INDUSTRY OF THE FUTURE

HIGH-TECH INDUSTRIES

KEY INFO IN 10 POINTS
PROMOTING FRENCH INDUSTRY

€23.1 BILLION OF R&D EXPENDITURE IN THE MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN 2016 (MESRI)

ACCESS TO A MARKET OF 67 MILLION CONSUMERS AND A GATEWAY TO EMEA MARKETS (INSEE)

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A KEY PLAYER

In 2017, industry accounted for 12.5% of France’s GDP, 10% of which was in the manufacturing industry. It had 216,000 companies, generating revenues of €909 billion and employing 3.1 million people. French industries generated 42% of their revenues in exports in 2016, with France as the world’s second largest aerospace exporter. (INSEE; UN Comtrade)

MORE THAN €23 BILLION IN R&D

French manufacturing industries are committed to improving the competitiveness of their production chains. Their R&D expenditure amounted to €23.1 billion in 2016, representing 72% of all R&D spending by companies. The automotive industry is the leading industry for R&D expenditure, with 13% of the total amount spent (MESRI, 2018). What’s more, it had 1,150 robots per 10,000 employees on average in 2016, placing it first in Europe. (FIR)

PUBLIC SUPPORT

An action plan for the digital transformation of the industry was created in 2018. It has three main components, which include a 40% depreciation allowance of investments in robotics and digital solutions for SMEs, the creation of acceleration platforms for industrial technologies, and support for the digital transformation of 10,000 SMEs by 2022.

18 SECTOR AGREEMENTS

At the end of 2018, strategic sector committees identified the reciprocal commitments from the state and industrial companies to accelerate the digital transformation of the French industrial fabric through 18 sector agreements, with support from the National Council for Industry (CNI). Some 136 industrial areas, representing one-third of France, have been identified and will benefit from personalized support.

AN ATTRACTIVE INDUSTRY

France has been the leading host country for foreign investment projects in industry for more than 15 years (EY). In 2018, Business France identified 320 industrial sites belonging to foreign companies, which represent 24% of foreign projects in France. US company Mars is strengthening its presence in the country and has announced that it will invest €120 million in its eight production sites before the end of 2019.
WORKPLACE TRAINING

Workplace training centers, co-financed by businesses and the authorities, offer training in the technologies associated with the industry of the future. DynEO, in Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur, aims to improve team performance within a production chain, while Ease, in Strasbourg (Grand Est region), offers training in clean-room production and aseptic environments. A training center for Nantes’s Manufacturing Academy is set to open in 2020, led by the Union for the Metallurgic Industry (UIMM).

2019: THE YEAR OF ‘LA FRENCH FAB’

“La French Fab” has been promoting French manufacturing under a common brand abroad since 2017. This year, 2019, has been declared “Year of La French Fab” and there will be plenty of highlights, including “La French Fab Tour” which aims to showcase French industry across France through 60 stages, as well as regional variations of the “Usine Extraordinaire” (Extraordinary Factory).

EUROPEAN COOPERATION

Since 2017, the Alliance for Industry of the Future (AIF) in France, Plattform Industrie 4.0 in Germany, and Piano Nazionale Industria 4.0 in Italy have pooled their experiences around three main themes: standardization, deployment within SMEs, and advice relating to public policy. Meanwhile, the EU is working to identify priority European value chains.

INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

The Global Industry Awards recognize the most innovative industrial companies. Winners at the 2019 awards included the French subsidiary of the German company Index, for its G420 turn-mill center; safety bolts manufacturer Cathelain whose C-Bolt system helps to tighten bolts on safety devices; and RFIT, with its connected and communicative waste compactor.

REWARDING GOOD PRACTICE

The “Showcase of Industry of the Future” label is awarded by the Alliance for Industry of the Future (AIF) to companies that have developed an innovative digital project linked to the manufacturing side of their business. Founded in 2015, the Alliance for Industry of the Future (AIF) has since awarded more than 45 “Showcase of Industry of the Future” labels and hopes to reach the 100 mark by 2020.