067	0.342	0.674	-0.085
	(1.359)	(1.418)	(1.386)	(1.229)	(1.288)	(1.345)	(1.460)	(1.490)	(1.381)
In(Wage bill)	0.060	0.420	-0.062	0.020	0.341	-0.042	0.147	0.500	-0.057
	(1.474)	(1.559)	(1.384)	(1.410)	(1.492)	(1.426)	(1.551)	(1.597)	(1.413)
In(# buyers)	-0.184	0.309	-0.041	-0.092	0.386	-0.052	-0.162	0.342	-0.032
	(1.042)	(1.290)	(1.271)	(0.937)	(1.172)	(1.141)	(1.122)	(1.348)	(1.318)
In(Total fixed assets)	0.116	0.177	-0.032	0.155	0.359	-0.052	0.262	0.328	-0.045
	(1.783)	(1.946)	(1.896)	(1.726)	(1.887)	(1.906)	(1.843)	(1.980)	(1.875)
In(Employment)	0.081	0.375	-0.057	0.056	0.300	-0.040	0.158	0.436	-0.051
	(1.293)	(1.361)	(1.205)	(1.238)	(1.300)	(1.240)	(1.365)	(1.398)	(1.228)
Average N	28,725	71,720	499,556	24,241	55,753	445,925	28,647	63,366	619,179

Notes: The Pre columns report the mean value of each variable for treated firms for all years before treatment and the Post columns for the years of treatment i.e. t1 to t5. The Control column reports the average over the sample period for untreated firms. The standard errors are reported in parentheses. The average N is the average number of observations across the different variables.

Links to FDI Firms

	Log Total Factor Productivity (1)	Log Sales (2)	Log Intermediates (3)	Log Wage Bill (4)	Log Number of Buyers (5)	Log Number of Other Buyers (6)
t-5: 6 years before event	0.001	-0.049***	-0.091***	-0.073***	0.006	-0.006
	(0.013)	(0.018)	(0.020)	(0.024)	(0.023)	(0.023)
t-4: 5 years before event	-0.003	-0.016	-0.040***	-0.008	0.027	0.019
	(0.011)	(0.014)	(0.016)	(0.019)	(0.020)	(0.020)
t-3: 4 years before event	0.011	0.006	-0.016	-0.011	0.036**	0.026
	(0.010)	(0.012)	(0.013)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)
t-2: 3 years before event	0.004	0.015	-0.001	0.009	0.038***	0.031**
	(0.008)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.013)	(0.014)	(0.014)
t-1: 2 years before event	0.012*	0.024***	0.007	0.016	0.032***	0.028***
	(0.007)	(0.008)	(0.008)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.011)
t1: Year of event	0.029***	0.131***	0.143***	0.068***	0.315***	0.090***
	(0.006)	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.011)
t2: 1 year after event	0.081***	0.221***	0.232***	0.189***	0.324***	0.239***
	(0.007)	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.012)	(0.012)
t3: 2 years after event	0.088***	0.235***	0.243***	0.228***	0.351***	0.291***
	(0.007)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.012)	(0.012)	(0.013)
t4: 3 years after event	0.085***	0.243***	0.247***	0.246***	0.380***	0.334***
	(0.007)	(0.010)	(0.012)	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.013)
t5: 4 years after event	0.077***	0.232***	0.230***	0.233***	0.385***	0.355***
	(0.008)	(0.012)	(0.013)	(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.014)
Firm FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry × Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	611,740	586,172	586,705	609,947	474,876	471,267
Adjusted R ²	0.647	0.855	0.873	0.807	0.842	0.841

Links to Exporting Firms

	Log Total Factor Productivity (1)	Log Sales (2)	Log Intermediates (3)	Log Wage Bill (4)	Log Number of Buyers (5)	Log Number of Other Buyers (6)
t-5: 6 years before event	-0.001	-0.052***	-0.054***	-0.035	0.032	0.027
	(0.013)	(0.016)	(0.018)	(0.024)	(0.022)	(0.022)
t-4: 5 years before event	0.005	-0.014	-0.025	0.007	0.022	0.021
	(0.012)	(0.014)	(0.016)	(0.020)	(0.020)	(0.021)
t-3: 4 years before event	0.014	0.001	-0.008	0.005	0.013	0.010
	(0.010)	(0.012)	(0.014)	(0.017)	(0.017)	(0.017)
t-2: 3 years before event	0.010	0.000	0.001	0.001	0.010	0.009
	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.015)	(0.015)	(0.015)
t-1: 2 years before event	0.018***	0.014*	0.016*	0.019*	0.001	-0.000
	(0.007)	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.011)	(0.012)	(0.012)
t1: Year of event	0.017***	0.089***	0.096***	0.064***	0.298***	0.076***
	(0.007)	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.012)
t2: 1 year after event	0.062***	0.160***	0.162***	0.174***	0.295***	0.212***
	(0.007)	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.012)	(0.012)	(0.012)
t3: 2 years after event	0.071***	0.172***	0.171***	0.204***	0.315***	0.255***
	(0.007)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.013)
t4: 3 years after event	0.075***	0.177***	0.174***	0.208***	0.334***	0.284***
	(0.008)	(0.010)	(0.012)	(0.014)	(0.014)	(0.014)
t5: 4 years after event	0.065***	0.178***	0.179***	0.209***	0.353***	0.319***
	(0.008)	(0.012)	(0.013)	(0.015)	(0.015)	(0.015)
Firm FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry × Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	537,236	513,202	513,538	535,563	404,528	401,844
Adjusted R ²	0.644	0.844	0.865	0.809	0.806	0.805

Links to Large-Sales Firms

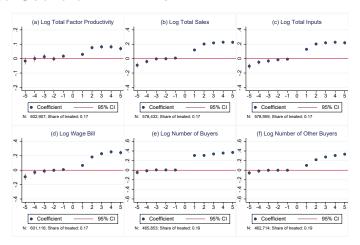
	Log Total Factor Productivity (1)	Log Sales (2)	Log Intermediates (3)	Log Wage Bill (4)	Log Number of Buyers (5)	Log Number of Other Buyers (6)
t-5: 6 years before event	-0.013	-0.090***	-0.102***	-0.092***	-0.046**	-0.053**
	(0.011)	(0.017)	(0.020)	(0.022)	(0.021)	(0.022)
t-4: 5 years before event	0.005	-0.040***	-0.046***	-0.035*	-0.032*	-0.037*
	(0.010)	(0.014)	(0.015)	(0.018)	(0.019)	(0.019)
t-3: 4 years before event	0.007	-0.026**	-0.047***	-0.029*	-0.012	-0.018
	(0.009)	(0.012)	(0.014)	(0.016)	(0.016)	(0.016)
t-2: 3 years before event	0.009	-0.012	-0.022*	-0.023*	-0.019	-0.023*
	(0.008)	(0.011)	(0.011)	(0.013)	(0.014)	(0.014)
t-1: 2 years before event	0.017***	-0.003	-0.012	-0.006	0.008	0.004
	(0.007)	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.011)
t1: Year of event	0.030***	0.119***	0.135***	0.053***	0.291***	0.104***
	(0.006)	(0.008)	(0.009)	(0.009)	(0.011)	(0.011)
t2: 1 year after event	0.073***	0.201***	0.209***	0.164***	0.293***	0.212***
	(0.007)	(0.009)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.012)	(0.012)
t3: 2 years after event	0.080***	0.218***	0.223***	0.203***	0.324***	0.265***
	(0.007)	(0.010)	(0.011)	(0.012)	(0.013)	(0.013)
t4: 3 years after event	0.083***	0.227***	0.226***	0.225***	0.346***	0.295***
	(0.008)	(0.011)	(0.012)	(0.013)	(0.013)	(0.014)
t5: 4 years after event	0.068***	0.218***	0.218***	0.210***	0.350***	0.310***
	(0.008)	(0.012)	(0.013)	(0.015)	(0.015)	(0.015)
Firm FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Industry × Year FE	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Observations	723,793	696,915	697,544	721,708	581,709	579,052
Adjusted R ²	0.649	0.860	0.877	0.814	0.851	0.850

Robustness Alternative Cutoffs



Dep. var.: Log TFP	Alte	ernative cut	offs for serio	ous relations	hip	(0.005) 0.075*** (0.005) 645,849 0.649 0.006 (0.006) 0.016*** (0.006) 562,558 0.645	samples
	0%	1%	5%	15%	20%	pre and post	Balanced panel
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
FDI							
2 or more years before event	-0.014*** (0.003)	-0.005 (0.004)	0.007 (0.005)	0.005 (0.007)	0.005 (0.008)		0.002 (0.008)
t1: Year of event	0.022*** (0.003)	0.020*** (0.004)	0.027*** (0.005)	0.028*** (0.007)	0.029*** (0.007)		0.042*** (0.008)
1 or more years after event	0.059*** (0.003)	0.068*** (0.004)	0.080*** (0.005)	0.077*** (0.007)	0.079*** (0.008)		0.051*** (0.008)
Observations Adjusted R-squared	823,675 0.657	731,560 0.650	649,141 0.648	592,506 0.647	579,534 0.647	,	346,361 0.661
Exporters							
2 or more years before event	-0.014*** (0.004)	-0.004 (0.004)	0.012** (0.006)	0.006 (0.008)	0.004 (0.009)		0.010 (0.008)
t1: Year of event	0.017*** (0.003)	0.019*** (0.004)	0.022*** (0.005)	0.013* (0.007)	0.012 (0.008)		0.029*** (0.008)
1 or more years after event	0.053*** (0.004)	0.063*** (0.004)	0.070*** (0.006)	0.064*** (0.008)	0.064*** (0.008)		0.050*** (0.009)
Observations Adjusted R-squared	720,503 0.654	646,661 0.647	569,632 0.645	520,237 0.645	509,508 0.644		299,708 0.662
Large							
2 or more years before event	-0.014*** (0.003)	-0.006 (0.004)	0.007 (0.005)	0.003 (0.007)	0.002 (0.008)		-0.003 (0.008)
t1: Year of event	0.023*** (0.003)	0.025*** (0.004)	0.031*** (0.005)	0.029*** (0.007)	0.029*** (0.008)	0.030*** (0.006)	0.031*** (0.007)
1 or more years after event	0.050*** (0.003)	0.061*** (0.004)	0.072*** (0.005)	0.072*** (0.007)	0.074*** (0.008)	0.074*** (0.006)	0.039*** (0.008)
Observations Adjusted R-squared	940,252 0.660	841,203 0.653	759,285 0.650	705,437 0.648	692,878 0.648	723,793 0.649	421,693 0.664

Links to Outward-FDI Firms



Notes: These specifications are as in the baseline results except the treatment is defined as selling to a Belgium firm j with at least 10% outward FDI instead of inward FDI. t=1 first year of treatment; t=5 is all years ≥ 5 . Regressions include 4 digit industry by year dummies and firm fixed effects. TFP estimated by Wooldridge (2009) method.

