

# ROBOTICS IN FRANCE

KEY INFO IN

**10**

POINTS



# 1

## ▶ ROBOTS CREATE JOBS

The French robotics industry employs around 150,000 people. Between 2008 and 2014, annual growth in the service robotics sector averaged 29.4%. The Xerfi Institute expects that growth will continue to increase until 2020, buoyed by the success of firms such as Aldebaran Robotics, Infotron, Medtech and E.Zicom. (Xerfi, Robotics in France)

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# 2

## ▶ FRANCE: THE WORLD'S FIFTH LARGEST ROBOT EXPORTER

In 2015, France was the fifth largest exporter of robots by revenue (US\$209.4 million) preceded by Japan (US\$1.4 billion), Germany (US\$590.9 million), Italy (US\$326.1 million) and South Korea (US\$235.6 million) but ahead of the United States (US\$180.1 million) and China (US\$144.4 million) (World's Top Exports, 2016). France's main exporters of robots include Sepro Robotique, which generates 90% of its turnover abroad.

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# 3

## ▶ 3,000+ INDUSTRIAL ROBOTS SOLD IN 2015

3,045 industrial robots were sold in France in 2015, up 3.4% from 2014 (World Robotics, 2016). The transport sector, including the automotive industry, accounts for 40% of the units sold. In terms of applications, 53% of the units sold were used to manipulate parts and 27% for welding. The industrial robotics sector makes €400 million in annual revenue. (SYMOP, Key figures 2016-17)

# 4

## ▶ A ROBOT-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

Founded in 2007, France's Robotics Research Group comprises 1,300 researchers and engineers. Its role is to promote, facilitate and stimulate dialogue between the world of research and the robotics industry. Seven French innovation clusters focus on robotics, including: Images et Réseaux (Bretagne region), Minalogic (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), Imaginove (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes), Cap Digital (Paris), Aerospace Valley (Toulouse), Alsace Biovalley (Grand Est) and Viaméca (Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes).

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# 5

## ▶ €100 MILLION FOR FRENCH ROBOTICS

The €100 million "France Robots Initiative" launched in 2013 is designed to support the robotics industry as a whole, and includes the "ROBOT Start PME" program, offering technical and financial support to 250 SMEs looking to acquire their first production robot.

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# 6

## ▶ INNOROBO: EUROPE'S TOP ROBOTICS EVENT

Founded in Lyon in 2011, the Innorobo trade fair is Europe's leading industry event for the robotics sector. In 2016, the fair was held in Paris and was attended by more than 200 exhibitors!

# 7

## ▶ THEY CHOSE FRANCE

Japanese group Amada, the world's number one in machine tools, recently chose to spearhead its European development strategy in France, where it has six sites and more than 550 employees. Switzerland's ABB, one of the world's leading manufacturers of industrial robots, has 21 sites in France and employs 2,000 people.

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# 8

## ▶ BALYO INVENTS SMART FORKLIFT TRUCKS

French firm Balyo transforms standard forklift trucks into smart autonomous robots that can work alongside humans using unique in-building navigation technology.

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# 9

## ▶ BUDDY: THE DOMESTIC COMPANION ROBOT

In 2015, a young Parisian company called Blue Frog Robotics, which already has operations in Boston and San Francisco, launched "Buddy", the world's first companion robot. This 45 cm device is aimed at the consumer market, and more specifically sectors such as the silver economy, education and home security.

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# 10

## ▶ LILLE: WHERE SOFT ROBOTS ARE BORN

The Defrost project team based at INRIA, the French National Institute for Research in Computer Science & Control, is developing soft robotics in France single handedly. Led by Research Director Christian Duriez, the team is developing software that will enable them to design, simulate and control the movements of their soft robots, which feature improved interaction with their environment inspired by nature.



For further information, please visit:  
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**FRANCE**

**#5**

**IN THE WORLD FOR ROBOT  
EXPORTS BY REVENUE**



**FRANCE:  
EUROPE'S**

**#1**

**DESTINATION  
FOR FOREIGN  
INVESTMENT IN  
INDUSTRY**

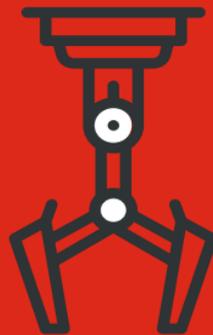
ACCESS TO A MARKET OF

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MILLION CONSUMERS

AND GATEWAY TO THE EMEA



**150,000**  
PEOPLE WORKING IN THE  
FRENCH ROBOTICS INDUSTRY