FRANCE: #2 IN EUROPE FOR MEDICAL DEVICES

France is second in Europe for medical device revenues after Germany (MedTech Europe, 2019), with the sector covering products and equipment in a wide range of fields, from syringes and in vitro diagnostics to MRI scanners.

MANUFACTURERS AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF INNOVATION

France has 1,502 companies in the medical devices sector, 93% of which are SMEs, generating revenues of €30 billion, including €9 billion from exports. Nearly 90,000 people work in the sector in France, including 50% for subsidiaries of foreign companies. More than two-thirds of companies are innovative, and 13% are exclusively dedicated to research. France is ranked fifth worldwide for the filing of European and international patents in the medical device sector with 3,750 patents per year. (SNITEM, 2019)

AN ACTIVE ECOSYSTEM

Nine innovation clusters are contributing to the emergence of R&D projects in medical technologies. Examples of support structures in the sector include business clusters (Medical Technology Center, À l'Ouest des Dents), clusters (I-Care), technological centers (Haute-Champagne Technology Center, Temis in Besançon) and associations (BioMedical Alliance).

FIRST-CLASS MEDICINE

France has an excellent reputation in medicine, with pioneering feats including the first use of an autonomous artificial pancreas, developed by the Grenoble-based company Diabeloop. In 2018, teams from the Necker Hospital achieved another world first by performing a complete tracheal reconstruction under cardiopulmonary bypass surgery on a 12-year-old child using a tubular graft.

“MADE IN FRANCE” TECHNOLOGY

Nanobiotix has developed a solution for injecting nanoparticles into cancer cells before the first radiotherapy session in order to increase its effectiveness, while Pixium Vision is developing a bionic vision system to restore sight to visually impaired people.
INNOVATIVE STARTUPS

The French medical device industry is made up of many innovative startups, such as Urgotech, whose brain training solution to relearn how to sleep received an Innovation Award at CES 2019. What’s more, the Parisian startup Wandercraft has developed Atalante, an exoskeleton capable of restoring autonomy and mobility for people in wheelchairs.

FRANCE EMBRACES ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

French startup Owkin has developed a new model which can predict and explain the key prognostic factors for patients with mesothelioma from a MesoNet analysis, based on images of pleural biopsies. What’s more, Frenchman Yann Fleureau was recently named one of MIT Technology Review’s Innovators Under 35 in Europe for developing an AI platform that analyzes electrocardiograms from any device to help doctors quickly and accurately diagnose patients’ heart conditions.

INTERNATIONAL KEY PLAYERS IN FRANCE

Business France identified 75 foreign investment projects in the medical device sector in France between 2018 and 2019, creating or maintaining more than 1,400 jobs. The Montpellier-based company Zimmer Biomet Robotics, a subsidiary of the American manufacturer of robotic surgical assistance devices Zimmer Biomet, has invested €20 million in its production facility.

RELOCATION OF HEALTHCARE INDUSTRIES

The Covid-19 health crisis has led the government to launch an action plan to regain France’s health independence, both in terms of the supply of drugs and medical devices and securing access to them. Nearly €200 million has been dedicated to developing the healthcare industries and supporting the opening of R&D and production activities in France.

SUPPORTING THE MEDICAL DEVICES SECTOR

This is a strategic sector in a global pandemic, and the government continues to support investments in medical devices, particularly those used in resuscitation services such as respirators, respirator filters, closed suction systems and syringe pumps.
France is **#5 WORLDWIDE** for the filing of European and international patents in the medical devices sector with 3,750 patents per year (SNITEM, 2019)

France is **#2 WORLDWIDE** for the number of clinical trials in gene therapy and oncology

France is a **pioneer** in the creation of an artificial pancreas, developed by the Grenoble-based company Diabeloop (IMD)

France is **13 NOBEL PRIZES** in medicine and nearly 130 cancer research projects

BUSINESS FRANCE
77, boulevard Saint-Jacques
75680 Paris Cedex 14
Tel. : +33 1 40 73 30 00