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OVERVIEW OF THE FRENCH TECH ECOSYSTEM

2026 EDITION

Foreword



Julie Huguet
French Tech mission Director

This second edition of the panorama is a powerful signal: our startups are now aiming to compete on a global scale. With 18,000 active companies and 450,000 direct jobs, the ecosystem has built a foundation solid enough to pursue this ambition — one backed by investors who are focusing their funding on projects able to scaling up rapidly.

This investor confidence is directly reflected in the European fundraising rankings, where France ranks third on the continent, with an average ticket size higher than that of its British and German neighbors. These amounts give our most advanced companies the concrete means to establish themselves directly in Europe, North America, and Asia — bringing French innovation to the markets where the real competition takes place.

This same drive to scale is now spreading to major French corporations, which are playing an increasingly active role in the ecosystem by becoming true partners to startups, accelerating the spread of innovation throughout our economy.

I am convinced that this edition marks a milestone: the moment when our ecosystem claims its place among the world's leading tech players.

Key figures

18,000
active startups –
the ecosystem remains
at its highest level

450,000
direct jobs, including
46,000 in the French Tech
Next40/120

57.4%
of startups based
outisde of Paris region

42%
of jobs held by regional
startups

€4.96
billion raised by the
ecosystem in the first half
of 2026

+5%
growth in startup
employment

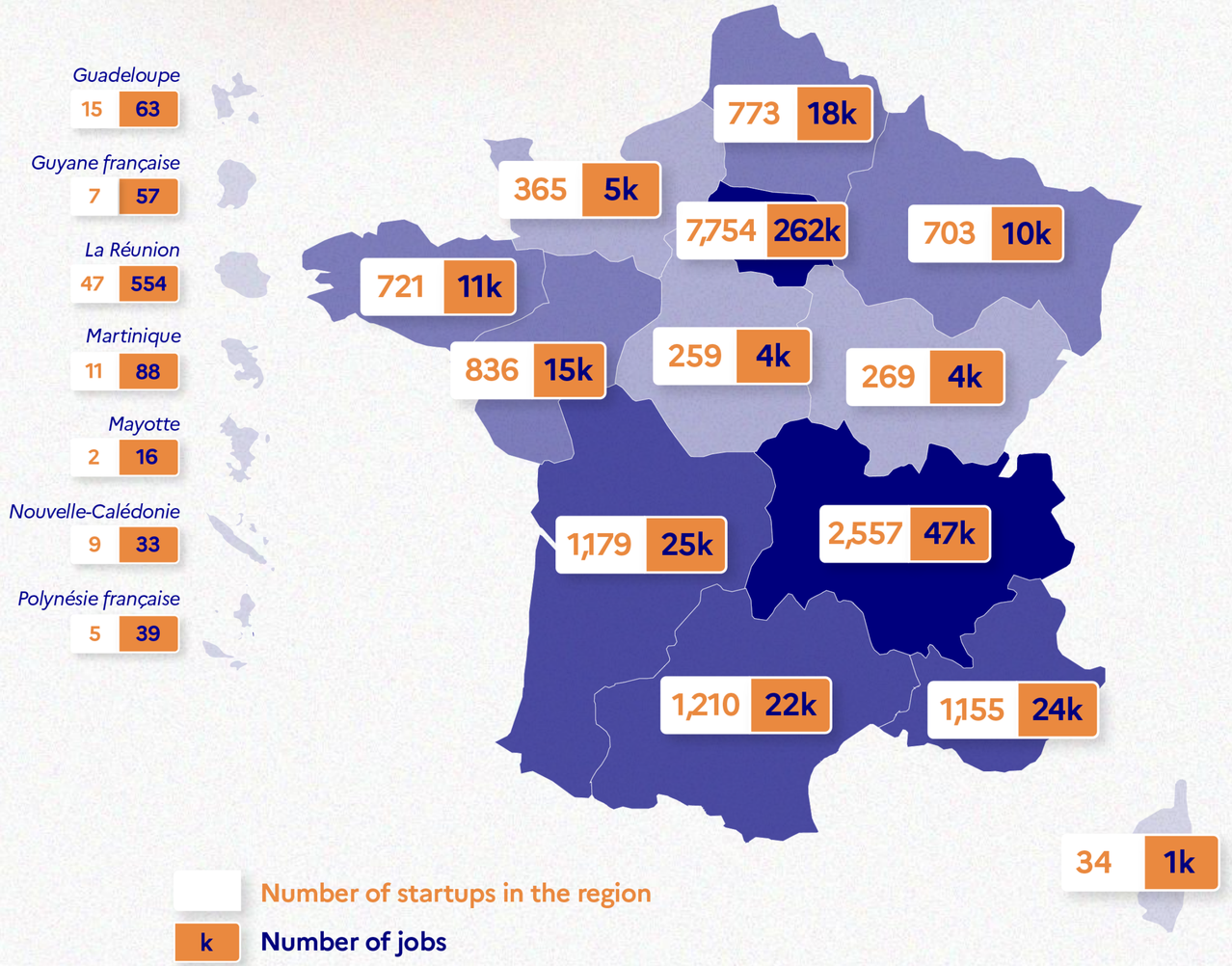
PART 1

FRENCH TECH CONFIRMS ITS ROLE AS AN ECONOMIC DRIVER

From Brittany to Occitanie : startups shaping the French economy

- **18,000** active startups
- **450,000** direct jobs

The French startup ecosystem is holding its historic level, both in the number of startups and in jobs: a **remarkable sign of stability**. This resilience stems above all from a **growing ability to attract talent and investment** throughout the country. The map points to a **gradual rebalancing**: while Paris region (57%) still leads the way, its relative share is slowly eroding in favour of other innovation hubs such as Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes.



Startup employment grows depsite the headwinds, rising in every region

- **+5%** in direct jobs since January 1, 2026*

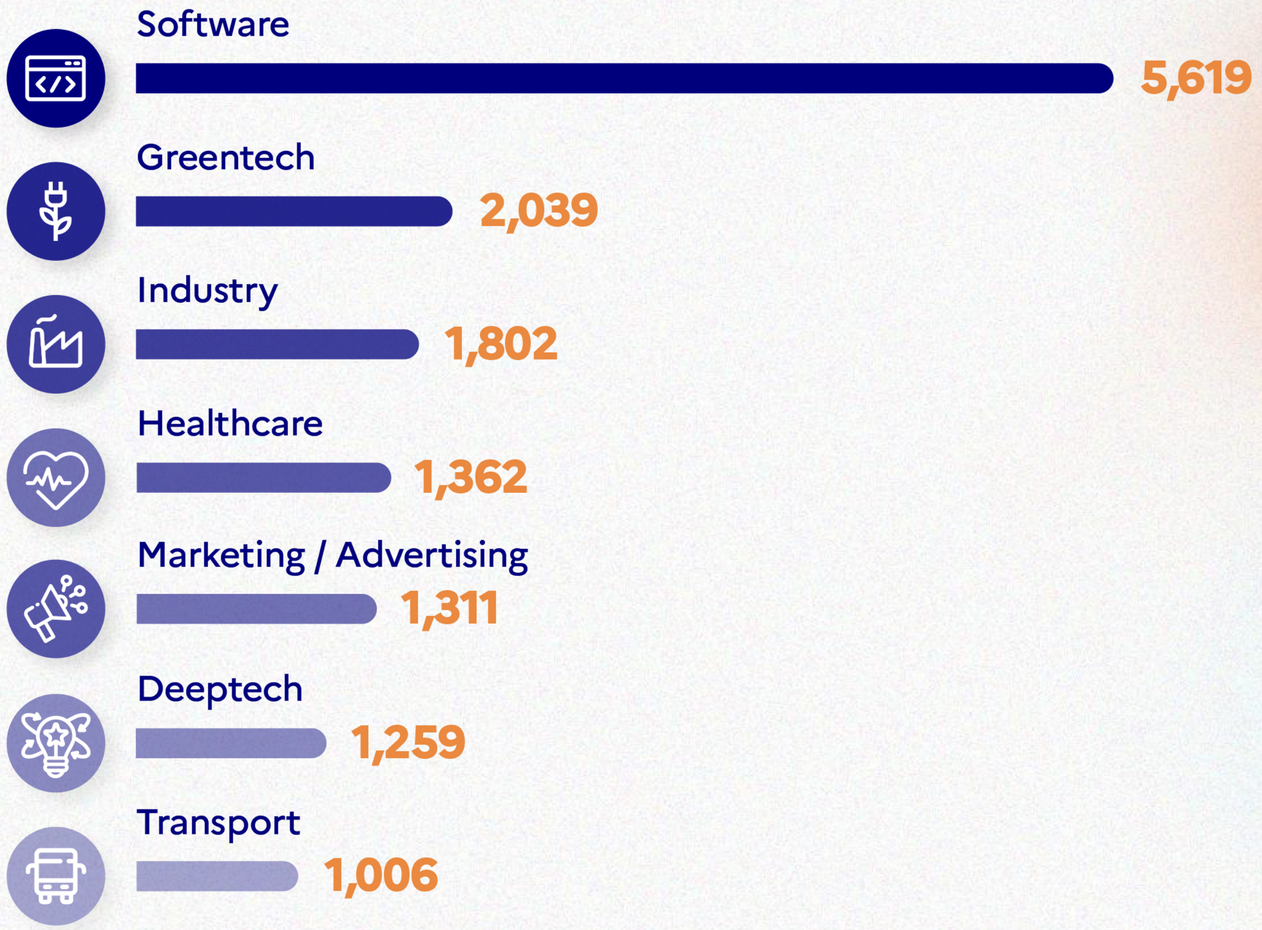
Startups have become a **key engine for job creation in France**, driven above all by sectors like AI and healthcare. Growth, however, is unevenly spread: the Paris region alone accounts for 70% of new jobs, although regions such as Nouvelle-Aquitaine and Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes are posting **very positive trends**.

Region	Contribution to national job creation in startups	Change in startup employment since January 1, 2026
Île-de-France	+70,3%	+5,8%
Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes	+9,7%	+4,4%
Nouvelle-Aquitaine	+4,9%	+5,8%
Occitanie	+2,7%	+2,7%
Hauts-de-France	+2,5%	+3,4%
Bretagne	+2,4%	+5,3%
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	+2,3%	+2,3%
Pays de la Loire	+1,7%	+2,2%
Grand Est	+1,5%	+2,9%
Normandie	1,2%	+6,6%
Bourgogne-Franche-Comté	+0,4%	+2,4%
Centre-Val de Loire	+0,3%	+5,8%
Corse	+0,1%	+4,3%

**This figure does not reflect the total number of jobs within the ecosystem: it is based on a sample of around 8,000 start-ups monitored on a monthly basis, on a like-for-like basis*

Software, Healthcare, Greentech: the sectors redefining French industry

The sector breakdown of startups has **remained broadly stable**, but employment has shifted across several segments.
Software still leads the way with 121,000 jobs. Other sectors are rising to address today's biggest challenges: **greentech** (51,030 jobs, +4.9% on 2025) is tackling the climate emergency, while **healthcare** (37,310 jobs, +5.3%) is harnessing technological advances to reinvent itself.

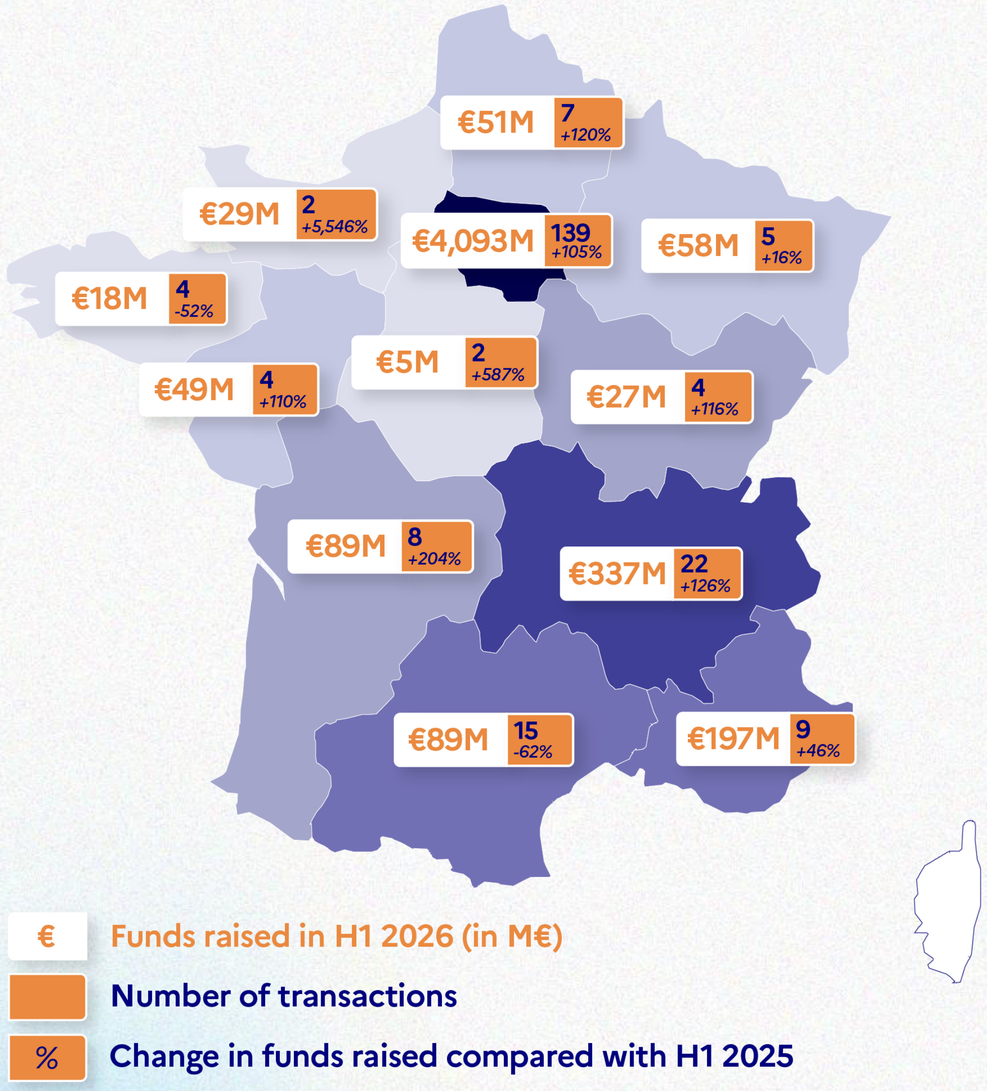


Number of startups by sector
(a startup may operate in more than one sector)

Innovation funding keeps up its momentum across all regions

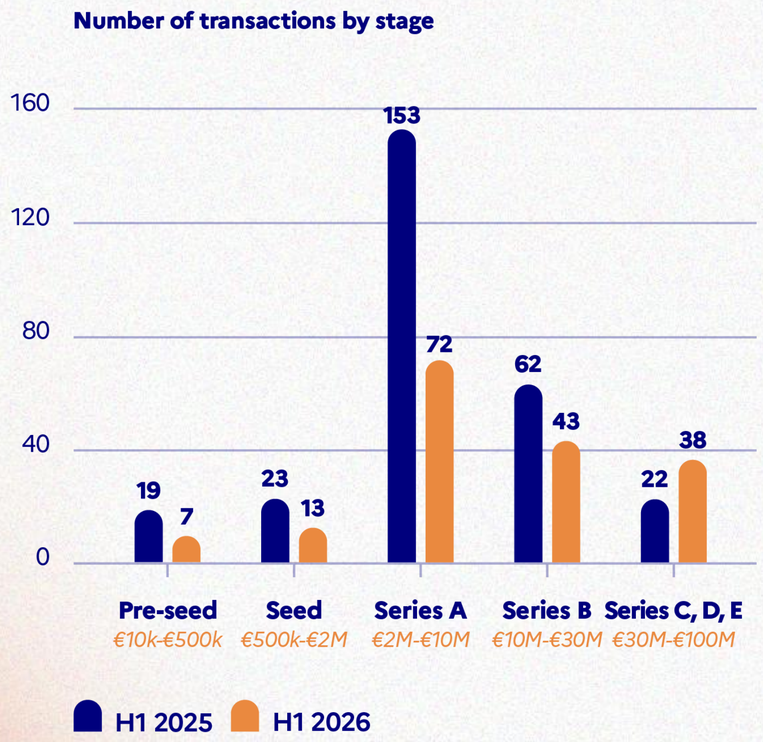
- **+€4.9 billion euros** raised in the first half of 2026, compared with €2.8 billion over the same period in 2025

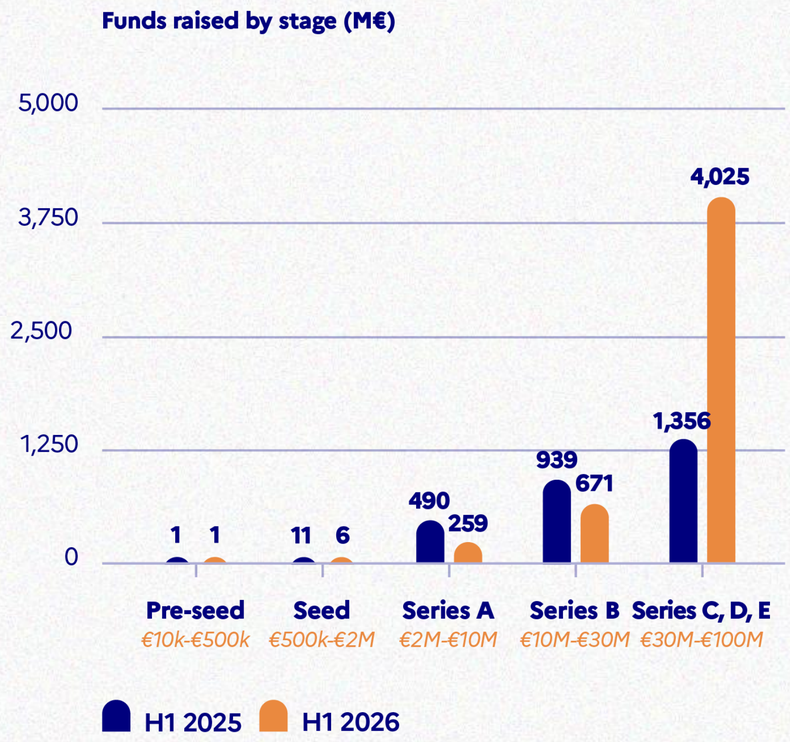
Fundraising has hit unprecedented levels, with **amounts raised up 77%** in a single year, cementing France's status as a **major destination for international capital**. The Paris region remains the country's leading investment hub, yet several regions posted record growth in 2026, notably Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and Occitanie, powered by deeptech. This **give-and-take between the capital and fast-rising regions** is what makes the ecosystem so diverse.



Fundraising: fewer deals, more ambitious projects

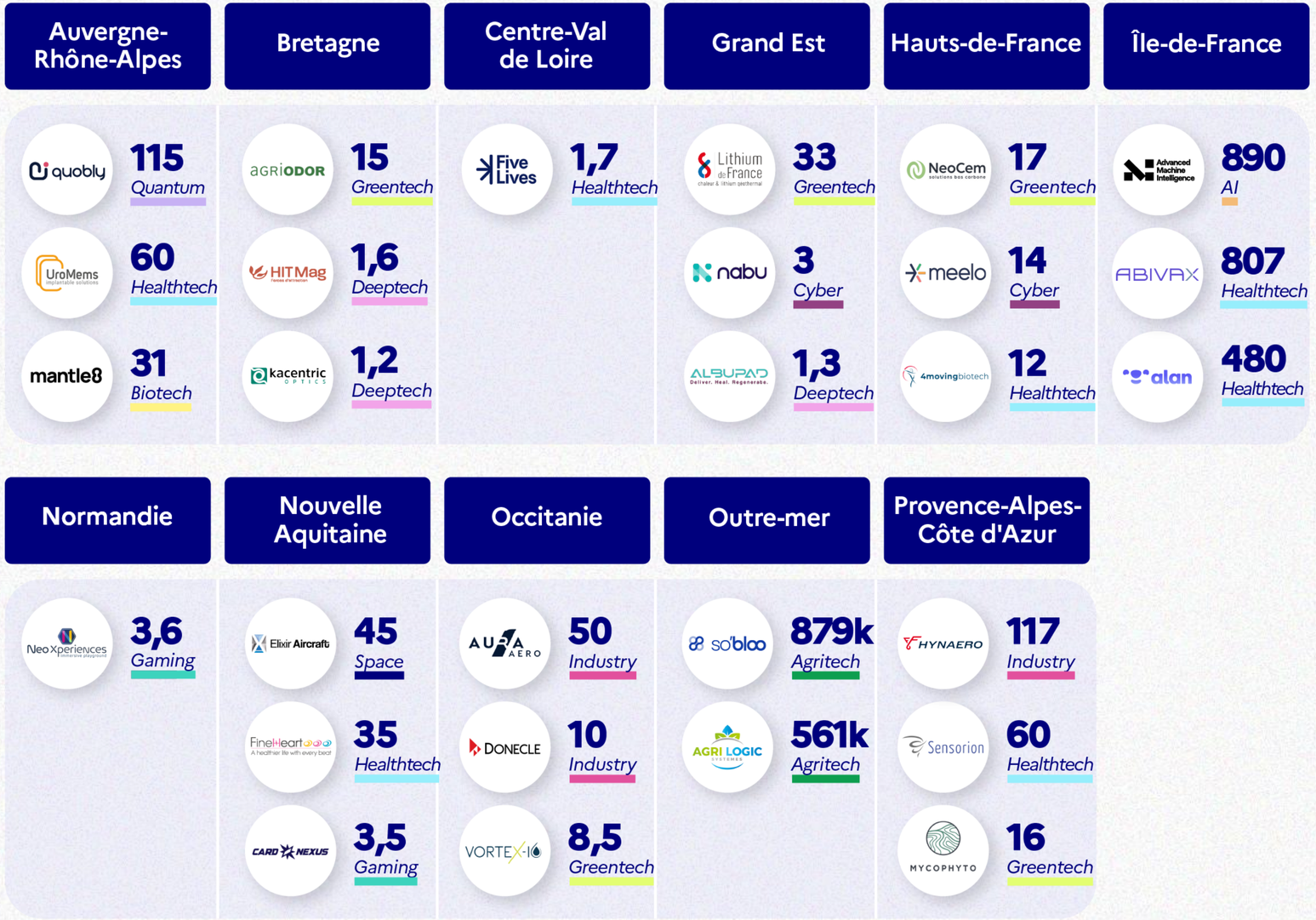
The ecosystem is clearly maturing: **investors now back projects with the potential to scale fast**. Amounts raised in Series C, D and E rounds have nearly tripled in a year, a sign that France is betting on **champions able to compete on the world stage**. Behind this shift lies a shared ambition: to raise global leaders "made in France".





Innovation is thriving in every region

Every French region now boasts its own **tech gems**, from Brittany to Nouvelle-Aquitaine, overseas territories included. These local success stories rest on record-breaking fundraising and **vibrant regional ecosystems**.



Top fundraising by region from 1 January to 1 September 2026 (in M€)

France among Europe’s most dynamic ecosystems

With fundraising rising sharply, France holds on to its spot on the European podium, just behind the UK and Germany. It even **leads the field in average deal size** (€23.2M), clear evidence that French startups command funding on a par with the best in Europe and **keep attracting international investors**.

Ranking of European ecosystems – Fundraising H1 2026

Rank	Ecosystem	Number of transactions	Funds in M€
1	United Kingdom	693	14,816
2	Germany	259	5,300
3	France	214	4,962
4	Netherlands	104	1,681
5	Switzerland	142	1,498
6	Belgium	53	1,439
7	Spain	165	1,313
8	Finland	60	1,302
9	Sweden	126	1,089
10	Denmark	78	893
	Total for Europe (28 countries)	2,281	37,139

PART 2

FROM LAB TO INDUSTRY: BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGIES PROPEL THE ECOSYSTEM

AI France embraces its status as a European leader

- **2,244 startups in** artificial intelligence recorded in 2026, compared with **1,917** in 2025

Artificial intelligence has become the **cornerstone of French Tech**, propelled by ambitious ventures such as AMI Labs and Mistral AI. These successes rest on a well-structured ecosystem where research, talents and capital converge.

Paris

rippletide — Paris

Lemrock — Saint-Ouen

Advanced Machine Intelligence — Paris

numalis — Montpellier

meelo — Marcq-en-Barœul

Paris

	STARTUPS	EMPLOYEES	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS	FUNDS RAISED
AI	2,244	55,045	55	€1,566M
	55% / 45%	69% / 31%	82% / 18%	97% / 3%

Breakdown: % Paris region % Other regions (excluding overseas territories)

Deeptech The scientific foundation of France's technological sovereignty

Deeptech* turns the fruits of French research into industrial applications, from healthcare to security. It embodies France's **scientific excellence** and has become a **strategic lever for national independence** and **European competitiveness**. Indeed, it is the predominant sector in the French Tech Next40/120 program (38% of the 2026 class).

*See definition in the appendix

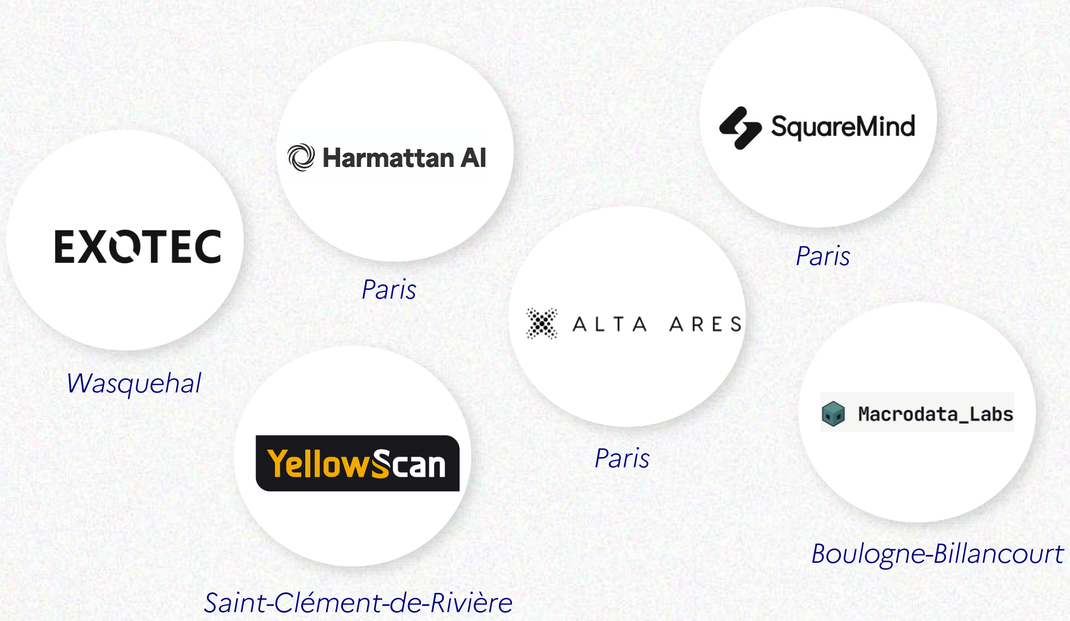


	STARTUPS	EMPLOYEES	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS	FUNDS RAISED
Deeptech	1,259	26,410	37	€2,034M
	34% / 66%	45% / 55%	46% / 54%	73% / 27%

Breakdown: % Paris region % Other regions (excluding overseas territories)

Robotics Solutions for tomorrow's challenges

France has emerged as a **major player in global robotics**, backed by a vibrant ecosystem of startups, research labs and manufacturers. From modular to humanoid robotics, and AI-powered solutions of every kind, French players are innovating to meet **surging demand for automation** and the challenges of economic transformation, **sharpening the competitiveness of French businesses** along the way.



	STARTUPS	EMPLOYEES	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS	FUNDS RAISED
Robotics	483	11,187	11	€288M
	28% / 72%	35% / 65%	64% / 36%	94% / 6%

Breakdown: % Paris region % Other regions (excluding overseas territories)

Quantum France at the forefront of the next computing revolution

France is betting on quantum to build the technologies of tomorrow. Through massive R&D investment, pioneering startups and strategic partnerships, it is **securing its technological future and its sovereignty**. High-performance computing, post-quantum cryptography, ultra-precise sensors: these breakthroughs are **reshaping key sectors from** security to finance and healthcare.

Massy

Paris

Boulogne-Billancourt

Paris

Palaiseau

Grenoble

Paris

Quantum	STARTUPS	EMPLOYEES	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS	FUNDS RAISED
	34	1,344	4	€459M
	59% / 41%	77% / 23%	75% / 25%	75% / 25%

Breakdown: % Paris region % Other regions (excluding overseas territories)

Space French Tech reaches for the stars

Space startups are **building on long-standing expertise to form powerful clusters**. This new generation now spans the entire value chain: upstream, with launchers, satellites and space technologies; downstream, with connectivity, Earth observation and security solutions, therefore establishing France as a **key player in European New Space**.



	STARTUPS	EMPLOYEES	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS	FUNDS RAISED
Space	180	5,023	5	€73M
	38% / 62%	50% / 50%	20% / 80%	14% / 86%

Breakdown: % Paris region % **Other regions** (excluding overseas territories)

Greentech The engine of the green transition

Greentech has become **one of the pillars of the French ecosystem**, driven by the climate emergency. Its solutions **decarbonize industry**, **transform agriculture** and make better use of resources; therefore building a sustainable, competitive economy in which France is staking out a **pioneering role**.



	STARTUPS	EMPLOYEES	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS	FUNDS RAISED
Greentech	2,024	50,926	31	€583M
	33% / 67%	47% / 53%	58% / 42%	43% / 57%

Breakdown: % Paris region % **Other regions** (excluding overseas territories)

Healthcare The first testing ground for breakthrough technologies

French healthcare combines an **exceptional scientific heritage** with a new wave of technological innovation. From revolutionary diagnostics to cutting-edge therapies, startups are redefining medicine while **safeguarding national health sovereignty**. Several regional hubs are gaining real momentum, starting with Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, a stronghold of the pharmaceutical industry.

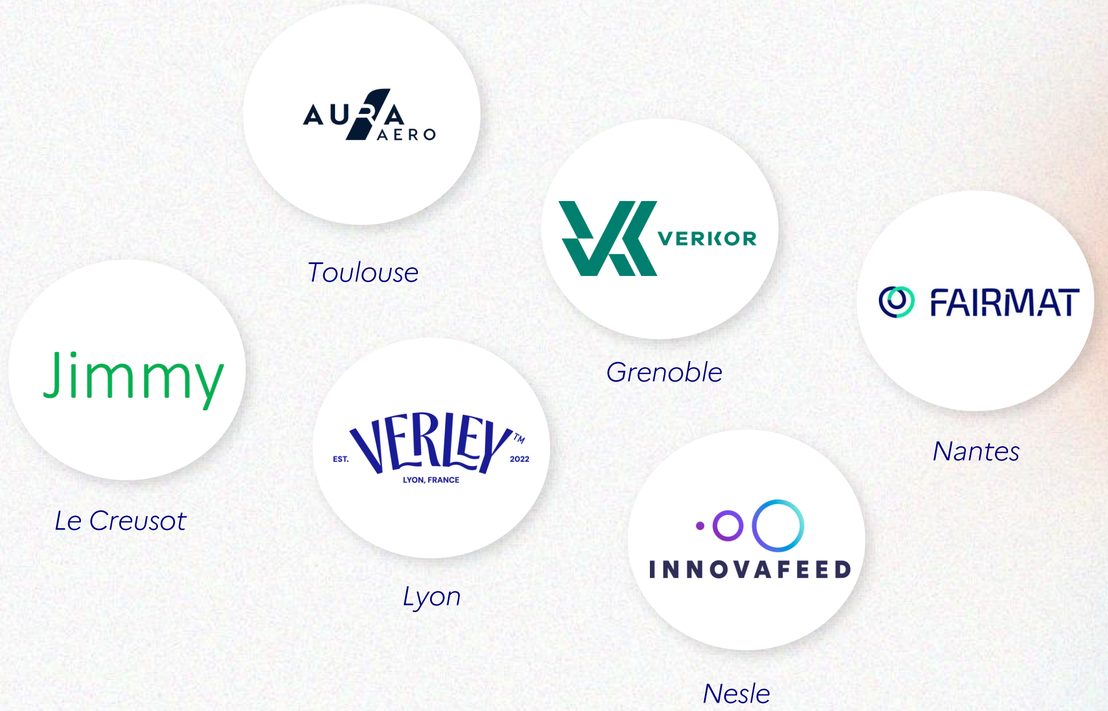


	STARTUPS	EMPLOYEES	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS	FUNDS RAISED
Healthcare	1,359	37,256	26	€1,122M
	43% / 57%	58% / 42%	69% / 31%	78% / 22%

Breakdown: % Paris region % Other regions (excluding overseas territories)

Industrial startups Made in France 2026

French industry is reinventing itself through its startups: think electric aircraft, low-carbon materials and smart factories. This transformation **blends manufacturing tradition with the green transition**, through sustainable production processes and the circular economy. Most industrial startups in fact emerge from the greentech sector (mobility, food, energy...).



	STARTUPS	EMPLOYEES	NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS	FUNDS RAISED
Industry	1,797	47,615	16	€357M
	24% / 76%	32% / 68%	37% / 63%	24% / 76%

Breakdown: % Paris region % **Other regions** (excluding overseas territories)

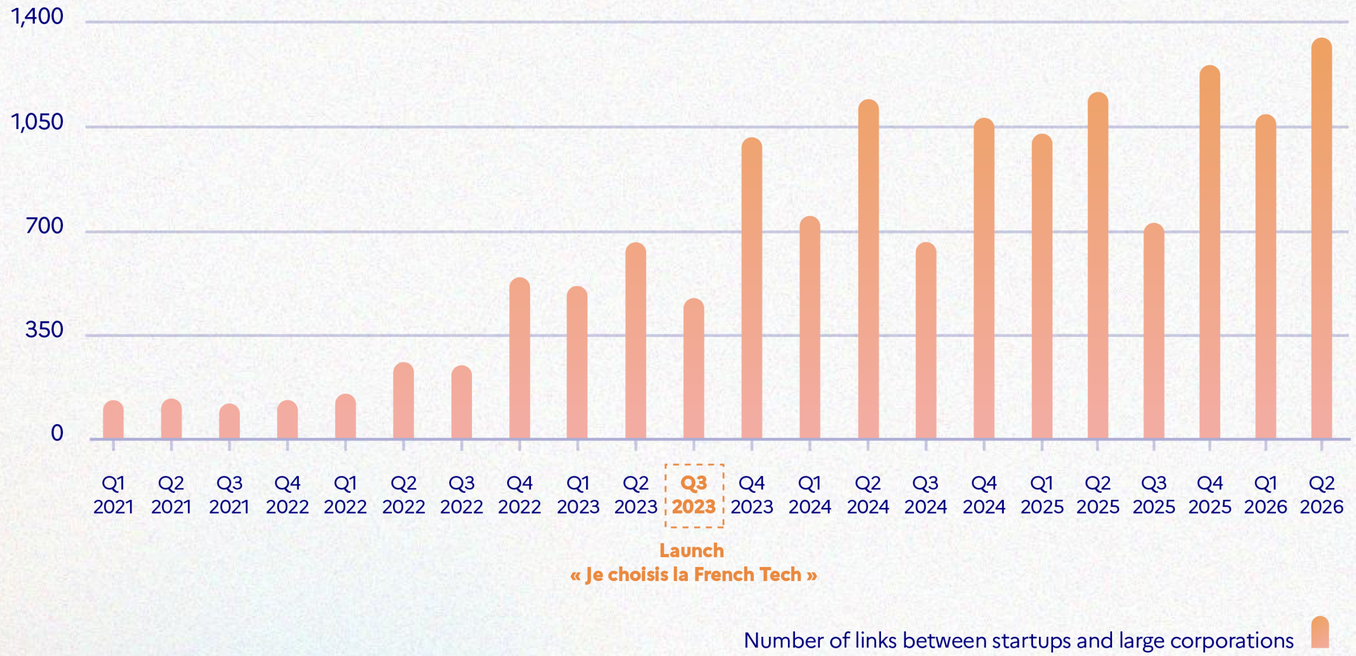
PART 3

FRENCH TECH TAKES ON THE WORLD

Corporates and startups: a winning alliance

- The relationships between CAC 40 companies and French startups has **increased 3.5 fold** since 2023

Major French corporations no longer watch the French Tech scene from the sidelines: they have become **active partners** in it. This collaboration creates a **flywheel effect**: startups gain credibility and resources, while established giants modernize their business models. Together they are reshaping entire sectors and **boosting the competitiveness of the French economy,** proof that innovation is everyone's business.



The targeted internationalization of French Tech champions

French Tech startups and scale-ups are increasingly international, with a **clear focus on transatlantic and European markets**. Through strategic footholds in North America, Europe and Asia, they are conquering global markets and **cementing France's standing as a technological leader** that exports its expertise and innovations. Indeed, the companies selected for the French Tech Next40/120 program **generate** nearly **40% of their revenue abroad**.

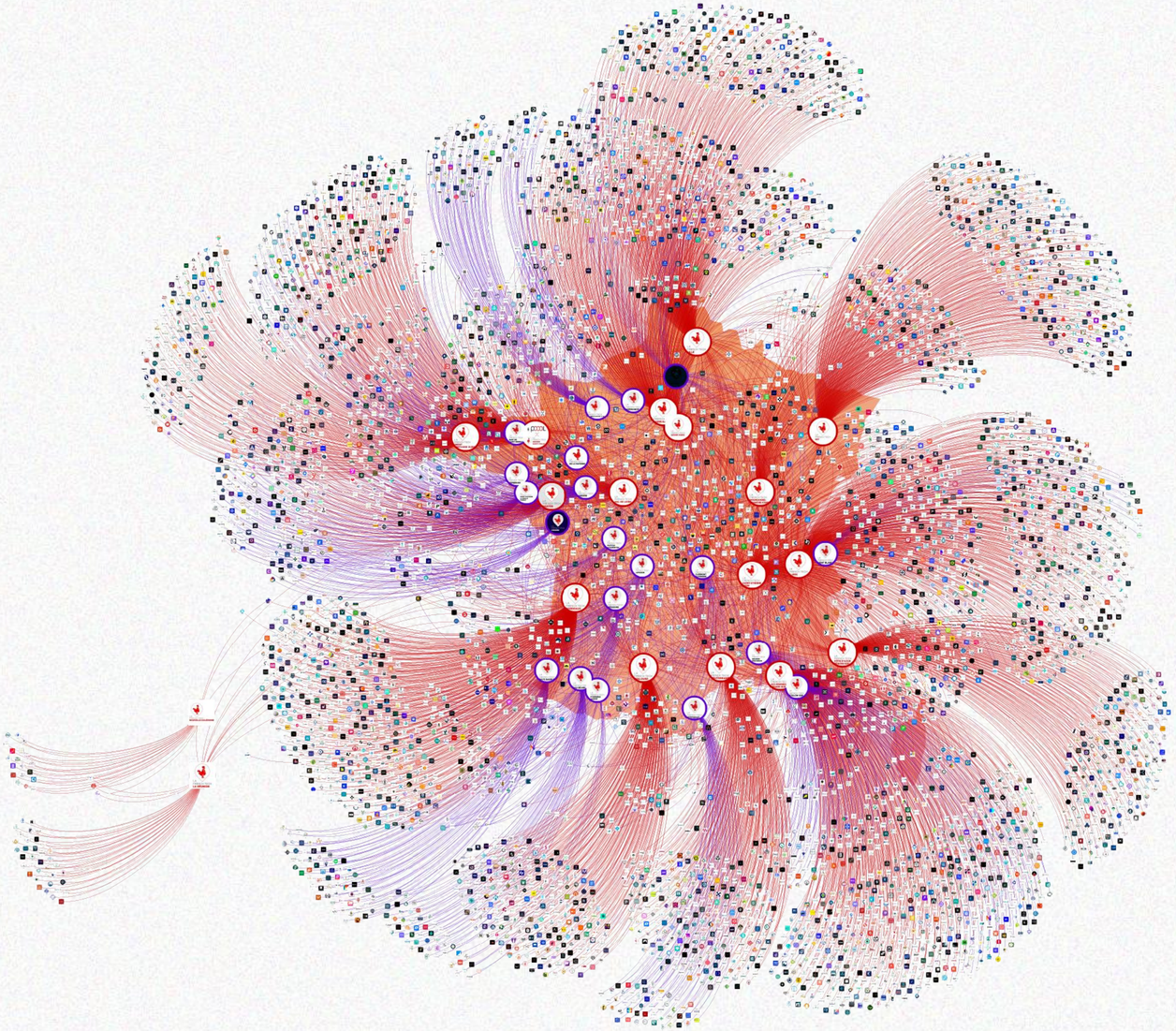
Ranking of countries of operation – French Tech Next40/120 and French Tech 2030 startups

Rank	Country	%
1	United States	46%
2	Germany	32%
3	Spain	29%
4	United Kingdom	27.5%
5	Italy	22.5%
6	Belgium	20%
7	Canada	17.5%
8	Netherlands	15.5%
9	Switzerland	12.5%
10	Japan	12%
10	Singapore	12%

19 capitals, 28 local communities: the network that powers French Tech

- **19** labelled capitals
- **28** labelled communities
- **572** volunteers
- **140** employees

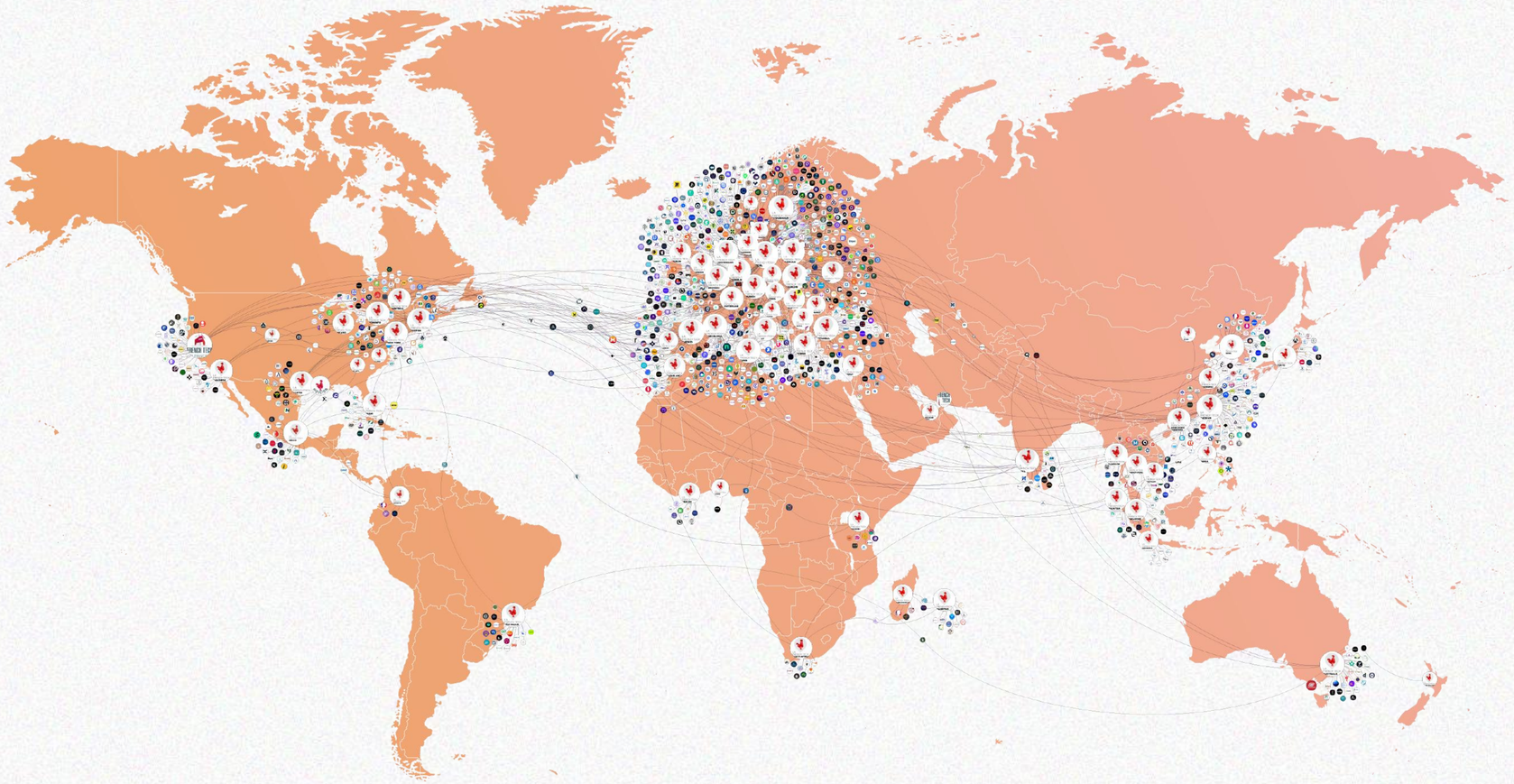
The French Tech network is a one-of-a-kind ecosystem connecting cities and regions across France. It brings innovation players together, spreads best practice and helps startups grow faster. More than a network, it is a **machine for turning ideas into real successes**, powered by the strength of France's regions.



LinkedIn connections between startups and the local French Tech network

French Tech worldwide: a network to conquer the world

With 78 accredited communities in 57 countries, French Tech keeps expanding worldwide. This network is instrumental in supporting French startups abroad, promoting French technology and **building bridges with tech hubs around the globe**.



LinkedIn connections between French startups and international communities

Appendix

Methodology

The statistical data presented in this document comes from Motherbase and from internal data collected by the French Tech Mission, including information and initiatives reported by the French Tech Capitals and Communities network.

Data collection and qualification

Motherbase is an AI solution developed by a French startup. The statistical data derived from Motherbase is built on, and extracted from, the monitoring of conversations between 2,500 "innovation catalysts" and their ecosystems. Catalysts include: public and private large enterprises, incubators and accelerators, local authorities, government ministries, funds, etc.

These "relationships" identified between catalysts and companies are derived from conversations analyzed across social networks. For a "conversation" to be taken into account, it must, on the one hand, involve the accounts of both organizations concerned and, on the other, address "business" or "innovation" topics directly or indirectly. Motherbase's algorithms have analyzed tens of millions of conversations.

Since 2020, Motherbase has detected and qualified relationships between these 2,500 entities and 200,000 organizations worldwide, including 70,000 startups.

Among these, 21,000 are French startups, of which 18,000 are classified as active.

When an entity is detected by Motherbase, its value proposition (found on its website and/or social media) is retrieved. It is then analyzed (machine learning) to qualify the entity according to:

- Type of organization: startup, SME, association, public body, large enterprise, etc.
- Sector of activity: from A for Agritech to W for Water management, including Greentech, Fintech, etc.
- Technologies mastered, such as AI, IoT, or embedded systems, etc.

All data is updated monthly, making it possible, among other things, to track the headcount evolution of each monitored entity.

Methodology

Inclusion criteria

- Startup definition: for Motherbase, a startup is an innovative company under 15 years old with fewer than 800 employees as of January 1, 2026, offering "scalable" products or services (i.e., growth not correlated with headcount).
- Companies that are members of the French Tech 120 and French Tech 2030 programs are automatically included, regardless of their size.

By cross-referencing information on hiring momentum, website update frequency or social media posting, relationships with large enterprises, etc., a momentum score is automatically calculated for each startup in the database:

A: all indicators are "green"

B: at least one warning sign

C: several converging signals suggest the entity is no longer active

Blank: assessment in progress

Excluded from the statistical analysis are: companies rated C, companies with zero employees created before 2020, and communication agencies. These excluded companies account for 11.7% of the total number of companies identified and represent 1% of employment.

Analysis and updates

Motherbase relies on human analysis of samples of organizations within the database, which serve as labeled training sets for the solution's machine learning algorithms. These samples are regularly retrained to limit model drift.

TOTAL RAW DATA (INCLUDING OVERSEA TERRITORIES + FRENCH TECH 120)				
Indicator	Startup	%	Employees	%
A+	543	3 %	64,099	14 %
A	12,789	65 %	359,546	80 %
B	4,235	22 %	20,472	5 %
C	1,397	7 %	2,941	1 %
Évolution en cours	602	3 %	2,603	0 %
Total	**19,566**		**449,661**	

DATA PROCESSED				
Indicator	Startup	%	Employees	%
A+	621	3 %	59,796	13 %
A	12,666	62 %	375,807	82 %
B	4,251	21 %	16,621	4 %
Évolution en cours	516	3 %	1,434	0,3 %
Total	**18,121**		**453,658**	

Methodology

Funding stages

Each transaction is classified as Pre-Seed, Seed, Series A, B, C... based on reference thresholds (amount, company maturity), independently of the commercial label announced by the company or reported in the press.

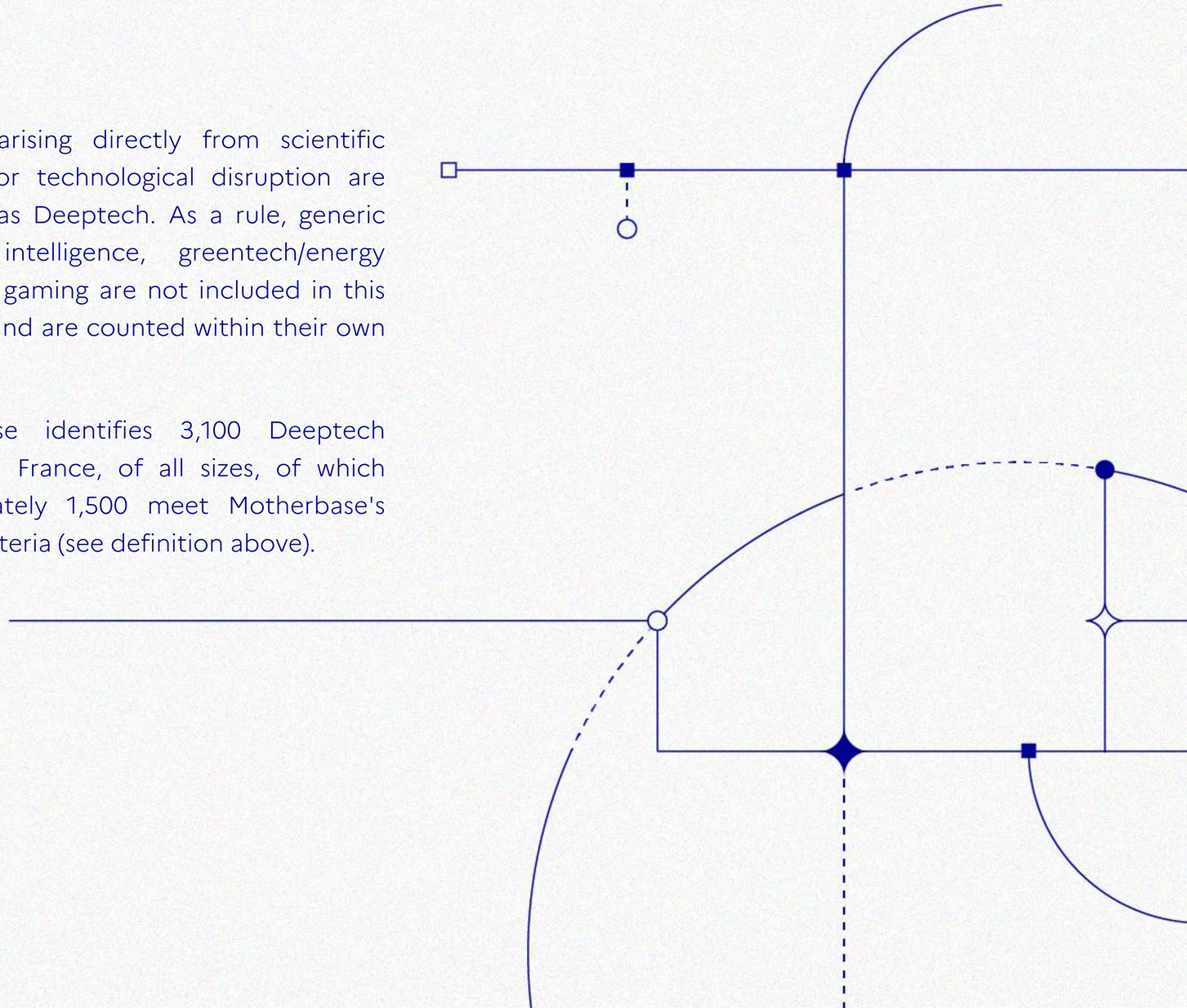
Fundraising and post-IPO financing are not included in these figures.

Example: AMI Labs' €890M fundraising round (March 2026), presented as a Seed round, is classified as Series C, D, or E in the Panorama given its amount.

Reference thresholds source: Les Echos Entrepreneurs, "Fundraising: What do Seed, LBO, Series A, B, C mean?"

Deeptech

- Startups arising directly from scientific research or technological disruption are classified as Deeptech. As a rule, generic artificial intelligence, greentech/energy tech, and gaming are not included in this category and are counted within their own verticals.
- Motherbase identifies 3,100 Deeptech entities in France, of all sizes, of which approximately 1,500 meet Motherbase's startup criteria (see definition above).



Methodolgy

Employment barometer

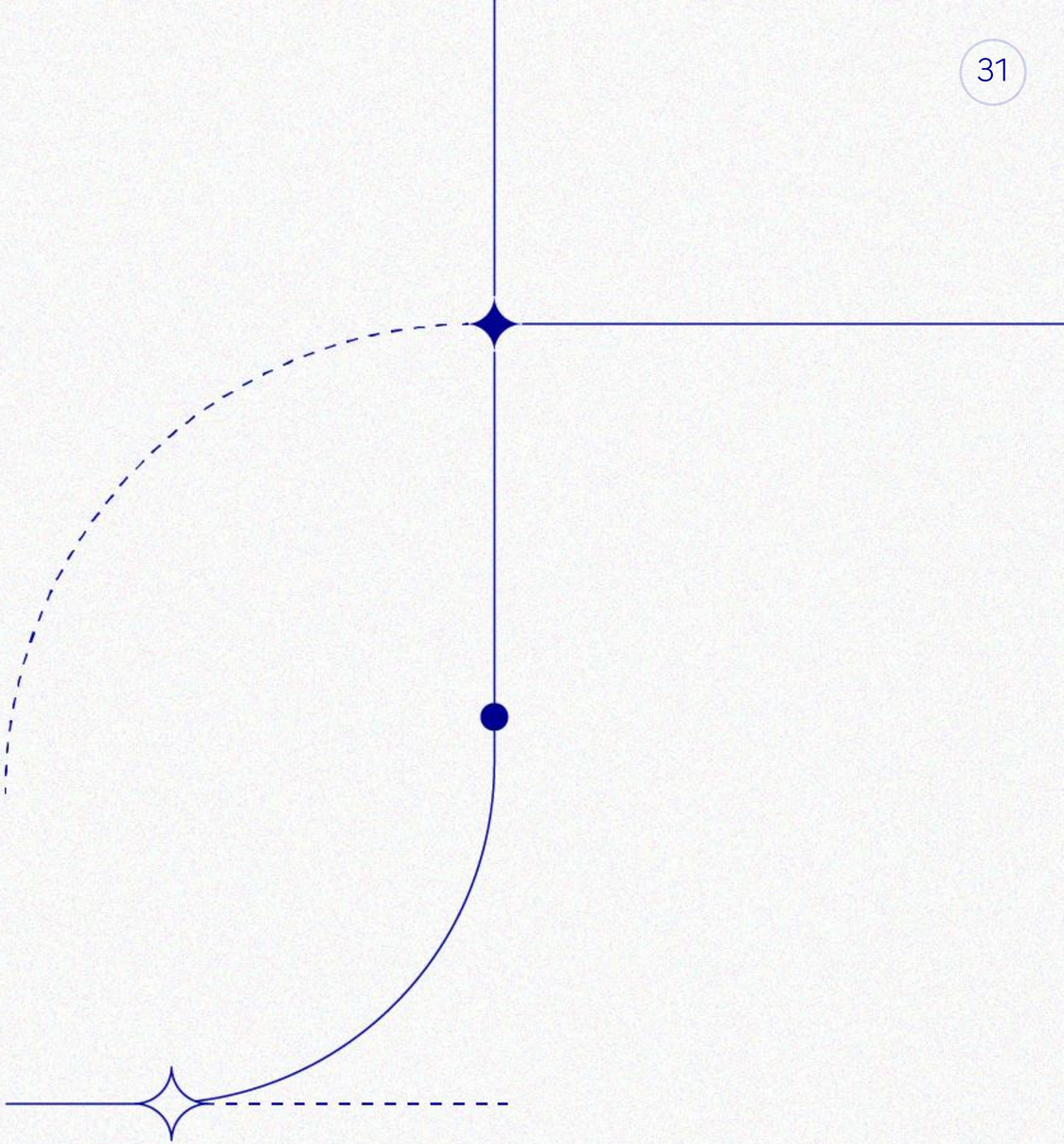
The startup employment barometer in France is based on AI analysis of a sample of approximately 8,000 French startups conducted in August 2026.

Each month, jobs created and eliminated by each startup in the sample are counted (based on employee statements on professional networks).

Each startup is classified by AI according to its field of activity, the technologies it masters, and its location.

This barometer is based on a constant sample: it therefore takes into account neither startup creations nor closures over a calendar year. Companies that disappear are removed from the sample, and data is recalculated each month across the entire period.

The data presented is limited to the sample and makes it possible to observe employment trends across a broad sample of French startups. It covers direct employment only.



Acknowledgements

This 2026 Panorama owes much to the following work and contributions:

- **Guillaume Buffet from Motherbase** – for the data collection, that made this Panorama possible
- **The Capitals and Communities of the French Tech network** – for reporting information and examples of standout startups across the territorie

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