FRANCE IS A TECH-SAVVY NATION

KEY INFO IN

10

POINTS

1 A NATION OF ENTREPRENEURS

37% of all French people want to create their own business. (Source: Viavoice, October 2014). **More than 420,000 companies founded in 2014**, including 220,000 under the "auto-entrepreneur" status (INSEE).

2 A SUPPORTIVE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

In 2014, only 4.5 days were required to found a company in France, versus 6 in the UK and 14.5 in Germany (World Bank).

3 DYNAMIC MARKET FOR BUSINESS CREATION

Between 2007 and 2011, the number of active companies rose by an average of 4.5% per year – a rate of growth comparable with leading emerging economies. **The net increase of 580,000 companies in France compared with 50,000 for the United Kingdom and Germany (RSM International)**.

4 MOST BUSINESS STARTUPS IN EUROPE

Paris alone is home to 4,000+ tech-start-ups. The largest incubator in the world, Halle Freyssinet, with more than 1000 startups by 2016.

5 SERIAL ENTREPRENEURS AND ACTIVE BUSINESS ANGELS

French tech stars provide inspiration. From Xavier Niel, founder of internet service provider Free and "School 42", a new programming school with a unique model: entirely free and peer to peer pedagogy, to e-commerce stars. Pierre Kosciusko-Morizet set up the popular PriceMinister website, a rival to Amazon in France. The online designer brand retailer vente-privee.com, founded by Jacques-Antoine Granjon, has been an international hit.

6 FRENCH TECH EXCELLENCE

France is globally recognised in a number of sectors : ecommerce, connected things, big data, video games industry. **French participation at the CES increased by 33% from 2014 to 2015**. Within the Eureka Park, 25% of the exhibiting startups are French.

7 FRANCE LEADS EUROPE IN THE DELOITTE TECHNOLOGY FAST 500 EMEA

With no fewer than 86 high-flying technology firms in the list, **France remains the leading source of companies for the fourth year in a row**, followed by the United Kingdom, Benelux and Sweden.

8 THE WORLD MOST GENEROUS R&D TAX INCENTIVES

The tax credit scheme covers 30% of R&D spending up to 100 million euros.

9 SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

France's Public Investment Bank, "Bpifrance", offers companies, particularly innovative SMEs and mid-size companies, a tailored funding service thanks to a wider palette of financial instruments and advice, so as to support companies at every stage of their development. A second phase of the "National Investment Program" has also been launched, supported by additional funds of €12 billion. **Foreign entrepreneurs and startups are eligible for €30,000 of funding through the "French Tech Ticket" scheme**.

10 GLOBAL LEADERS IN NEW MARKETS

Five French firms listed on the Nasdaq. Latest IPO: DBV (October 2014, US$1 billion valuation).
BlablaCar: US$100 million raised (Accel Partners, Index).
Three French start-ups at the Y Combinator Winter 2014 batch, 17 French founders of YC US companies.
Wit-AI, founded by three French entrepreneurs, backed by Andreessen-Horowitz in Q3 2014.
Acquisitions of French companies: Neolane (Adobe, US$600 million), Arkadin (NTT, US$450 million).
Successful French entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley, including Renaud Laplanche (Lending Club) and Solomon Hykes (Docker).

For further information, please visit:

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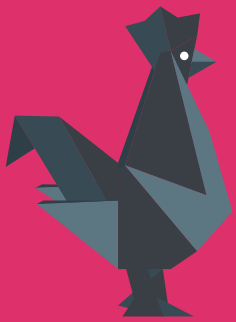
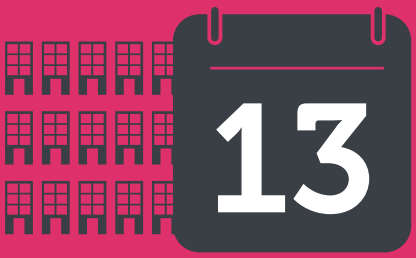


33% RISE
IN FRENCH EXHIBITORS
AT THE CES (2015 VS. 2014)



FOREIGN
INVESTMENT
DECISIONS
PER WEEK

ACCESS TO A MARKET OF
65
MILLION CONSUMERS
AND GATEWAY TO THE EMEA

NEARLY

30%

OF BUSINESS R&D CONDUCTED BY FOREIGN COMPANIES