

PRESS RELEASE

THE BEST OF SOUTHERN FRANCE INNOVATION

AT THE MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS 2016

Nice, February 16th, 2016 – Following the example of the Israeli “Startup Nation” and the English “Tech Nation,” France has now taken its place on the stage of innovative entrepreneurship with French Tech. The French Tech project launched by the French government aims to “position France on the world map of digital nations.” The French Tech territories will be given a budget of 215 million euros to support startup acceleration programs and assure their international visibility. In this era of startups, cities have been able to stand out thanks to the dynamism of their young and innovative startups. The Côte d’Azur has already become a well-known destination throughout the world for its majestic landscapes, and its notoriety is growing thanks to French Tech and the promising Côte d’Azur startups. The Côte d’Azur started taking a digital turn 40 years ago with the creation of Sophia Antipolis, the premier European technology hub.

French Tech Côte d’Azur, a Côte d’Azur innovation collective

The best among France innovators, the Côte d’Azur entrepreneurs are reinventing their territory, turning it into a key place for those who want to develop the technologies of the future in the telecommunication, e-health, e-environment, and connected mobility sectors. The Côte d’Azur benefits from having the leading European technology hub, Sophia Antipolis. Sophia Antipolis possesses a rich pool of talent and research in information and communication technology. The Côte d’Azur is also home to the Eco-Valley Plaine du Var, dedicated to eco-tech, as well as the technology centers of Grasse and Cannes, which are known for their work in creative industries perfumes and cosmetics, respectively.

For the French Tech startups in these cities, 2015 has been a year rich in successful fundraising along with national and international awards. Among the most notable funding is that of Biotech TherAchon, which raised 35 million to further its research on achondroplasia, the most common form of dwarfism, as well as that of Vulog, the startup responsible for developing a car-share solution for Paris, which raised 8.4 million euros. Côte d’Azur companies have also made significant progress in terms of international expansion. For example, Wildmoka, a digital media startup, has entered into a contract with Fox Broadcasting Company, a subsidiary of 20th Century Fox. Also, Feeligreen, inventor of IoT cosmetics, has won the Digital In-Pulse innovation competition.

An event to showcase French technology to an international audience

Representatives from this dynamic and innovative ecosystem participating in the upcoming MWC:

- [Sensineo](#) : creator of MAPME, an autonomous and self-powered geolocation app that functions without access to a cellular network
- [Iqsim](#) : specializes in SIM wireless gateway servers and test probes
- [M2 Msolutions](#) : an IoT specialist for connected homes and finalist at the Innovation World Cup 2015 and of Huawei Digital In-Pulse
- [Adipsys](#) : provides IP network management solutions
- [Exalinks](#) : developer of a mobile application which optimizes data consumption
- [Think&Go](#) : develops connected screens, creating a digital customer experience
- [Mobibase](#) : provides thematic TV, VOD, and DTO thematic content to mobile, web, and TV connected devices worldwide
- [Qwant](#) : a search engine that respects your privacy and facilitates discovery and sharing by utilizing a social approach
- [Gaya-Tech](#) : specializes in supplying educational software solutions accessible to students and teachers anytime and anywhere

Team Côte d’Azur, the Côte d’Azur economic promotion agency, will accompany these startups at the trade show and will promote “business made in Côte d’Azur” to international companies.

The agency hopes to obtain 50 well qualified contacts that it can work with throughout the year. Team Côte d'Azur will also take advantage of the trade show in order to meet with key decision makers already present in the Côte d'Azur in order to maintain their Côte d'Azur presence and seize any new development opportunities.

The French Tech Côte d'Azur entrepreneurs will be present at the "French Tech Café by Invest in Côte d'Azur" event, which will take place the morning of February 24th at 9:15 AM. The event will provide an opportunity for national members of French Tech to meet with the international press in the context of the theme "I love Business in Côte d'Azur."



Team Côte d'Azur is the economic promotion agency for the Côte d'Azur region. The agency aims to promote the Côte d'Azur region to international markets and help new, French or foreign companies to establish offices in the area.

La French Tech is the umbrella term for the French startup industry along with its key players.

French Tech Côte d'Azur (FTCA) gathers entrepreneurs and participants from within the ecosystem, integrating and boosting initiatives within the digital innovation chain.

Its mission: identify, support, and accelerate startup growth in order to create "Tech champions". The Côte d'Azur started taking a digital turn 40 years ago with the creation of Sophia Antipolis, a premier European technology hub.

Together, Nice, Cannes, Grasse, and Sophia Antipolis have developed around the rise of digital technologies and have embraced new innovations such as smart city, e-health, e-learning, eco-mobility, e-entertainment, and creative industries.

French Tech Côte d'Azur is the mobilization of an entire territory that gives the "French digital team" its lifeblood. It is composed of 22,800 employees and 1,684 companies generating 4.2 billion euros in revenue. Its goals are ambitious- 50 new startups eligible for an acceleration program each year for 5 years, and 10 new "Tech champions" with international influence in the next 10 years.

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“The French Tech Côte d’Azur is a collective driven by entrepreneurs and all the associations that work to build and promote our expertise at the national and international levels. With collaboration among the members of the FTCA and a spirit of openness towards other French Tech regions, the Côte d’Azur will shine beyond its borders.”

Eric Léandri, CEO of Qwant, and Co-president of French Tech Côte d’Azur.

“After being at the forefront of microelectronic and telecommunication technologies over the last 40 years, the Côte d’Azur has reinvented itself by investing heavily in technologies that will create future markets, such as e-economy services, smart city, tourism, medtech, biotech, or even edtech. The French Tech Côte d’Azur spirit is evident in this revolution.”

Fabrice Moizan, CEO of Gaya-Tech and Co-president of French Tech Côte d’Azur.

“French Tech Côte d’Azur has breathed new life into Côte d’Azur entrepreneurship, and a new awareness at the government level. The support systems and enthusiasm for innovation are destined to grow over in the years to come across the PACA region. We are going to establish an investment fund for entrepreneurship and research that will support local innovation.”

Bernard Kleynhoff, President of CCI Nice Côte d’Azur and Regional Advisor Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur