

FRANCE: AN INNOVATIVE ECONOMY

AND A BUOYANT
COMMERCIAL ECOSYSTEM...

KEY INFO IN

10

POINTS

1

▶ A WIDELY PERCEIVED POSITIVE IMAGE

Seventy-five percent of chief executives of foreign companies surveyed by the annual TNS Sofres-IFA 2014 poll pointed to innovation and R&D operations as factors in France's attractiveness as an investment location.

2

▶ VIBRANT ACADEMIC R&D PARTNERSHIPS

The possibilities to enter into partnerships with academic research teams (76%) are particularly appreciated by foreign entrepreneurs. (TNS Sofres-IFA, 2014)

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▶ AN INNOVATION-FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT NATIONWIDE

Proximity to markets and other operations belonging to the company (77%), to France's innovation clusters (70%), and highly qualified R&D personnel (75%), as well as the amount of state aid available for R&D (65%) create an ideal environment for business growth. (TNS Sofres-IFA, 2014)

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▶ HIGH PROPORTION OF R&D PERSONNEL

With **9.2 researchers per thousand labor force** in 2011, France is ranked among the leading countries in the world. (OECD, Main Science and Technology Indicators, 2014)

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▶ HIGHLY QUALIFIED RESEARCHERS

Twelve of the 55 Fields Medals (often described as the “Nobel Prize for Mathematics”) **have been awarded to French mathematicians.** With 55% of tertiary education graduates employed in scientific or technological occupations, France is well above the EU average (47%).

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▶ TAX INCENTIVES FOR INNOVATION

Boasting not only France’s research tax credit but also its innovative new company [*jeune entreprise innovante* – JEI] status, the French tax system offers the most generous R&D tax treatment for companies in Europe.

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▶ FOREIGN INVESTMENT PROJECTS ON THE RISE

Foreign investment projects are growing rapidly in R&D, engineering and design, with **77 investment decisions recorded in 2013**, versus 58 in 2012. (IFA Annual Report 2013: Job-creating foreign investment in France, 2014)

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▶ INNOVATION CLUSTERS: BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE FRENCH ECONOMY

France’s 71 innovation clusters are attractive commercial ecosystems for foreign investors. More than 606 foreign-owned companies were members in 2012. (French government (DGE), 2014)

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▶ SOLID GOVERNMENT INNOVATION PROGRAMS

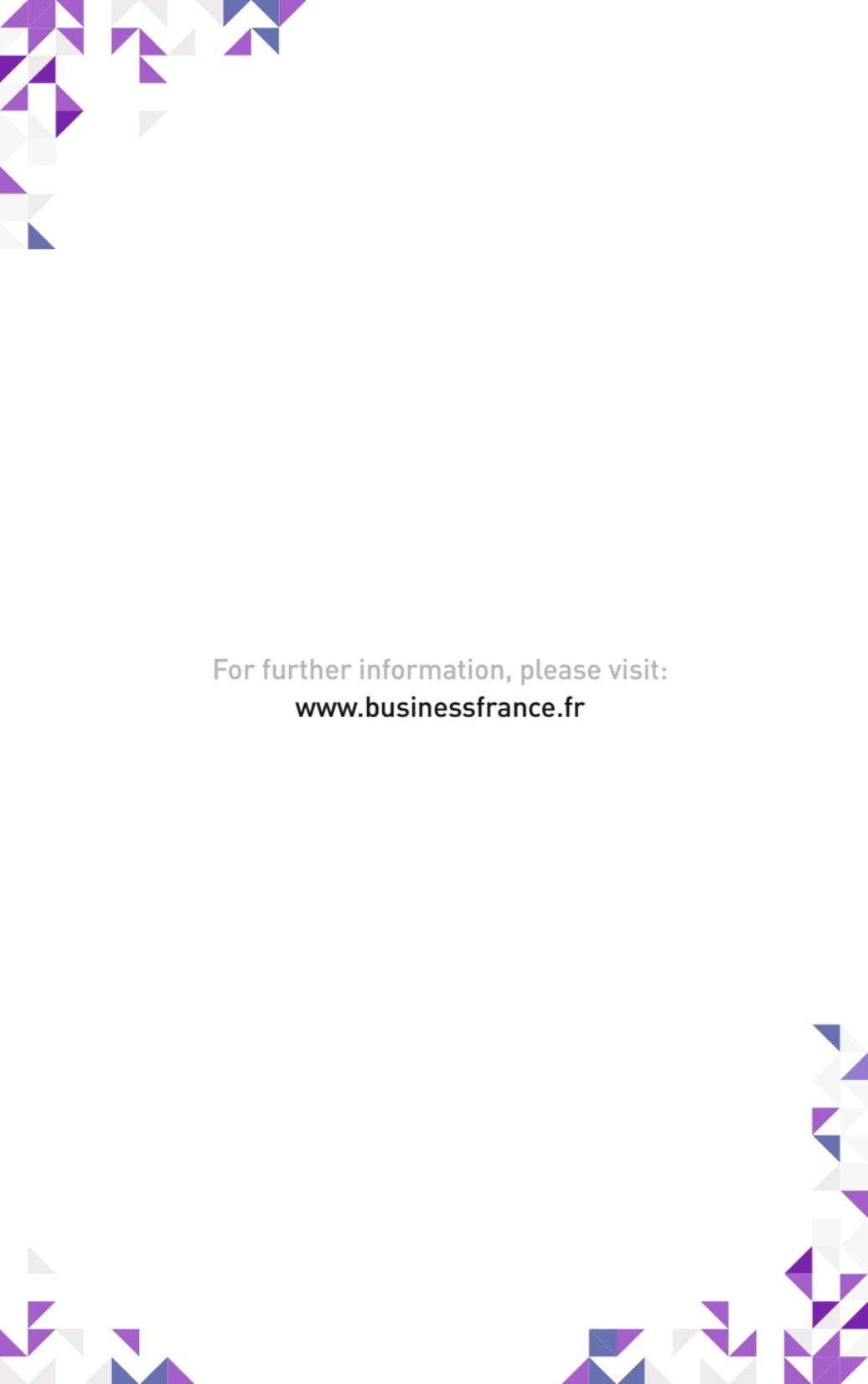
Leading government reforms to improve France's competitiveness, enhance the attractiveness of the French economy, and seize the opportunities offered by innovation include the National Pact for Competitiveness and Employment, the government's Digital Roadmap, the first and second phases of the "National Investment Program" (PIA 1 and 2), the "Worldwide Innovation Challenge", and 34 sector-based initiatives.

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▶ ANOTHER MAJOR INITIATIVE: "LA FRENCH TECH"

"La French Tech" is a major initiative to stimulate France's most vibrant regional ecosystems and support the growth of their startups and digital companies. The funding it provides falls under the umbrella of the "National Investment Program".

€200 million have been invested in private-sector initiatives (accelerator programs) to help digital companies grow faster and succeed internationally. **A further €15 million have been allocated to support fab labs** and attract foreign talent, entrepreneurs and investors.



For further information, please visit:
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