EN ROUTE TO THE FUTURE
LA FRENCH TECH AT WEB SUMMIT 2015
DUBLIN, NOVEMBER 3-5, 2015
France is undergoing a start-up renaissance driven by a new generation of entrepreneurs, investors, engineers, designers, and other talented people. It’s a new Startup Republic, home to vibrant tech hubs and a hotbed of talent, impregnated with a strong entrepreneurial culture.

The name of this movement is “LA FRENCH TECH”, a banner shared by French startups and the French government which supports them. Launched in 2013, the €200 million initiative supports French startups and places them under a single and powerful brand, both in France and abroad.

In 2015, Business France was given the responsibility to promote the French Tech brand and initiative internationally. This means showing the world that not only is France an innovation hotspot, but that it is also going through a deep cultural and mentality change, making it more startup friendly than ever.

On top of featuring several examples of some of France’s most promising startups (which you can meet at the Web Summit), this catalogue is meant to break the myth of a closed-to-foreign investment country of bureaucrats where innovation is stifled. France has always celebrated creativity, but in the past we were too shy about marketing and developing our ideas. Today, innovation is being unshackled from theory and encouraged to grow in the real world. While our English may still sound very French (and even that is changing!), we do speak the language of business and our startup communities are thriving. We did invent the word entrepreneur after all…

French startups report ever more sources of support, both from ordinary people who are financing their projects, to the championing by government of the sector. Crowdfunding is becoming so popular it is almost fashionable: the amount raised doubled in a year from €65 million in the first half of 2014 to €133 million in the same period this year. In the meantime, the number of French lenders or donors had grown from 1 million people to 1.75 million. The French government has played a key role in the growth of crowdfunding by leading a committed reform that created a regulatory framework every bit as flexible as in the United States and is breaking the monopoly of banks.

Meanwhile, some of France’s biggest companies, Vinci, Axa, Orange, BNP Paribas, Altran or La Poste have significantly increased their role in open innovation, helping startups getting to the next stage as illustrated in this catalogue.

This is just a start. There is still much we can do to unleash the full potential of French creativity, but the ambition and talent are there, waiting to be unleashed as this silent revolution gathers pace. John Chambers, CEO of Cisco understands this when he says France is leading the digital revolution in Europe. If you don’t believe him, the following stories will convince you for sure!
ENTREPRENEUR IS A FRENCH WORD

10 REASONS TO SHOUT ABOUT FRENCH CROWDFUNDING

TALKING ABOUT FRENCH CROWDFUNDING WITH AXELLE TESSANDIER

CORPORATE INNOVATION MACHINES

THE OPEN INNOVATION INSTITUTE

SUCCESS STORIES

3D SOUND LABS

DJIT

GIROPTIC

LIMA

OPTINVENT

PRYNT

FRANCE IS AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF INNOVATION
ENTREPRENEUR IS A FRENCH WORD

France has a track record in disruptive technology, from the Minitel service, a precursor to the internet, to the SIM card.

Today’s startups bathe in the same pools of creativity and innovative research, and enjoy world-class digital infrastructure and a supportive business environment.

For some years now, the French Tech ecosystem has shown an incredible dynamism, driven by a new generation of entrepreneurs, investors, engineers, designers, and other talented people. France is a new start-up Republic, home of vibrant tech hubs and talents impregnated with a strong entrepreneurial culture. The name of this movement is “LA FRENCH TECH”, a shared brand by French startup and by the French government which supports them. Our well-known tech savvy and talented engineers have turned into business oriented entrepreneurs who think globally and dream big (in English!)

While startups make headlines abroad, in France, new generation of charismatic entrepreneurs are inspiring others to follow their lead. Belying its reputation as a nation of bureaucrats, now 37% of all French people say they want to start their own business (Source ViaVoice, October 2014).

The rest of the world is starting to take note. At the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas this year, the French delegation created quite a buzz.

France is the next big thing. — John Chambers declares in Fortune.

France Is Absolutely Crushing It at CES. — By Yahoo’s Technology Editor Jason Gilbert, who predicted “The winner of CES will be France.”

“The Economist noted... an exceptionally strong French presence!” — At the CES, while Bloomberg wrote about French business being “out in force.”

Role models include:

- **Xavier Niel** managed to build a telecommunication and internet empire with his company Iliad which is valued at 14 billion dollars. Free, Iliad’s telecommunication’s subsidiary has 15 million subscribers and a 5 billion dollar annual revenue. He’s invested in a software-writing school, called 42 – a homage to Douglas Adam’s “The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy,” and Halle Freyssinet, destined to become the largest incubator in the world.

- **Jean Baptiste Rudelle**. A seasoned entrepreneur, in 2005 he co-founded Criteo SA, now the world’s foremost digital performance advertising company. Mr Rudelle remains CEO, overseeing Criteo’s recent IPO on NASDAQ and 1.7 billion dollar valuation. Previously, he was the founder and CEO of K-Mobile Kiwee, one of the leaders in the emerging mobile content market, acquired by American Greetings Interactive in 2004.

- **Jacques Antoine Granjon** launched vente-privee.com in Europe in 2001, when e-commerce had barely started. The website, which pioneered ‘flash-sales,’ has enjoyed phenomenal success and is now available in 8 European countries (France, the UK, the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Italy, Belgium and Austria) and the United States, in partnership with American Express.

- **Loïc Le Meur** is a serial entrepreneur based in San Francisco. Loïc cofounded the #1 European tech event **LeWeb**. Each year in Paris, LeWeb brings together in Paris 3,500 entrepreneurs, brands, geeks, investors and press from 76 countries.
10 REASONS TO SHOUT ABOUT FRENCH CROWDFUNDING

Crowdfunding is so popular in France it is becoming fashionable.

The French government has played a key role in the growth of crowdfunding, creating a regulatory framework that is every bit as flexible as in the United States.

Of course the most important actors are the startups and the French public who support them.

Here, we show 10 reasons to shout about Crowdfunding in France.

1. France ranks No. 2 in Europe

In 2014, online alternative finance platforms in France cumulatively delivered €154m worth of funding to French individuals and businesses. France ranked second place in Europe behind the UK (€2,337m), but ahead of Germany (€140m), Sweden (€107m), the Netherlands (€78m) and Spain (€62m).

(Source: The European Alternative Finance Benchmarking Report, EY and Cambridge University)

2. A Blooming Market

The French crowdfunding market is blossoming. There are over 70 different platforms for raising finance to choose from, up from only two in 2008. In the first half of 2015, French companies raised €133 million through crowdfunding. That’s more than double the €66 million obtained in the first half of 2014.

(Source: Baromètre du CrowdFunding du Financement Participatif France)

3. Support from Millions of French People

Crowdfunding is popular. In the first half of 2015, 1.75 million French people supported a crowdfunding platform, up from 1 million people a year earlier. Average contributions range from €3,876 for capital investment, €63 in donations, and €338 euros for remunerated loans.

(Source: Baromètre du CrowdFunding du Financement Participatif France)

4. Government Support

The French government was quick to recognise the importance of crowdfunding. In 2014, it proposed a regulatory framework to facilitate the growth of crowdfunding in France while protecting the savings of contributors.

5. A Regulatory Framework as Flexible as in the United States

The rules and regulations for equity crowdfunding and peer-to-peer lending were established in Oct 2014 by French regulators, the AMF and the ACPR, working with French crowdfunding associations AFIP and FPF. These create a framework for crowdfunding platforms to operate and led to the creation of 20 new peer-to-peer lending platforms between Oct 2014 and Jan 2015.

(Source: Source EY Benchmarking Report 2015)

6. A System You Can Trust

Since 2014, French law allows for loans of one million euros on a crowdfunding platform. This covers two instances: crowdfunding intermediary (IFP) for loan platforms and advisor participative investments (CIP) for equity investment platforms. The status of IFP and CIP implies professional competence and sets rules of conduct for lending platforms leaders. In addition, the CIP ensures the quality of projects proposed by the platforms.

7. French crowdfunding leaders

French platforms are global leaders, from Ulule in film and video to KissKissBankBank in music, and WISEED in crowdequity. WISEED is France’s largest crowdfunding platform and a global pioneer in crowdequity. Since its creation in 2008, over 80 innovative WISEED projects have been funded for more than €30 million. Since its launch in October 2010, Ulule has financed 10,300 mainly film and video projects with funding of €40 million. Available in 7 languages, the platform has more than 150,000 members in 164 countries with a success rate of 65%.

8. Unleashing French creativity

For many companies, crowdfunding is also their first marketing campaign – and the French are pretty good at it. Success stories include LIMA, whose cloud storage device exceeded $1 million in crowdfunding, and PRYNT, which turns your smartphone into an instant camera. It raised $1.5 million, the most successful French crowdfunding campaign ever.

WISEED successes include online wine merchant Cavissima society, which raised €454,000 via the platform; Ecrins Therapeutics, which raised €353,000 to develop its innovative anticancer drug, ET-D5; and 3D-Bioprinting Expert Poietis which raised more than €600,000.

9. More Choice for Startups

Although equity-based crowdfunding is small in comparison with the total European early stage investment market (estimated to be worth €7.5bn in 2013), it is growing fast, with a 116% average growth rate in the last three years. In France, four new platforms open every month.

10. An Evolving Ecosystem

Crowdfunding is no longer a niche market. The ecosystem is attracting business angels, venture capital funds, and the institutional sector who provide additional fundraising, or work with crowdfunding operators as a shareholder or in the selection of projects.

sector, 70, 000 « KissBankers » from 174 countries have financed 8,900 projects with €38 million since March 2010.
You helped Kickstarter set up in France this year. Why France?
Before the launch it was possible for French people to fund projects elsewhere and for French companies to raise money through Kickstarter, just not with a French bank account.
The crowdfunding community in France was already strong.
There were a lot of French backers supporting not just French projects – but all over the world.
“Crowdfunding is well known and well accepted in France – and this is just the beginning! The idea is super empowering and this is what France needs. We have the ideas, the scientists, the creativity, the artistic sense. And now there is a way to make a project happen without asking the traditional intermediaries. That’s the power of This Revolution. It allows you to break down the barriers to find your potential community. Crowdfunding is a way of saying ‘I believe in myself and this project’ – and making it happen.
“The idea itself is not new. It’s an evolution of patronage, which is a French word that basically means supporting the idea of someone else. Crowdfunding is using technology to bring the idea to another level.

How was the launch received?
The welcome that I had was overwhelming. My job was to get deep into the various ecosystems through the accelerators, incubators and start-uppers in the tech, scientific and artistic communities. Part of the attraction of Kickstarter is its international reach, particularly to communities such as video gaming.
“I found lots of great minds, and huge creativity. What really struck me was all those who defy the image of France as a nation of people complaining about why things couldn’t be done or why things are difficult. What I found was people who didn’t care about all of that. People who were looking for how to make things happen.

Tell us about some of these projects.
Change is created by people, not technology. This new generation has a different mindset. They want to change the world, and they just get on and do it. I met so many people like that, it is difficult to make a choice, but a few projects that had huge success include:

Lilo, who developed an innovative way of growing fresh herbs at home, launched a campaign after Kickstarter set up in France. It was very successful: €171,296 pledged of €50,000 goal.
Another interesting campaign is SensorWake, a smell-based alarm clock to wake up happy. They raised €192,453, almost four times their €50,000 goal.
Before Kickstarter set up in France, two French companies managed to have huge success stories, without using a French bank account.
Lima, a way of storing data and making it accessible across all your devices. $1,229,074 pledged of $69,000 goal.
Prynt, an instant camera case for iPhone and Android. $1,576,011 pledged of $50,000 goal.
In France, innovation isn’t the preserve of the startup. Some of France’s largest companies are embracing open innovation, revolutionising ways of doing business by harnessing internally and externally developed ideas. It’s a win-win situation. For large companies, the startup mentality brings freshness, agility, ideas and talent. At the same time, young innovators benefit from experience and resources that can better direct and supercharge their business models.

For fruitful collaborations with startups, large corporates must bridge a huge cultural divide. Helping bring the two worlds is the Open Innovation Institute. Chief Operating Officer Stéphane Parcheminal explains.

Startups are essential in the global value chain of innovation: they bring to market ideas that were born in a lab.

JOHN BOTTI, AIRBUS GROUP CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER

France’s largest companies are participating in the French Tech movement in a variety of ways, from acquisition to incubation, encouraging entrepreneurship internally to spinning off new start-ups. Across a range of industries, collective and individual efforts are proliferating.

In aerospace, for example, Airbus set up its own corporate VC fund, Airbus Group Ventures, and an innovation centre in Silicon Valley. It has also joined forces with a number of partners, including defence and security multinational Thales and Air–France KLM, to support the Starburst Accelerator which provides office space, access to finance, mentoring and advice to startups in Paris (with separate offices in Los Angeles).

In alternative energies, Electranova Capital is a VC fund sponsored by energy giant EDF Group. It works with entrepreneurs across the globe, identifying high-growth potential in new energy and environmental technologies and helping the companies scale and grow. EDF also runs the EDF Pulse Awards to promote innovation by showcasing and supporting startups.

Insurance giant AXA has its own €200 million VC fund, AXA Strategic Ventures, and the Axa Factory accelerator for FinTech and InsurTech startups (specialised in financial and insurance technology.) Other accelerators include La Poste’s Start’inPost and L’Oreal’s Connected Beauty Incubator in Silicon Valley.

Meanwhile French startup Wynd will be at Le Web Summit fresh from raising a €7 million from Alven Capital with Orange Digital Ventures. The corporate investment will help Wynd develop its software that helps retailers powercharge revenue by connecting online and offline orders on a single platform.

The Open Innovation Institute was recently created by one of France’s top engineering schools, CentraleSupélec. What is its mission?
The relationship with large industrial groups and startups has room for improvement, and the CentraleSupélec saw the potential. Entrepreneurship is increasingly the path of choice for young graduates and the school has a long track record of supporting this growth: it opened its incubator fifteen years ago.
Together with founding members Altran (innovation consulting), Mazars (accountancy), Société Générale (banking) and Vinci (construction), and now Axa (insurance) and Up Group (luncheon vouchers), we realised that in this fast-moving world, large companies need to open their R&D activities to inspiration from outside the company structure. They want to fish for talent and innovation in the startup ecosystem, as well as learning to be more flexible and open. At the same time, association with established companies can help startups: as a source of credibility or a validation of their business model.

How do you do Open Innovation?
There are many cultural differences between startups and large groups. Take the notion of time for example. While start-ups think and act in terms of days and weeks, large groups plan in months and years. We help bridge the gap by holding masterclasses and training on a range of topics, from intellectual property to attitude to risk. We work with about 50 startups, for whom all our services are free.
Our objective is to help large groups identify Open Innovation projects and collaborate with the startup community.

The Open Innovation Institute
THE OPEN INNOVATION INSTITUTE

In France, innovation isn’t the preserve of the startup.

Some of France’s largest companies are embracing open innovation, revolutionising ways of doing business by harnessing internally and externally developed ideas.

It’s a win-win situation. For large companies, the startup mentality brings freshness, agility, ideas and talent. At the same time, young innovators benefit from experience and resources that can better direct and supercharge their business models.
360° of Sound in a Headphone

3D SOUND LABS

589 KICKSTARTER BACKERS
PLEDGED OVER $125,000

Introducing 3D Sound One, the world’s first smart 3D audio headphones. 3D SOUND LABS wanted to create the most immersive wearable sound experience, for everybody, everywhere. 3D sound is what you hear in real life. 3D Sound One headphones has created a full 360° environment with sound sources perceived as coming from any distance or direction. That means cinematic sound quality is available in the small, intimate space of the headphone, including real-time head tracking and advanced audio processing. Gaming, cinema, music and virtual reality become more realistic. This head-turning sound innovation will be demonstrated at Web Summit. Come and experience a new world of sound!"
A 360 HD camera to capture the rollercoaster of life

GIROPTIC

OVER $1.4 MILLION RAISED ON KICKSTARTER – ALMOST 10 TIMES THE INITIAL GOAL

The 360cam by GIROPTIC is the world’s first full HD 360 degree camera designed to see the world “Up, Down and All Around.” Palm-sized and egg-shaped, the 360cam records videos, takes still photos and streams real-time video over Wi-Fi from every angle. It is designed to be both lightweight and robust.

The 360cam features three 185 degree fish-eye lenses that delivers the industry’s largest field of view. Lenses are synchronized to simultaneously capture and stitch images in real time inside the camera. Built with a waterproof rating of IPX8, the versatile camera allows users to explore the aquatic world with crisp resolution. Using the proprietary underwater lens cup accessory, users can enjoy distortion-free images.

The 360cam can be universally mounted on almost any device. It features a light bulb adaptor that allows the camera to be used as a smart home accessory or a home surveillance system. Additionally, the Ethernet video streaming base can be used to stream unique footage in real-time.

The result is a camera that, with one click, doesn’t miss a thing. The company raised $1,419,068 through an impressive crowdfunding campaign with 3,916 backers. GIROPTIC will begin shipping the first cameras later this year. Catch CEO Richard Ollier at the Web Summit, where he will be speaking on a French Tech panel on Nov 4th (1:30pm to 2:15pm at the Web Summit, Media Village)

With Lima, you can build your own Cloud in seconds. Whenever you put a file in the Lima folder, it will be automatically saved on the Lima hard drive. That means all your files are available from any of your devices when you’re connected to the Internet. Coming straight from your home.

The technology means you can take all of your digital world with you without clogging up storage space on your devices. Although each file is visible, only a small fragment is stored on the device’s local storage. If you wish to consult a file offline, you can download a copy onto local storage. You can play your entire library on the go, directly streaming movies or songs without requiring local storage. Lima also works with Chromecast, Apple TV and Smart TVs so that you can watch whatever you want on any screen.

Counfonder Severin Marcombes said they turned to Kickstarter after failing to get financing the traditional way. Needing just $69,000 to begin production on their idea, they had already raised this amount in 12 hours. Their hugely successful campaign lasted two months, raising $1.2 million.

Becoming the first French startup to exceed $1 million in crowdfunding brought with it a certain recognition. “Everyone pay attention: we’ve got the founders of Lima in the house,” remarked a barman in San Francisco, on examination of their identity papers.

Reinventing how your computer, smartphone and tablet store data

LIMA

THE FIRST FRENCH STARTUP TO EXCEED $1 MILLION IN CROWDFUNDING

With Lima, you can build your own Cloud in seconds. Whenever you put a file in the Lima folder, it will be automatically saved on the Lima hard drive. That means all your files are available from any of your devices when you’re connected to the Internet. Coming straight from your home.

The technology means you can take all of your digital world with you without clogging up storage space on your devices. Although each file is visible, only a small fragment is stored on the device’s local storage. If you wish to consult a file offline, you can download a copy onto local storage. You can play your entire library on the go, directly streaming movies or songs without requiring local storage. Lima also works with Chromecast, Apple TV and Smart TVs so that you can watch whatever you want on any screen.

Counfonder Severin Marcombes said they turned to Kickstarter after failing to get financing the traditional way. Needing just $69,000 to begin production on their idea, they had already raised this amount in 12 hours. Their hugely successful campaign lasted two months, raising $1.2 million.

Becoming the first French startup to exceed $1 million in crowdfunding brought with it a certain recognition. “Everyone pay attention: we’ve got the founders of Lima in the house,” remarked a barman in San Francisco, on examination of their identity papers.
First, they set about making smart glasses better than Google. Then they invented the world’s first Smart Headphones, a brand new product category! And even as Google eyewear falls out of fashion, ORA-1 Smart Glass continue to be popular for B to B applications.

The ORA product range is capable of running a wide range of hands-free wireless applications, from GPS to messaging, and sports applications. Using patented Clear-Vu display technology for mobile augmented reality (AR) applications, the image is clearer, bigger, brighter and more power-efficient - and more cost effective.

The ORA-1 is for professional developers and enterprise customers who need a mobile computing tool. Digital information is overlaid on ORA-1 wearers’ vision, and can be seen in two modes: centered directly in your line of sight, or flipped down in your peripheral vision for “info snacking.” ORA-X models are high end audio headphones, and come with a flip down retinal projector. Both use a standard version of Android with and offer WiFi and Bluetooth connectivity. They come equipped with a front-facing camera, and rechargeable batteries.

After a successful Kickstarter campaign for the ORA-1 Smart Glass, where first models sold out, the team launched an Indiegogo campaign last month for ORA-X Android powered smart Headphones.

The entrepreneurs behind PRYNT asked one simple question: How can you get an instant copy of that selfie you just snapped? Simple: just PRYNT it. PRYNT turns your iPhone or Android into an instant camera in three easy steps.

• First, slot your smartphone into an elegantly designed PRYNT case.
• Second, shoot a picture or select an image from your phone or a social network that you wish to print.
• Finally, with just two taps, get a printed picture, instantly!

The PRYNT Case only requires special paper to work: there is no ink cartridge inside the device. A full battery allows you to print around 30 pictures and the case holds up to 10 sheets of paper at once.

But as well as printing beautiful pictures, PRYNT also brings your photos to life with short movies. A hidden video feature also means you can PRYNT videos via an app that records a short video as well, stored inside your printed photo. If you – or anyone you give it to – hold the physical photo to the phone’s camera, a play button appears on your phone. Press it to watch the video and relive the moment.

The company launched a massively successful Kickstarter campaign this year. Over 9,000 people collectively pledged more than $1.5 million to their campaign, making PRYNT the most successful French Kickstarter project ever, and only the 31st technology project to break $1 million. That community of backers is supporting them through feedback and ideas for the product launch. The crowdfunding campaign – which attracted over 30 times the initial goal - was more than just fundraising. It was also PRYNT’s first marketing campaign, and an opportunity to validate demand before manufacturing. PRYNT is now preparing a round of VC funding to close early 2016.
France is a fast-growing technology hotspot

- The Deloitte Technology Fast 500 EMEA once again ranked France top in 2014 for the fourth year running with 86 high-growth technology companies.
- It is ranked third in the Thomson Reuters Top 100 Global Innovators 2014, with seven of the world’s 100 most innovative companies or institutions.
- France is also ranked sixth in the world and second in Europe for gross domestic expenditure on research and development.

A thriving business landscape

Criteo’s recent IPO on NASDAQ and 1.7 billion dollar valuation as well as Sigfox’s 113 million dollar capital raising illustrate how dynamic and fruitful the French business landscape is.

As a matter of a fact, 1 billion dollars are invested every year in more than 700 companies, 30% of them being in the Software and internet sectors. The success of emblematic companies like Criteo and Sigfox speaks for itself. They deliver sustainable business models while establishing themselves as leaders in their respective fields. And it all started in France!

Other success stories are illustrated by high profile exits...

- Neolane was acquired by Adobe for 600 million dollars.
- Lafourchette.com was acquired by Tripadvisor for 140 million dollars.
- Webedia, allocine.fr and jeuxvideo.com were acquired by the Filmalac group for 275 million dollars.

...significant fundraisers...

- BlaBlaCar raised 100 million dollars in June 2014.
- Intersec raised between 15 and 25 million dollars in the past 12 months.

...And sustainable growth models:

- Coyote achieved 120 million dollars in sales last year.
- Archos made a 165 million dollar turnover in 2013.
Business France is the national agency supporting the international development of the French economy, responsible for fostering export growth by French businesses, as well as promoting and facilitating international investment in France. It promotes France’s companies, business image and nationwide attractiveness as an investment location, and also runs the VIE international internship program.

Founded on January 1, 2015 through a merger between UBIFRANCE and the Invest in France Agency, Business France has 1,500 personnel, both in France and in 70 countries throughout the world, who work with a network of public- and private-sector partners.

For further information, please visit:
www.businessfrance.fr
www.bonjourlafrenchtech.com

Business France
77, boulevard Saint-Jacques
75680 Paris Cedex 14 - France
Tel.: +33 1 40 73 30 00