La FRENCH TECH

Montpellier
Méditerranée
Métropole
Mayor of Montpellier

MONTPELLIER
FRENCH TECH

montpellier-frenchtech.com

Philippe SAUREL
President of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole
Mayor of Montpellier

The innovation engine

Support for innovation is central to the development policy implemented by Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole. The success of our Business and Innovation Centre (BIC) is one testimonial: ranked by the UBI Global index as one of the top 10 best incubators worldwide, the BIC has assisted the creation of more than 600 startups over the past 30 years. These companies include some real stars. 13 of them were awarded the French Tech Pass in the past two years, placing the Montpellier area in second place nationwide, just after Paris. This vitality now spans multiple sectors: Montpellier obtained the creation of 7 thematic French Tech networks in 2016, the highest number attributed to any single French Tech metropolis. Entrepreneurs, we will be by your side when you act boldly!

Chantal Marion
In charge of economic development, higher education and research, innovation, international affairs, and artisanship

Succeeding together

When Montpellier joined the top French Tech metropolises in late 2014, it gave our innovation ecosystem some of the exposure it was missing. However, it did not come as a surprise to those who know the area. For the past 30 years, local public authorities have supported the creation of innovative companies and have been dedicated to promoting our main resource: brainpower. The strength of the Montpellier area research and training community, the vitality of startups within the territory, and the involvement of major groups in local dynamics have progressively enabled the emergence of a complete, dense, and high-performance innovation ecosystem. The effort we have undertaken together is firmly based on participation, with entrepreneurs at the heart of the action. Montpellier Métropole provides them with support and acts as a catalyst for initiatives. We will all win by joining our forces!

Philippe Saurel
President of Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole
Mayor of the City of Montpellier

7 PILLARS OF EXCELLENCE
FOR REINFORCEMENT

THE TERRITORY'S HEALTH OUTREACH
THE LIFESTYLE METROPOLIS

One of the world's oldest medical schools, a strong university hospital, startups with an international outlook and the creation of Montpellier Health Capital project.

AGROECOLOGY AND FOOD
THE SUSTAINABLE METROPOLIS

An agronomic research cluster with global reach. Preserving the farming sector as a lever for economic development and catalyst for farmer-to-consumer cycles.

DIGITAL
THE SMART METROPOLIS

A French Tech-certified ecosystem, world leaders, a support mechanism recognized internationally for creating innovative companies.

COMMERCE AND ARTISANSHIP
THE LOCAL METROPOLIS

A revitalized downtown area, outlying commercial zones redesigned for a human-sized economy.

ECONOMIC, TOURIST, AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT
THE DESIRABLE METROPOLIS

A Conference Center and Arena among the best in France, tourist policy reaching from the coastline to the back-country, a network of 20 business parks.

CULTURE, HERITAGE, AND UNIVERSITY
THE RADIANT METROPOLIS

A city punctuated by student life, a historical center rich with heritage treasures, two opera houses, contemporary works created by world-renowned architects.

TRANSPORTATION AND MOBILITY
THE INTERCONNECTED METROPOLIS

Four tramway lines, a direct TGV train line to Paris and Barcelona, two highways, an international airport.

2,000+ COMPANIES

100 MILLION EUROS
IN FUNDS RAISED IN 2016

1 FLAGSHIP BUILDING
3 160 SQ. M.

#1 TERRITORY
in terms of job creation within startups *(Les Echos)*

7 THEMATIC NETWORKS

#1 METROPOLIS
for the number of French Tech Passes, after Paris

FRENCH TECH: DEFINITION

"FRENCH TECH" REFERS TO ALL THE PEOPLE WORKING FOR OR WITH FRENCH STARTUPS, IN FRANCE OR ABROAD. THE FRENCH TECH ECOSYSTEM IS PRIMARILY COMPRISED OF ENTREPRENEURS, ALONG WITH INVESTORS, ENGINEERS, DESIGNERS, DEVELOPERS, MAJOR GROUPS, ASSOCIATIONS, MEDIA, PUBLIC AUTHORITIES, RESEARCH INSTITUTES... ALL THE PLAYERS WHO ARE INVOLVED BOTH IN STARTUPS' GROWTH AND THEIR INTERNATIONAL PROMOTION.

3 ACTION LEVERS

UNITY
An attractiveness platform to promote French Tech internationally (budget: 15 M€).
French Tech Hubs:
French Tech communities certified abroad.
French Tech Ticket:
A welcome pack for foreign entrepreneurs.

ACCELERATION
A Conference Center and Arena among the best in France, tourist policy reaching from the coastline to the back-country, a network of 20 business parks.

PROMOTION
An investment fund with 200 M€ for private startup accelerators, managed by Bpifrance.
French Tech Endowment:
Seed capital for launching startups, managed by Bpifrance.
French Tech Pass:
A premium offer for companies undergoing hyper-growth.

Montpellier French Tech:
Governance and orientation
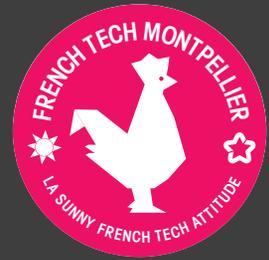
FRENCH TECH COUNCIL

The emphasis on French Tech Montpellier governance is based on a principle of equity and transparency. The council's 28 seats are shared by startups, schools, universities, major groups, investors, public authorities, and more. Each voice carries equal weight, whether from a startup or a national-level establishment. Based on a flexible structure, the French Tech Council meets once per quarter. Its mission is to drive actions and report ideas. The Council comprises three commissions, one for each French Tech Mission axis: Unity, Acceleration, and Promotion. Each commission is led by two mentors and includes one or more workgroups.

THREE KEY AXES

• ACCELERATION

In addition to the **Business & Innovation Center (BIC)**, the startup incubator managed by Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole, several other structures for accelerating private initiative recently emerged in Montpellier. Examples include the **Start2You** collaborative program, **XLR Capital** and **Sprint**, the first regional derivative of the **Numa** network, plus the **Dell for Entrepreneurs** program launched by Dell Montpellier. Simultaneously, the **In vivo** group launched an **agro-digital studio** in Montpellier destined to serve as an incubator, whereas Crédit Agricole du Languedoc will open an 1,800 sq. meter innovation space called **Le Village by CA** to accelerate post-incubation startups.

The **BigUp 4 Startup** event also emerged from within the Montpellier French Tech sphere, bringing together local companies and innovation directors from national groups. After two successful editions, the formula has inspired other French metropolises. Other original local initiatives include: **Xtrem Up**, an event that combines entrepreneurship and extreme sports; and **Open Cité**, a program led by the State and CDC to unite French Tech and city policy.

• PROMOTION

French Tech helps promote international growth for startups in the Montpellier area, while highlighting local expertise. In 2016, entrepreneurs organized **Startup Lycée**, a competition for startups at a French high school in San Francisco. Missions abroad, such as **StartUpXChange** in Austin, Texas, are organized regularly, and a partnership agreement was signed with **Montreal French Tech Hub** to make it easier for Montpellier startups to get settled in Montreal, as well as to welcome Canadian companies in Montpellier. Montpellier BIC, a French Tech Ticket partner, will welcome two international project leaders for one year starting in 2017.

• UNITY

French Tech now has its own meeting place, the **Montpellier French Tech flagship building**, located in the former City of Montpellier town hall, just a few steps away from the central Place de la Comédie. Innovation stakeholders can go there to meet, exchange ideas and participate in events. The building also hosts companies in their high-growth phase.

MEMBER OF
7 THEMATIC NETWORKS

La FRENCH TECH

The goal is to provide structure for sector ecosystems to favor startup growth and help tomorrow's mid-sized companies get off to a good start. Of France's 13 French Tech metropolises, Montpellier is the one that was awarded the highest number of thematic networks. This comes as recognition for the diversity of the territory's expertise.

THE HEART OF WORLDWIDE AGRONOMIC RESEARCH

At Agropolis International, Montpellier hosts the largest scientific community in the world for farming, food, biodiversity, and the environment, with over 2,700 researchers and teachers. This fertile ground led to the emergence of vigorous young upstarts such as SMAG (providing web solutions for farming) and ITK (creating decision-making tools for viticulture). Since 2011, the presence of the GCRAI (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) has reinforced Montpellier's position as the worldwide capital for agronomic research. Montpellier is also home to the Qualiméditerranée competitiveness cluster, focusing on sustainable agro-technologies.

#FoodTech

THE FUTURE OF PAYMENT

Since the 2000s, Montpellier has positioned itself as an innovative territory in the field of Fintech (financial technology), which includes payment methods, credits-loans, merchant banking, insurance, and more. Numerous startups can be found in each of these sectors. This local energy leverages a university cluster and recognized research work, producing high-level training in finance, computer science, management, law, and marketing.

#FinTech

THE CONNECTED OBJECT REVOLUTION

A rich and dynamic ecosystem has bred several Internet of Things (IoT) champions in Montpellier, including AwoX, OCEASOFT, and Coronis. These entities are united by the Media Cloud Interactivity college, within the regional FrenchSouth.digital association. This sector leverages cutting-edge training centers, such as Epitech and Polytech, and two renowned laboratories: LIRMM (computer science, robotics, and microelectronics) and IES (system electronics).

#IOT #Manufacturing

HEALTH IN OUR GENES

Home to one of the western world's oldest medical schools still in activity, Montpellier is devoted to highlighting, on an international level, a sector that is rich with advantages such as a strong university hospital (CHU), high-level research centers, world-class groups including Sanofi, Bio-Rad, Horiba Medical, and Bausch+Lomb, innovative SMEs, and the Eurobiomed competitiveness cluster.

#HealthTech
BioTech - MedTech - E-health

VIDEO GAMES AND 3D ANIMATION

After Paris, Montpellier is the French territory with the most video game companies, notably Ubisoft. The metropolis is also positioned in the animation and special effects sector, offering a range of internationally recognized training organizations, including Esma, and ArtFx, and Studio M.

#EdTech #Entertainment

MONTPELLIER ON THE PODIUM

Ranked by the magazine L'Equipe as the second-leading city in France for Sports, after Paris, Montpellier shines as an experimental area in the sports sector. The territory features a major university cluster and benefits from the presence of EuroMov, the European research center for human movement. The territory, which attracted Asics, the world's fourth-largest sporting goods manufacturer, is also home to many innovative startups and SMEs. Montpellier hosts the FISE event every year, the largest extreme sports festival in the world.

#Sports

DIGITAL SECURITY ISSUES

Montpellier dove into the digital security field in 2003, with the creation of CLUSIR-LR, the Languedoc-Roussillon Regional Club for Information Security. Momentum in this sector also leverages the presence of laboratories dedicated to cybersecurity, such as the SECNUM platform. In terms of education, Université de Montpellier was the first French university to offer a degree specializing in cybercriminality and information system security.

#Security #Privacy

French Tech
in action!

2007
BIC DESIGNATED AS WORLDWIDE INCUBATOR OF THE YEAR

1965
NEW IBM PLANT

1987
CREATION OF MONTPELLIER MÉDITERRANÉE MÉTROPOLE **BIC**

1993
NEW DELL SITE IN THE EURÊKA BUSINESS DISTRICT

2014
FRENCH TECH CERTIFICATION AWARDED

INVESTMENT

2016
100 M€ raised

2015
90 M€ raised, up +80% from 2014

2014
62 M€ raised
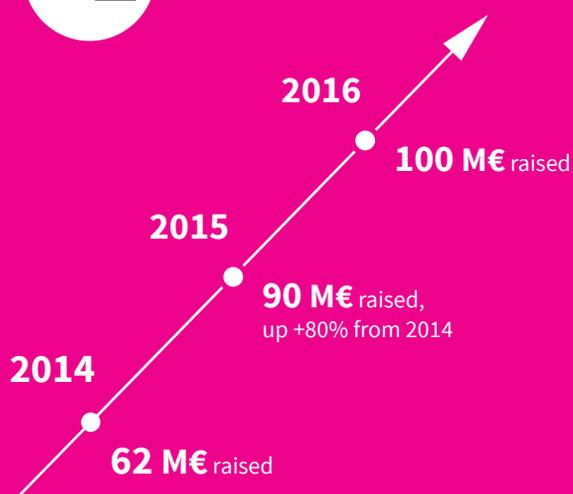
MONTPELLIER EVENTS

Favoring entrepreneurship in underprivileged neighborhoods

Entrepreneurship and extreme sports

Sharing experience internationally

A week of digital events in Montpellier

International gathering for digital stakeholders

Competition for startups using data made available by major groups

Encounters between entrepreneurs and project leaders in the French Tech tramway

2015

MONTPELLIER BIC AMONG WORLD'S TOP 10 INCUBATORS

1ST EDITION OF
BIGUP 4 STARTUP

MONTPELLIER,
REGIONAL FRENCH TECH PASS OPERATOR

2016

RENEWAL OF **FRENCH TECH LABEL AND EXTENSION OF FRENCH TECH PASS TO OTHER ACTIVITY SECTORS**

BIC PARTNER FOR FRENCH TECH TICKET

ATTRIBUTION OF **7 THEMATIC NETWORKS**

2ND EDITION OF **BIGUP 4 STARTUP** AND NATIONAL DEPLOYMENT

#1 TERRITORY IN NUMBER OF **FRENCH TECH PASSES**

2017

BIC CELEBRATES ITS 30 YEARS!

3RD EDITION OF **REGIONAL BIGUP 4 STARTUP**

BIC WELCOMES **FRENCH TECH TICKET LAUREATES**

INAUGURATION OF **MONTPELLIER FRENCH TECH FLAGSHIP BUILDING**

2020

COMPLETION OF FLAGSHIP BUILDING
IN THE FUTURE CAMBACÉRÈS DISTRICT NEAR THE FUTURE TGV TRAIN STATION

2015-2017 ACCELERATORS

Assistance from experienced entrepreneurs

XLR capital

Regional accelerator in Numa network

SPRINT MONTPELLIER

Created by Dell to accelerate growth for up-and-coming companies

DELLEMC

Open innovation spaces created by Crédit Agricole

LE VILLAGE
Coopérer pour innover

Collaboration-based acceleration program

[ST▲RT]2you

Cooperative farming group

IN VIVO

DIGITAL SCHOOLS

UP TO
Project led by Dell Montpellier, Face Hérault, and Montpellier Méditerranée Métropole, and hosted at Montpellier French Tech building

NOUAS
Digital training, from maintenance to new technology development

PASSERELLES CO-OP PRODUCTION COMPANY
Training and assistance for job seekers in digital professions

Our publications
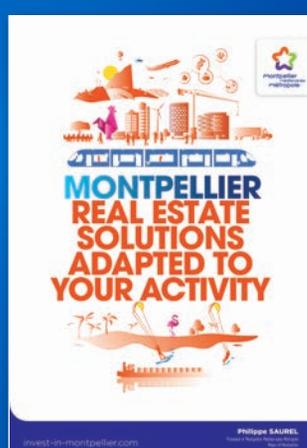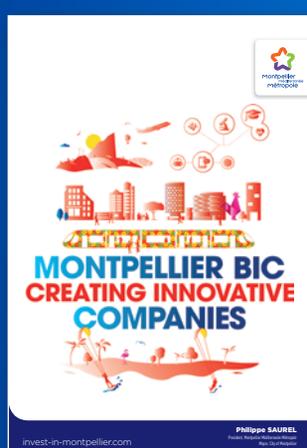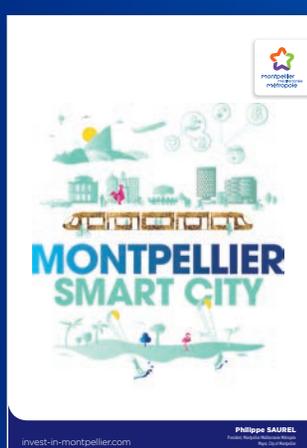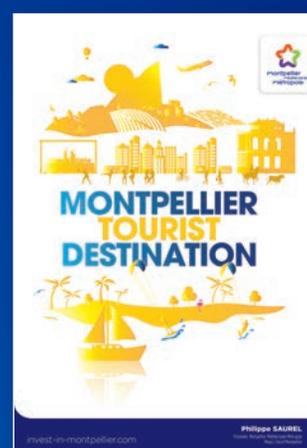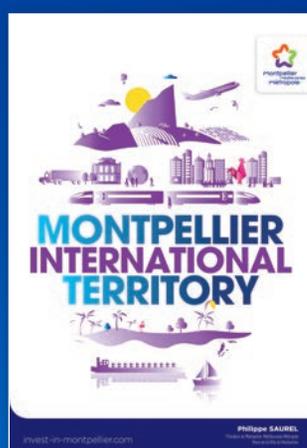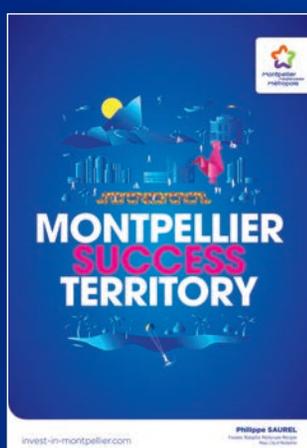
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FRENCH TECH MONTPELLIER — LA SUNNY FRENCH TECH ATTITUDE

La FRENCH TECH

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