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## **French Tech expands to 57 countries as France bets on tech diplomacy: 19 regional hubs at home, 78 chapters abroad, to promote French entrepreneurship with 1,100 volunteers driving this worldwide network**

France has established itself as one of the world's most dynamic innovation ecosystems: Paris now ranks 4th in Dealroom's Global Tech Ecosystem Index, the only European city in the top 5. With 18,000 start-ups, 450,000 jobs and a new generation of global champions such as Mistral AI, Doctolib and BlaBlaCar, France has cemented its place as a major tech power on the world stage. It is against this backdrop that the French Tech Mission is announcing the results of its third labelling round for the 2026-2028 period.

Thirteen years after its launch, French Tech is reaching a new milestone: 19 regional Capitals in France, 78 Communities across the globe, and a network that has become one of the most powerful tools of French economic diplomacy.

French Tech regional Capitals, centers of excellence spread across France, and French Tech Communities — both in France and internationally — form a dynamic network dedicated to innovation. Supported by dedicated teams or volunteer stakeholders, they work to nurture global tech champions, strengthen France's digital sovereignty, and open the ecosystem to all talents and regions. Their mission: to accelerate startup growth, foster collaboration between public and private actors, and promote the influence of French tech, both at home and abroad.

### **A third labelling round that changes the scale**

This third labelling phase marks a genuine turning point for the 2026-2028 period. The French Tech network, officially recognized entrepreneur-led hubs supporting French start-ups and scale-ups across their territories, are no longer simply growing in number. They are growing in scale.

## **Regional ecosystems making their mark on the world stage**

Normandy and New Caledonia are joining the network as Capitals for the first time, a sign that French innovation is thriving well beyond the capital. It reflects a broader shift: regional ecosystems that were still finding their footing a few years ago are now competing on the world stage. Grenoble ranks 7th among the world's leading deeptech hubs according to Dealroom. Toulouse, home to Airbus and the Ariane programme, is Europe's space capital

## **15 new chapters across priority markets**

Internationally, 15 new chapters are strengthening the network across key markets: in the United States with Raleigh and Washington D.C., in Germany with Hamburg and Frankfurt, in Eastern Europe with Budapest, Prague and Zagreb, while opening up for the first time to Saudi Arabia, Armenia and Chile.

## **A concrete tool for French entrepreneurs**

To support French start-ups in these markets, local chapters organise on-the-ground matchmaking events as part of the flagship programme "Je choisis la French Tech" ("I choose French Tech"), which connects French companies with major local corporations. These events are fully embedded within France's trade and diplomatic infrastructure abroad, working alongside Business France, chambers of commerce and French diplomatic missions, giving entrepreneurs direct access to local expertise in every market.

## **1,100 volunteers committed to strategic sectors**

This collective force is driven by 1,100 volunteers, more than 40% of whom are women, entrepreneurs, investors and corporate leaders who give their time to help grow the French tech ecosystem. As competition over technological sovereignty intensifies globally, particularly in AI, space and defence, the network is focusing on strategic sectors in close collaboration with research institutions and universities.

A model rooted in local territories, open to the world, and now established as a cornerstone of French competitiveness.

## **Jean-Noël Barrot, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs**

*"With 78 Communities present in 57 countries, the French Tech network has become a genuine instrument of economic diplomacy. It opens doors for French start-ups and scale-ups in every strategic market, and shows the world a France that is innovative, open and ambitious."*

**Anne Le Hénauff, Minister Delegate for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Affairs**

*"The French Tech network brings together those who are taking concrete action to ensure France masters its technologies. The new French Tech capitals and communities are promoting French tech both across our regions and internationally, and are helping to strengthen our digital sovereignty."*

**Julie Huguet, Director of the French Tech Mission**

*"This third labelling round marks the maturity of a model built collectively over more than ten years. Behind the red rooster, thousands of volunteers, entrepreneurs and institutions show up every day to help French start-ups and scale-ups grow. From Paris to Seoul, from Bordeaux to New York, I have seen that energy at work and it is what will allow us to reach the next level."*

**Press contact:** [ft.presse@finances.gouv.fr](mailto:ft.presse@finances.gouv.fr)