

FRANCE: A HAVEN FOR INNOVATION

KEY INFO IN

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POINTS

1

▶ MAJOR R&D EXPENDITURE

With gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) of US\$54.3 billion, France is ranked sixth in the world. France's three leading sectors for business enterprise R&D expenditure (BERD) – the automotive industry, aerospace sector, and pharmaceutical industry – accounted for €10.9 billion of spending in 2014, 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 Thomson Reuters Top 100 Global Innovators, with 10 French entities among the world's 100 most innovative organizations in 2015. They include three research centers (CNRS, CEA, and IFP Energies Nouvelles) and seven companies (Alcatel-Lucent, Alstom, Arkema, Safran, Saint-Gobain, Thales and Valeo).

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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)

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▶ GLOBAL INDUSTRIAL 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, 2016)

5 ▶ EUROPE'S FASTEST GROWING TECHNOLOGY FIRMS

For the fifth year running, France was once again ranked first in 2015 by the Deloitte "Technology Fast 500 EMEA", with 87 of the top 500 fastest growing technology firms in Europe, the Middle East and Africa. The top 10 French companies were: SlimPay, Mailjet, Crosscall, Obiz, Groupe Pixeo, Pixiel, Content Square, Avenir Développement Durable, MHCOMM, and iAdvize.

6 ▶ MORE THAN 8,000 PATENTS FILED EVERY YEAR

With 8,476 patent applications filed under the PCT international patent procedure in 2015, France was ranked sixth in the world, and was also ranked third in the world for the number of trademark applications filed (in France, or abroad) as well as registered models and industrial designs. (WIPO, 2016)

7 ▶ EXCELLENCE ATTRACTING FOREIGN COMPANIES

Increasing numbers of multinationals are carrying out R&D projects in France. 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.

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▶ A LOCATION HAILED BY INVESTORS

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 (76%), potential for research partnerships (78%), and proximity to French innovation clusters (76%) (Kantar Public/Business France, 2016). 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 specialist Asiance, Akka Technologies’ futuristic concept car Link & Go, and Devialet’s wireless Phantom speakers.

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▶ FRENCH CREATIVITY ON SHOW IN LAS VEGAS

France took the third largest delegation and second largest number of startups after the United States to the 2016 Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show, the largest of its kind in the world. In all, 190 French companies attended, including 128 startups. Twenty-four French startups won a total of 32 CES Innovation Awards between them.



For further information, please visit:
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**RANKED EUROPEAN COUNTRY
IN THE THOMSON REUTERS
TOP 100 GLOBAL INNOVATORS**



**FOREIGN
INVESTMENT
DECISIONS
PER WEEK**

ACCESS TO A MARKET OF

66



MILLION CONSUMERS

AND GATEWAY TO THE EMEA



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