



**FRANCE:**

**AN INNOVATION  
POWERHOUSE**

KEY INFO IN

**10**  
POINTS

**FRANCE'S KEY STRENGTHS**



(INSEE)



**#1**

**EUROPEAN COUNTRY  
IN THE  
TOP 100 GLOBAL  
INNOVATORS**

(CLARIVATE ANALYTICS, 2018)



**FRANCE'S  
RESEARCH TAX CREDIT  
OFFERS COMPANIES  
EUROPE'S MOST  
COMPETITIVE R&D  
TAX TREATMENT**

(OCDE)



**NEW FOREIGN  
INVESTMENT DECISIONS  
EVERY WEEK**

(BUSINESS FRANCE)

**BUSINESS FRANCE**

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



# 1 MAJOR R&D EXPENDITURE

With gross domestic expenditure on R&D (GERD) of US\$62 billion in 2016, amounting to 2.25% of GDP, France was ranked sixth in the world (OECD, 2018). 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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# 2 DRIVING GLOBAL INNOVATION

France remains the third leading country, and the leading country in Europe, in the Clarivate Analytics Top 100 Global Innovators. Seven French entities were among the world's 100 most innovative organizations in 2019: one research center (CEA) and six companies (Alstom, Airbus, Safran, Saint-Gobain, Thales, and Total).

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# 3 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 28 of the world's 500 leading companies. (Fortune Global 500, 2018)

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# 4 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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# 5 FAST-GROWING TECH FIRMS

For the eighth year running in 2017, France was once again ranked number one 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.

## **6 NEARLY 8,000 PATENTS FILED ANNUALLY**

With 8,241 PCT international patent applications in 2016, France was ranked fifth in the world, after Germany (18,621), but ahead of the United Kingdom (6,439). In the same year, France also registered 5,393 trademarks per million inhabitants, more than both the United States (2,896), and Japan (1,926). [OECD; WIPO]

## **7 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 at the end of 2018 Google opened its first research center for machine learning in the French capital, and IBM opened a facility in the southern city of Montpellier for quantum computing.

## **8 INVESTORS HAIL FRANCE**

Eighty-five percent of foreign investors believe that the French ecosystem encourages innovation. Investors surveyed also hailed the quality of R&D personnel (82%), potential for research partnerships (84%), and proximity to French innovation clusters (87%) [Kantar Public/Business France, 2018]. France had 9.4 researchers per thousand labor force in 2015, making it one of the leading countries in the world. [OECD, 2018]

## **9 “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 world-renowned driverless shuttles Navya and EasyMile, credit platforms from younited and La Ruche qui dit Oui! (“the hive that says yes”), and artificial intelligence technology experts Prophesee and Snips, the voice assistant that respects your privacy.

## **10 FRANCE LIGHTS UP LAS VEGAS**

France took 334 startups to Eureka Park at the 2019 Las Vegas Consumer Electronics Show, the largest of its kind in the world, and saw 57 of its companies receive Innovation awards, with Beelife and Snips both walking away with the Best of Innovation award.