

FRANCE: A INNOVATION POWERHOUSE

KEY INFO IN

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POINTS

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▶ MAJOR R&D EXPENDITURE

With gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) of US\$48.6 billion in 2015, amounting to 2.2% of GDP, France was ranked sixth in the world (Eurostat, 2017). France's three leading sectors for business enterprise R&D expenditure (BERD) – the automotive industry, aerospace sector, and pharmaceutical industry – accounted for €11 billion of spending in 2015, amounting to 35% of all BERD nationwide. (French Ministry for Higher Education and Research)

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▶ DRIVING GLOBAL INNOVATION

France remains the third leading country, and the leading country in Europe, in the Clarivate Analytics Top 100 Global Innovators. Ten French entities were among the world's 100 most innovative organizations in 2016: three research centers (CNRS, CEA, IFP Energies Nouvelles) and seven companies (Alstom, Arkema, Safran, Saint-Gobain, Thales, Total and Valeo).

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▶ GLOBAL GIANTS

A number of French industrial groups are leading players in their sector, with operations throughout the world: Airbus (aerospace), Total (oil and gas), Orange (telecoms), Sanofi (healthcare), LVMH (luxury goods), L'Oréal (cosmetics), and Danone (agri-food). France is home to 29 of the world's 500 leading companies. (Fortune Global 500, 2017)

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▶ AN INNOVATION-FRIENDLY ECOSYSTEM

France's research tax credit means that France offers companies the most generous R&D tax treatment in Europe. (OECD, 2017)

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▶ FAST-GROWING TECH FIRMS

For the eighth year running in 2017, France was once again ranked first by the Deloitte Technology Fast 500 EMEA, with 97 of the top 500 fastest growing technology companies in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The top 10 French firms were: Ubitransports, Adikteev, Adomik, Actility, Interactiv Group, Delair, Quantmetry, Beam, Voip Télécom and Biosynex.

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▶ NEARLY 8,000 PATENTS FILED ANNUALLY

With 7,961 PCT international patent applications in 2015, France was ranked fourth in the world, after Germany (17,315), but ahead of the United Kingdom (6,308). In the same year, France also registered 5,398 trademarks per million inhabitants, more than both the United States (2,925) and Japan (1,768). (OECD; Eurostat; Business France)

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▶ EXCELLENCE ATTRACTING FOREIGN COMPANIES

In 2015, Facebook chose Paris as the location for its first artificial intelligence R&D laboratory outside the United States, while Canadian firm Premier Tech decided to set up a new international R&D center. John Chambers, Executive Chairman and former CEO of Cisco, announced a doubling of their investments in startups in France by 2020.

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▶ INVESTORS HAIL FRANCE

Seventy-six percent of foreign investors believe that France is an attractive location for R&D operations and innovation. Investors surveyed also hailed the quality of R&D personnel (81%), potential for research partnerships (82%), and proximity to French innovation clusters (81%) (Kantar Public/Business France, 2017). France had 9.4 researchers per thousand labor force in 2014, making it one of the leading countries in the world. (OECD, 2016)

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▶ “LA FRENCH TECH” GOING GLOBAL

A government-led public/private “La French Tech” initiative is helping French startups to build a solid international reputation in areas such as industry, the sharing economy and artificial intelligence. They include Allegorithmic’s 3D technology, E’Wheel’s electric bicycle, digital marketing from Asiance, Akka Technologies’ futuristic concept car Link & Go, and Devialet’s wireless Phantom speakers.


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▶ FRANCE LIGHTS UP LAS VEGAS

France took the second largest delegation of startups (274) after the United States to Eureka Park at the 2018 Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show, the largest of its kind in the world.



For further information, please visit:
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**FOREIGN
INVESTMENT
DECISIONS
PER WEEK**

(BUSINESS FRANCE, 2017)



#1
RANKED EUROPEAN COUNTRY
IN THE TOP 100 GLOBAL INNOVATORS

(CLARIVATE ANALYTICS, 2017)

ACCESS TO A MARKET OF
66
MILLION CONSUMERS
AND GATEWAY TO THE EMEA



(INSEE, 2017)



FRANCE:
6th
IN THE WORLD FOR
GROSS DOMESTIC
EXPENDITURE
ON R&D

(EUROSTAT, 2017)



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