

SMART GRIDS

KEY INFO IN
10
POINTS



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▶ #1 EUROPEAN ELECTRICITY EXPORTER

France is Europe's leading exporter of electricity, importing 29.6 TWh and exporting 91.3 TWh in 2015. Powerful nuclear power stations and hydroelectric plants mean that its zero-carbon electricity is among the cheapest in Europe. (French grid operator RTE, 2016)

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▶ A €3 BILLION INDUSTRY

Encompassing energy generation, distribution, consumption and storage, smart grids have a key role to play in making electricity networks energy transition-ready. Within a global market estimated to be worth €30 billion, the French smart grids sector generates revenues of €3 billion, half of which are from exports. (Think Smartgrids)

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▶ GOING INTERNATIONAL

The French electricity sector is home to a number of multinationals, including EDF and Engie – the two largest electricity producers in France – as well as Schneider Electric, Legrand and Cegelec. (Groupe VINCI)

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▶ FRANCE INVESTS IN SMART GRIDS

A total of €680 million was invested in the French smart grids sector in 2015. France is ranked second in Europe after the United Kingdom for financing pilot projects, investing €550 million. (Joint Research Center, Smart Grid Projects Outlook, 2017)

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▶ REGIONAL BUY-IN

More than 150 smart grid projects are underway in France. Four regions are running large-scale projects: Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur with Flexgrid, Bretagne and Pays de la Loire with Smile, and Hauts de France with You&Grid. These groundbreaking initiatives are an international showcase for French technology. (Joint Research Centre, 2017)

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▶ ACTIVE CLUSTERS

Ten innovation clusters in the energy and ICT sectors came together in 2012 to form SmartGrids France, as part of a collective effort to develop and promote the French smart grids sector. Similarly, the Think Smartgrids association seeks to unify the sector in France and promote its expertise internationally.

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▶ FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN FRANCE

Japanese company Toshiba has developed the Lyon Smart Community project in partnership with Lyon City Council. American network equipment giant Cisco has invested US\$200 million in French startups, with a particular focus on smart grids. Another US company, Itron, specializing in technology solutions for energy and water companies, has seven manufacturing sites in France.

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▶ SMART STARTUPS

There are many promising startups in the French smart grids sector, including Sigfox in communication protocols, Steadysun in photovoltaic energy production forecasting, Qualisteo in monitoring electricity consumption in buildings, and Energy Pool in load curtailment. Competitions such as Cleantech Open France and EDF Pulse encourage startups to innovate.

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▶ MORE TRAINING PROGRAMS

France has a large pool of skilled engineers with top quality skills and education. A growing number of diploma courses focusing on smart grids are now offered at institutions such as Grenoble INP, ECAM-EPMI, the CNAM and the EISTI.

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▶ PRESENTING SMART GRIDS

The Smart Grid+Smart City trade fair for intelligent, sustainable and connected living is a gathering of 90 exhibitors and around 4,500 business visitors. The event is held in parallel with the Intelligent Building Systems trade show. French expertise is also showcased further afield at events like European Utility Week (in Vienna, Barcelona or Amsterdam).



For further information, please visit:
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#3 PRODUCER OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES IN EUROPE



(EUROSTAT)

-22.5 Mt

CO₂EQ FALL IN EMISSIONS
DUE TO RECYCLING



(FEDEREC ; ADEME, 2017)

FRENCH SMART GRIDS SECTOR



€3 billion
IN REVENUES
INCLUDING HALF FROM EXPORTS
(THINK SMARTGRIDS)

150+



**SMART GRID PROJECTS
UNDERWAY IN FRANCE**

(JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE)