November 2025. Tech snapshot

Deep tech in Catalonia

ACCIÓ Catalonia Trade & Investment

Generalitat de Catalunya
Government of Catalonia

CataloniaConnects

ACCIÓ
Generalitat de Catalunya (Government of Catalonia)

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Produced by:
ACCIÓ Strategy and Competitive Intelligence Unit

Barcelona, November 2025

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Executive summary: deep tech in Catalonia (I)

Deep tech companies are those that use **disruptive technologies** based on scientific research and advanced engineering, and which have a **high potential impact** in solving global challenges and creating new markets.

Characteristics of deep tech companies

- Scientific or advanced engineering foundations, with their own technology
- Long development cycles
- High capital intensity
- High risk and technological and regulatory uncertainty
- Disruption and transformation potential
- Intellectual property protection
- Multidisciplinary and specialised teams with a scientific and technical profile
- Connection with innovation ecosystems
- Oriented to provide solutions to global challenges

Technologies considered to be deep tech*

- Artificial intelligence and supercomputing
- Biotechnology and medical technologies
- DLT/Blockchain
- Robotics and drones
- Semiconductors
- Sustainable and frontier materials
- Batteries and clean energy
- Photonics
- Quantum
- Space technologies

European market

In 2024, **$16 billion** was invested in deep tech startups in Europe, 6.4% less than the previous year, in line with the general decline in venture capital.

In **2025**, deep tech investment records will be broken if the more optimistic forecasts are fulfilled.

EU countries leading the way in deep tech investment are **Finland**, **France**, the **Netherlands**, **Germany** and **Sweden**.

Regarding cities, **Barcelona is in 6th position**, only behind Stockholm, Paris, Munich, Berlin and Helsinki.

*For the purposes of this report

Executive summary: deep tech in Catalonia (II)

Catalonia has **374 deep tech startups**, a **10% increase compared to 2024**, and they represent **16.4% of all Catalan startups**. The ecosystem is complemented by **46** centres and institutions that generate deep tech spin-offs, **16** incubators and accelerators, **49** venture capital funds and investors, **16** institutions and **6** clusters, in addition to consolidated companies that also incorporate deep tech.

374 deep tech startups

An increase of **10.0%** compared to 2024.

The increase is **28.0%** compared to 2022, higher than the figure of **20.1%** of total growth of startups.

They represent **16.4%** of all startups in the Barcelona & Catalonia Startup Hub (+0.2 pp).

They have a turnover of **€167 million** (**+0.6%** compared to 2024) and employ **2,846** workers (**+4.1%**).

The main technologies are biotechnology (**34.5%**), artificial intelligence (**28.6%**) and sustainable and frontier materials (**11.0%**).

57.0% of deep tech startups have some form of patent or knowledge protection system.

Funding raised

In 2024, there was record investment in deep tech startups in Catalonia for the sixth consecutive year, with **€200 million**.

Barcelona is the **6th-largest hub of the EU** with **€610 m** raised (2020-2024). It has gained one position and **multiplied by 3.5** the investment for the period 2015-2019.

79.4% of Catalan deep tech startup companies have obtained venture capital financing.

62% of the 105 investment funds that have participated in the 25 largest funding rounds in deep tech are international (2024-2025).

Catalonia is a benchmark in attracting European deep tech funding, at the EIC Accelerator and the ERC (**3.3%** and **2.9%** of the European total, respectively).

Female talent in deep tech

20.6% of deep tech startups have a female CEO.

Women are part of **32%** of deep tech startup founding teams, a higher percentage than the average for Catalan startups (21.9%).

42.3% of companies have at least one female founder and/or member of the management team.

More than 30% of people enrolled in STEM degrees and masters in Catalonia are women and the number is growing year after year.

31.2% of Catalan research staff who have received funding from the ERC are women, a higher percentage than that of Spain (30.9%) and Europe (29.1%).

1. Definition of deep tech

Definition of deep tech

Deep tech companies are those that use **disruptive technologies** based on scientific research and advanced engineering, and which have a **high potential impact** in solving global challenges and creating new markets.

These are technologies born from intensive research and development—especially in universities, research centres and corporate laboratories—that require long periods of maturation and intensive capital investment, and assume a high degree of initial risk.

They have a high transformative potential, with the ability to create new markets, solve major global challenges and offer better solutions than those existing.

Deep technology as such does not exist; rather, it is the application and business model built around or through the technologies that are deep.

Source: ACCIÓ, based on interviews with experts and reference bibliography

Characteristics of deep tech companies

1. Scientific or advanced engineering foundations, with their own technology
2. Long development cycles
3. High capital intensity
4. High risk and technological and regulatory uncertainty
5. Disruption and transformation potential
6. Intellectual property protection
7. Multidisciplinary and specialised teams with a scientific and technical profile
8. Connection with innovation ecosystems
9. Oriented to provide solutions to global challenges

Source: ACCIÓ, based on interviews with experts and reference bibliography

Deep tech catalysts

The emergency of deep tech is a consequence of several factors that are accelerating its development and transfer to the market.

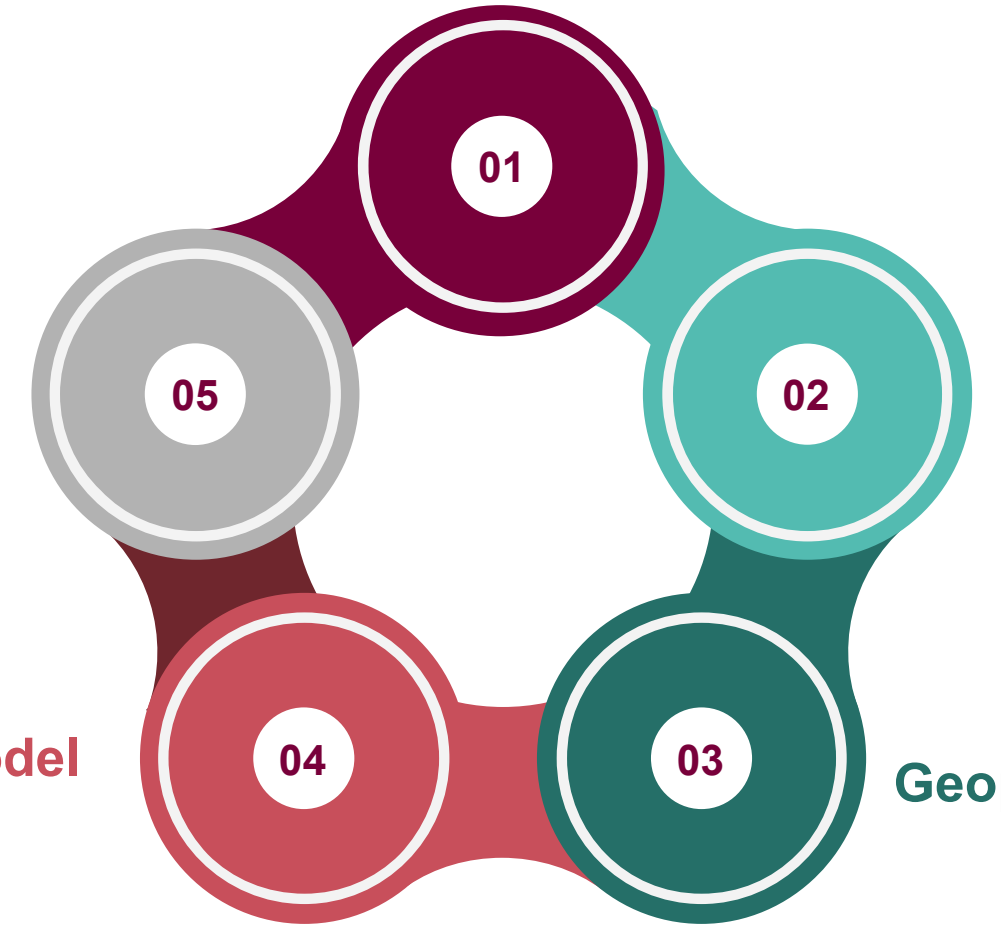
- Scientific and technological advances
- Growing interest in technological sovereignty and resilience
- Collaboration between research centres, consolidated companies and startups
- Institutional support and increased specialised funding

- Availability of big data
- Need to respond to complex global challenges
- Consumers and companies more open to innovation

Source: ACCIÓ

5 global challenges

Deep tech companies have the potential to offer **transformative solutions to global challenges**.

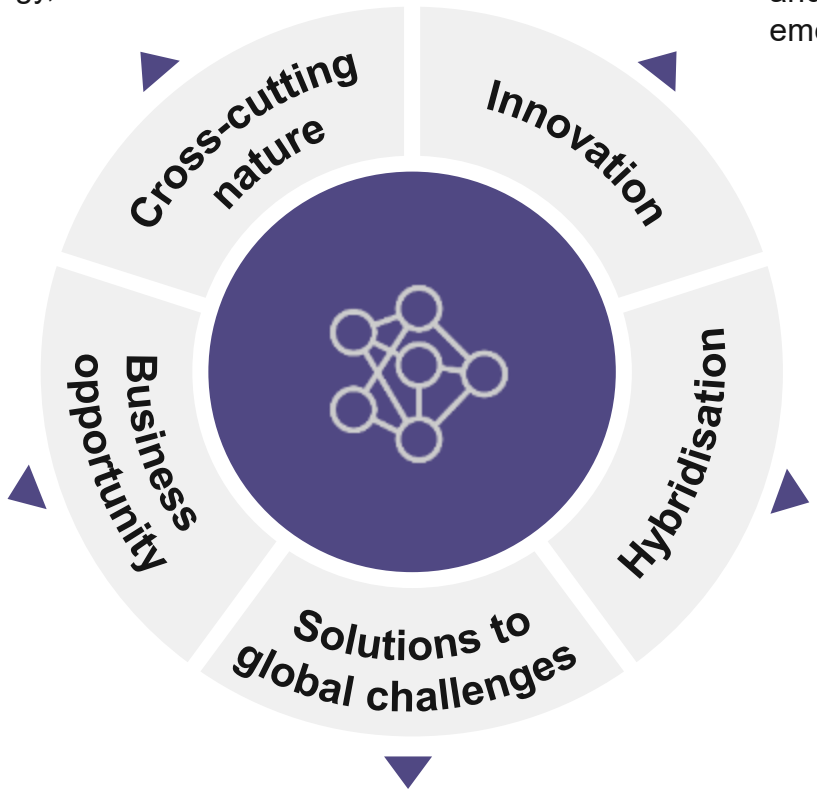


Source: ACCIÓ

Importance of deep tech

Deep tech companies can impact many areas, such as health and life sciences, food, energy, materials or production processes.

Deep tech companies are born from research and are a source of innovation for other emerging applications.



New business models may emerge based on the applications of pioneering technical solutions and emerging scientific knowledge.

The challenges are increasingly complex and solutions cannot be addressed from a single field of knowledge, which means it is necessary to have hybrid technologies and confluence of knowledge to find innovative and sustainable solutions.

Deep tech companies have a clear focus on providing solutions to global challenges such as climate change, health, resource scarcity, demographic changes, etc.

Source: ACCIÓ

2. Deep tech technologies

10 deep tech technologies

It is difficult to define deep tech technologies precisely, since they depend on **the approach** and **the strategy** with which they are applied. Depending on the context, any technology can be considered deep tech.

In addition, the emergence of emerging technologies and hybridisation of knowledge give rise to a wide range of new opportunities.

In this report, the following are considered deep tech technologies, due to the elevation, impact and level of innovation they display:

Note: for the purposes of this report, an analysis has been made of the startup universe.

Deep tech technologies

- **Artificial intelligence and supercomputing**
- **Biotechnology and medical technologies**
- **DLT/Blockchain**
- **Robotics and drones**
- **Semiconductors**
- **Sustainable and frontier materials**
- **Batteries and clean energy**
- **Photonics**
- **Quantum**
- **Space technologies**

Source: ACCIÓ

Market value and growth of deep tech technologies

	Current market value	Future growth
Biotechnology and medical technologies	$1.75 trillion	+12.8%
Batteries and clean energy	$1.524 trillion	+11.4%
Photonics	$1.049 trillion	+6.7%
Semiconductors	$627 billion	+9.2%
Space technologies	$512.1 billion	+7.9%
Artificial intelligence and supercomputing	$244 billion	+26.6%
Robotics and drones	$51 billion	+9.7%
DLT/Blockchain	$41 billion	+56.5%
Sustainable and frontier materials	$19.5 billion	+17.6%
Quantum	n/a	+25.8%

Note: the data corresponds to the current market value (2025) and the expected annual growth in the next 5 years.

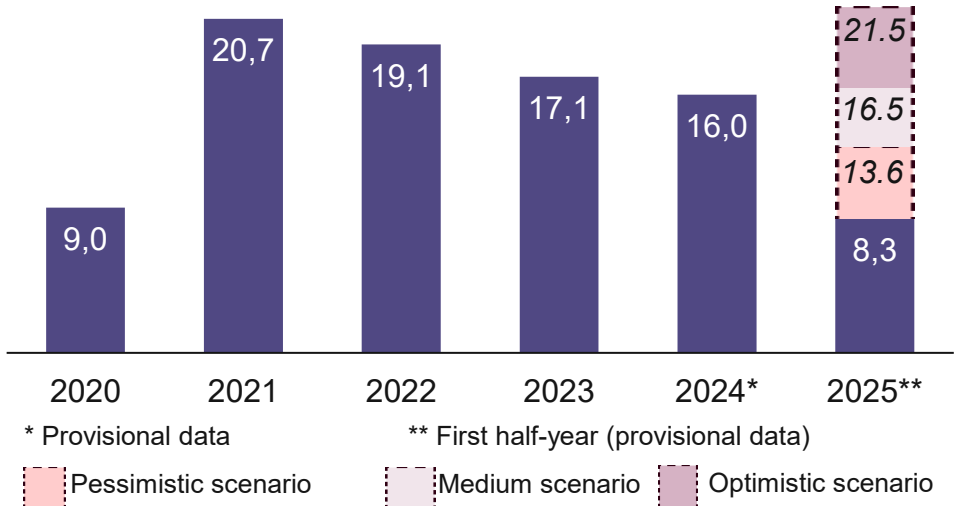
3. Deep tech in Europe

Venture capital in deep tech in Europe

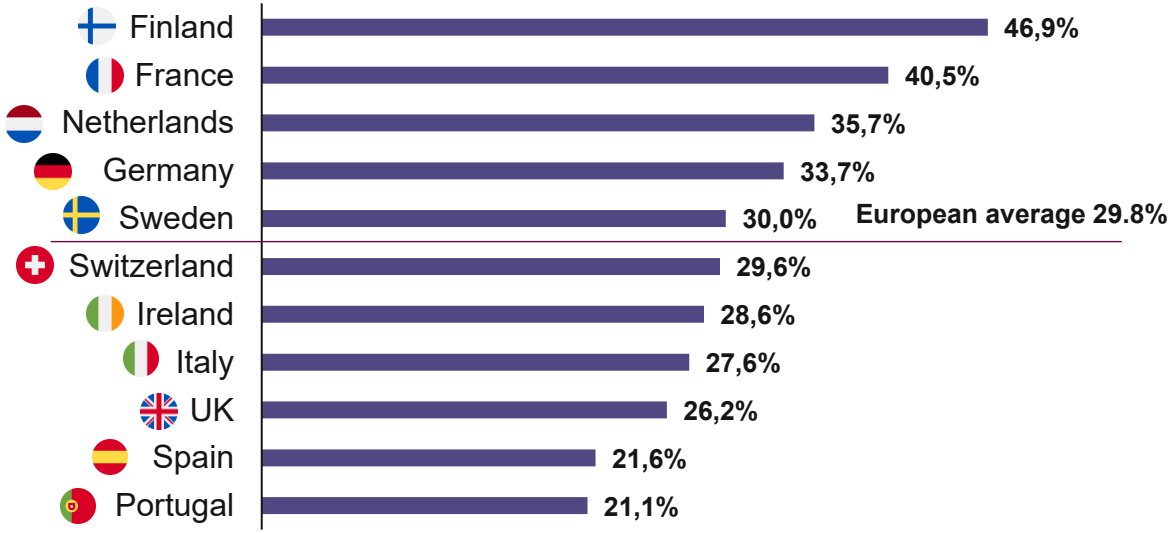
In 2024, **$16 billion has been invested in deep tech startups in Europe**, a year-on-year decrease of 6.4%, in line with the general decline in venture capital. In 2025, a deep tech investment record will be broken in if the more optimistic forecasts are fulfilled.

Venture capital in deep tech startups in Europe

(billions of dollars)



Venture capital investment in deep tech with respect to the total (main European countries, 2020 – 1st half of 2025)



Source: Dealroom

Deep tech initiatives in the EU

New European Innovation Agenda

The New European Innovation Agenda has 25 key actions grouped into 5 areas that improve competitiveness, growth and strategic autonomy in Europe.

Strategy for startups and scale-ups

It aims to make Europe the best place in the world to launch and grow global technology-driven companies, including deep tech.

European Innovation Council

The EIC is Europe's flagship innovation programme to identify, develop and scale up disruptive innovations and technologies.

EIT Digital Challenge

The EIT Digital Challenge is the main competition for pan-European scale-ups that aims to recognise the main deep tech initiatives in Europe and help them with funding and networking.

European Investment Fund

The EIF is a specialist provider of finance to benefit SMEs in Europe and is a key player in most European deep tech funds.

Deep Tech Talent Initiative

The Deep Tech Talent Initiative has trained one million Europeans in the skills needed in deep tech fields such as AI, quantum computing or semiconductors.

Women TechEU

Women TechEU is a two-year EU-funded project that supports women leading deep tech startups in Europe.

Initiatives in Spain towards deep tech

The Spanish Government has announced that it will publish the first **Spanish Deep Tech Strategy** by the end of 2025. For now, it promotes deep tech in a cross-cutting way with various programmes and grants.

Innvierte

The **Innvierte** programme (CDTI) will allocate **€800 million** to direct (co-investments) and indirect (through funds) investment operations to boost R&D in deep tech companies. Of the total budget, **€300 million** relate to the **Invest Deep-Tech Tech Transfer** instrument, launched with the European Investment Fund, to position Spain as a **European hub in deep tech**.

Neotec

Neotec is the public aid from the CDTI that finances up to **€250,000** the launch of **new technological projects**. The beneficiaries are innovative technology-based SMEs where innovation and technology are determining factors that contribute to the differentiation of the company. The budget for 2025 is **€40 million** and the funding is in the form of a subsidy.

RedIA

The RedIA initiative, from Red.es, has the purpose of **promote technological development and innovation in AI**, as well as promoting the incorporation of AI and other dual technologies into the production processes of value chains. In 2025, a call for applications has been opened **€130 million** to promote high-impact strategic technologies (AI, robotics, space technologies or advanced materials) in productive sectors.

SETT

The Spanish Society for Technological Transformation (SETT) is a public entity that funds and invests in **technologies** linked to digital transformation, telecommunications, microelectronics, semiconductors, new disruptive digital technologies or the audiovisual sector. It has recently participated in the Spanish funds Axon Innovation Growth and Big Sur Ventures (**85** and **€40 million** respectively) to boost transformative startups.

Sources: Ministry of Science and Innovation and Royal Elcano Institute

4. Deep tech and the SDGs

Contribution of deep tech technologies to the SDGs

16. Peace, justice and strong institutions
AI-HPC, space technologies, DLT, quantum

17. Alliance for goals
AI-HPC, DLT, space technologies, quantum

15. Terrestrial life
Frontier and sustainable materials, AI-HPC, DLT, biotechnology, space technologies, quantum

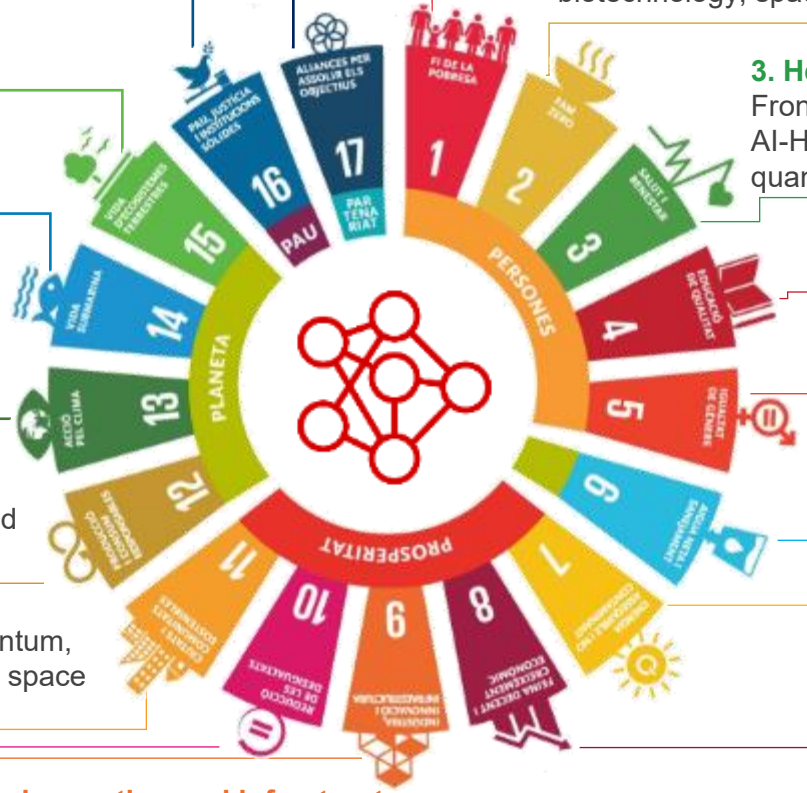
14. Underwater life
AI-HPC, DLT, biotechnology, space technologies, quantum

13. Climate action
Frontier and sustainable materials, robotics, AI-HPC, DLT, photonics, quantum, biotechnology, batteries and clean energy, space technologies

12. Responsible consumption and production
Frontier and sustainable materials, semiconductors, robotics, AI-HPC, DLT, photonics, quantum, batteries and clean energy, space technologies

11. Sustainable cities and communities
Frontier and sustainable materials, semiconductors, quantum, robotics, AI-HPC, photonics, batteries and clean energy, space technologies

10. Reducing inequalities
AI-HPC, robotics, space technologies, quantum



9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
Frontier and sustainable materials, robotics, semiconductors, AI-HPC, DLT, photonics, quantum, biotechnology, batteries and clean energy, space technologies

1. End of poverty
Frontier and sustainable materials, AI-HPC, DLT, space technologies, quantum

2. Zero hunger
Frontier and sustainable materials, AI-HPC, DLT, robotics, biotechnology, space technologies, quantum

3. Health and well-being
Frontier and sustainable materials, robotics, semiconductors, AI-HPC, photonics, biotechnology, batteries and clean energy, quantum, space technologies

4. Quality education
Robotics, AI-HPC, DLT, quantum, space technologies

5. Gender equality
AI-HPC, DLT, space technologies, quantum

6. Clean water and sanitation
Frontier and sustainable materials, AI-HPC, robotics, DLT, photonics, biotechnology, space technologies, quantum

7. Clean and affordable energy
Frontier materials, robotics, semiconductors, AI-HPC, DLT, photonics, quantum, biotechnology, batteries and clean energy, space technologies

8. Decent work and economic growth
Frontier and sustainable materials, robotics, semiconductors, AI-HPC, DLT, photonics, biotechnology, batteries and clean energy, space technologies, quantum

Source: own work

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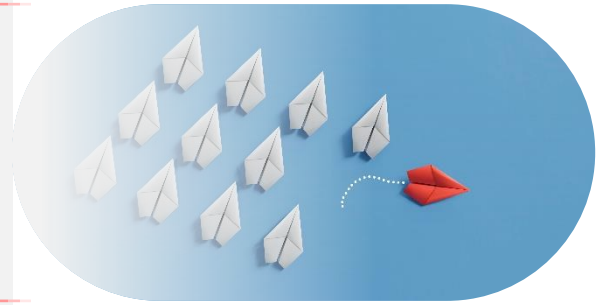
5. Deep tech in Catalonia

5.1. Deep tech startup ecosystem in Catalonia



Mapping the deep tech startup ecosystem in Catalonia

374 deep tech startups	**+10.0%**
16.4% of the Barcelona & Catalonia Startup Hub	**+0.2 pp**
€167 million of turnover	**+0.6%**
2,846 workers	**+4.1%**

Note 1: growths are calculated with respect to the 2024 data. Note 2: for the purposes of this mapping, the main technology that every startup uses is selected. Note 3: the Barcelona & Catalonia Startup Hub is made up of 2,285 startups (2024).

Technological specialisation of deep tech startups

34.5%	Biotechnology and medical technologies
28.6%	Artificial intelligence and supercomputing
11.0%	Sustainable and frontier materials
6.4%	Robotics and drones
5.6%	Batteries and clean energy
3.5%	Photonics
3.5%	DLT/Blockchain
3.5%	Space technologies
2.7%	Semiconductors
0.8%	Quantum

Source: ACCIÓ

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Mapping of deep tech startups in Catalonia

Biotechnology and medical technologies

ADMIT THERAPEUTICS, AHEAD THERAPEUTICS, BrainFocus, Floxxxics, GATE2BRAIN, GENinCode, Integra therapeutics, KOA BIOTECH, NEMA Health, NIMBLE Diagnostics

Artificial intelligence and supercomputing

allread, BitMetrics, REVEAL GENOMICS, Deep Detection, The Blue Box, SYCAI MEDICAL, DRIBIA, Latitude, aims medical, Predictheon

Sustainable and frontier materials

ADDITIVE SPACES, NextReef ecosystems, ecomemb, Graphenica/Lab, Oimo, ONYRIO, BOKA FURA DADA, Astrea materials, REINFORCE 3D, cebiotex

Robotics and drones

able, Agrin'pulse, BETA ROBOTS, iqua, GRASSHOPPER, THEKER, rob surgical, FOHU INNOVATIONS SL, seabots, VAIVE LOGISTICS

Batteries and clean energy

JOLT, bamboo energy, OptiGen, ATOM, Napptilus Battery Labs, magnetika, SOLEARES, PROTON, FOLGRID, X1 WIND

Photonics

BEAMAGINE, COOLING PHOTONICS, EOX SENSE, GEO KINESIA, HemoPhotonics, lumiris, mapsi photonics, NABLAXION, QPO, vitsolc Transparent Energy

DLT/Blockchain

BLOCKTAC, DLTCode, ekratos, FREEVERSE, NAVOZYME, pala blockchain, peersyst, BLOCK, SECRETS VAULT, JOTTUN, ZERTIFIER

Space technologies

ALBORA TECHNOLOGIES, AISTECH, MWSE, SPASCAT TECHNOLOGIES, KREIOS SPACE, Lobelia., Mitiga, Pangea Propulsion, SLIMOP SPACE, XIROI

Semiconductors

baretek, flexiic, nanusens, openchip, semidynamics, UniSCool, YPlasma

Quantum

KILIMANJARO QUANTUM TECH, Quside, LUXQUANTA

Note: partial illustrative image. For the purposes of this mapping, the main technology that every startup uses is selected.

Source: Barcelona & Catalonia Startup Hub, ACCIÓ

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Agents of the deep tech ecosystem in Catalonia

Centres and institutions generating deep tech spin-offs

Incubators and accelerators

Venture capital funds and investors

Institutions and Public Administration

Source: ACCIÓ

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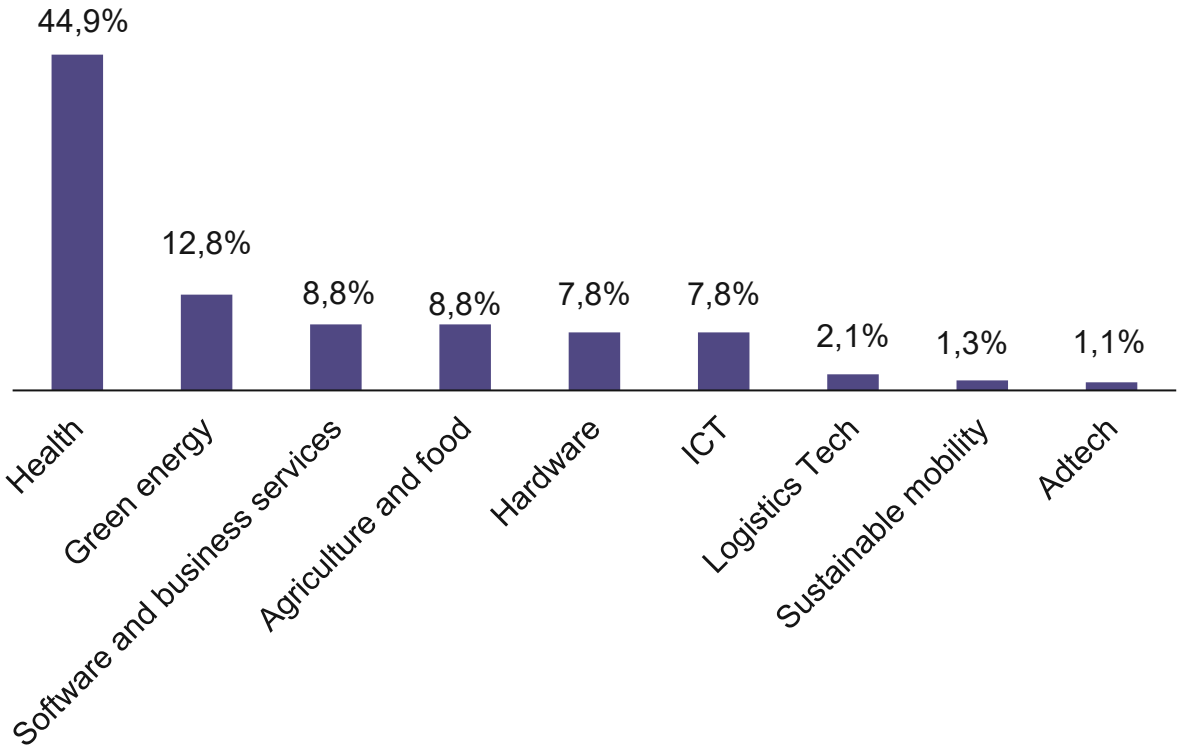
Analysis of deep tech ecosystem in Catalonia: sectoral application

The health and green energy sectors concentrate **57.7% of deep tech startups**.

Main sectors in which deep tech startups work



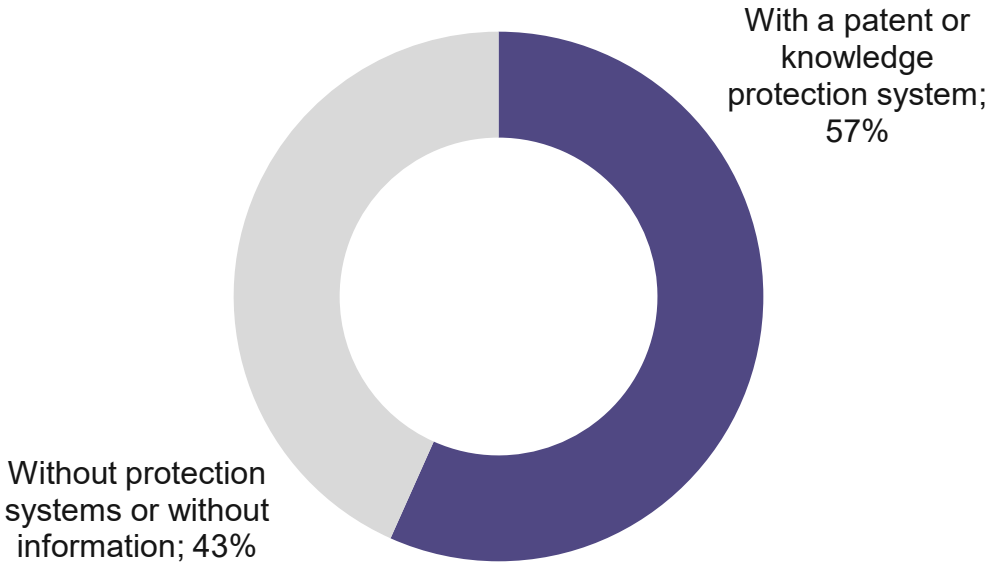
Note: for the purpose of this mapping, the main sector of each company is selected.

Source: Barcelona & Catalonia Startup Hub, ACCIÓ

Analysis of the deep tech ecosystem in Catalonia: knowledge protection systems

57% of the deep tech startups have some patent or knowledge protection system.

Deep tech startups with patents or systems to protect their knowledge



Deep tech startups with patents

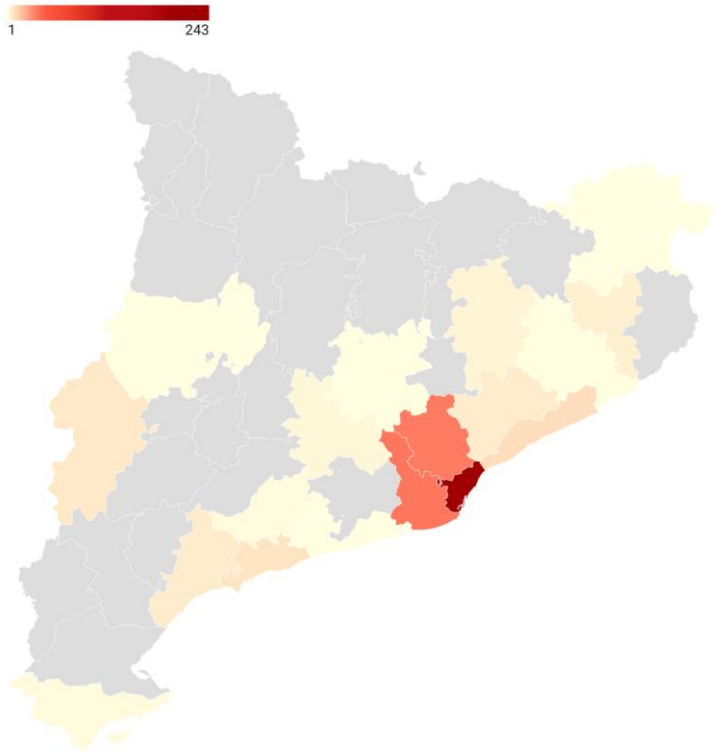
able human motion
ADAS 3D
ADmit THERAPEUTICS
ANACONDA BIOMED
ELEM THE VIRTUAL HUMANS FACTORY
mtstech
onalabs
Quside
REVEAL GENOMICS
X1 WIND

Note: This data was extracted from startups that answered this question in the 2023 or 2024 survey or whose information was found in the Orbis Intellectual Property database in 2025.

Sources: Barcelona & Catalonia Startup Hub, ACCIÓ and Orbis

Analysis of deep tech ecosystem in Catalonia: location by county

86.6% of deep tech startups are in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (AMB). The county with the highest concentration is **Barcelonès** (65%), followed by **Baix Llobregat** (9.6%) and **Vallès Occidental** (9.4%).



County	No. of deep tech startups	% of deep tech startups
Barcelonès	243	65.0%
Baix Llobregat	36	9.6%
Vallès Occidental	35	9.4%
Maresme	10	2.7%
Tarragonès	8	2.1%
Segrià	7	1.9%
Baix Camp	6	1.6%
Gironès	6	1.6%
Vallès Oriental	6	1.6%
Osona	4	1.1%
Alt Camp	2	0.5%
Anoia	2	0.5%
Montsià	2	0.5%
Alt Empordà	1	0.3%
Bages	1	0.3%
Baix Penedès	1	0.3%
Garraf	1	0.3%
Noguera	1	0.3%
Pla de l'Estany	1	0.3%
La Selva	1	0.3%
Total	**374**	**100%**

Note: the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona includes 36 municipalities in the counties of Barcelonès, Baix Llobregat, Vallès Occidental and Maresme.

Source: Barcelona & Catalonia Startup Hub, ACCIÓ

Stages of maturity of Catalan deep tech startups

Laboratory phase
Low market maturity

Product development
Financial and market challenges

Technical maturity
Go-to-market

Marketing phase
Scalability

Note: partial illustrative image

Source: ACCIÓ

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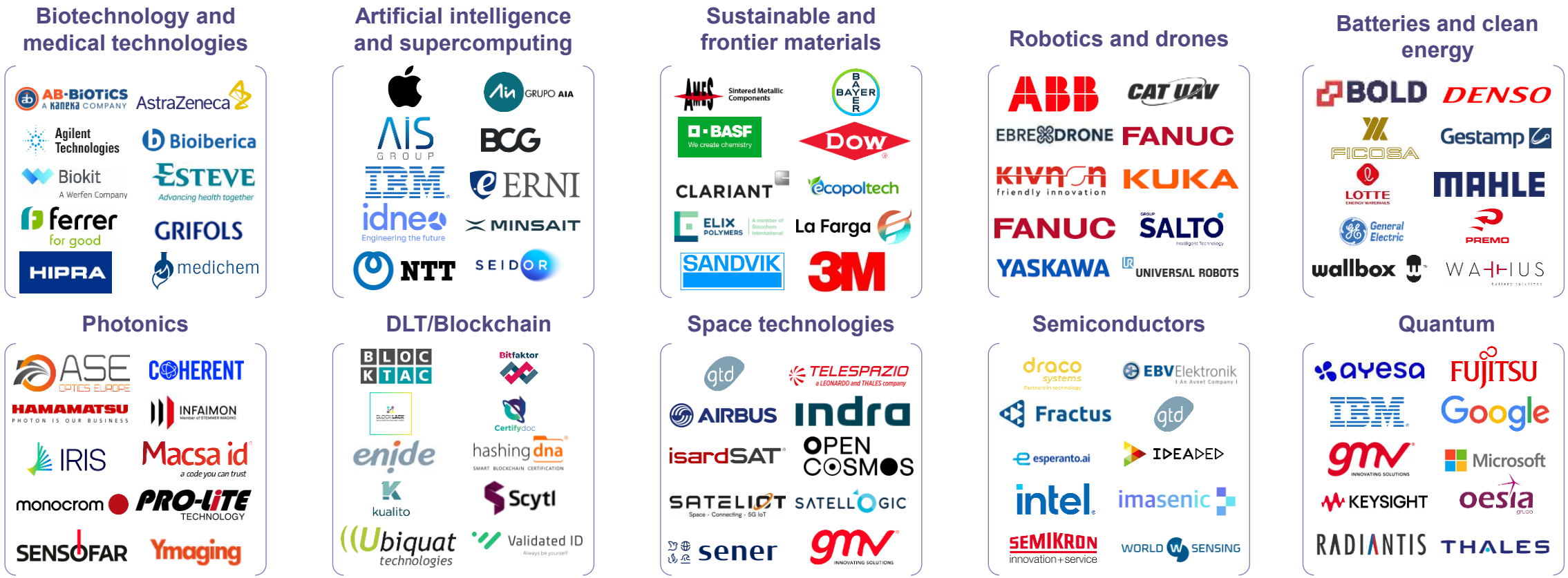
Consolidated deep tech business ecosystem in Catalonia

Although this study analyses the deep tech startup ecosystem in Catalonia, our territory is the cradle of science and technology, and a good example of this is the fact that **Catalonia has consolidated and renowned companies that also base their activity on deep tech**, with which they make this ecosystem grow and evolve.



Note: partial illustrative image

Source: ACCIÓ

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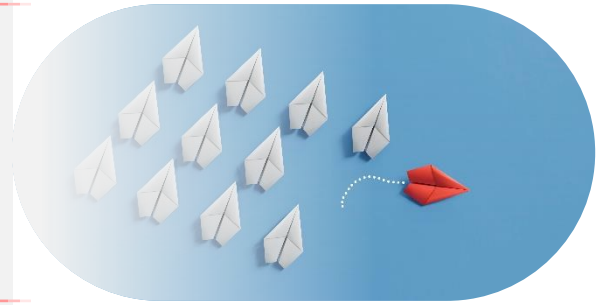
5.2. Funding raised by the Catalan deep tech ecosystem

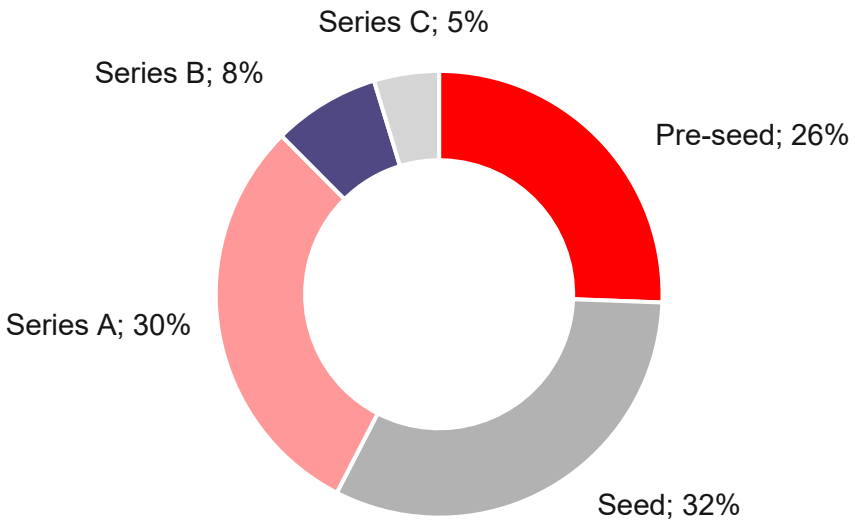


Venture capital funding raised by deep tech startups in Catalonia (I)

79.4% of deep tech Catalan startup companies have obtained venture capital financing.

42.4% of deep tech startups that have raised funding have done so in investment rounds exceeding €1 million (Series A+B+C).

Types of funding rounds for deep tech startups



Pre-seed (<€0.25 million)
Seed (€0.25 million -<€1 million)
Series A (€1 million -<€5 million)
Series B (€5 million -<€20 million)
Series C (more than €20 million)

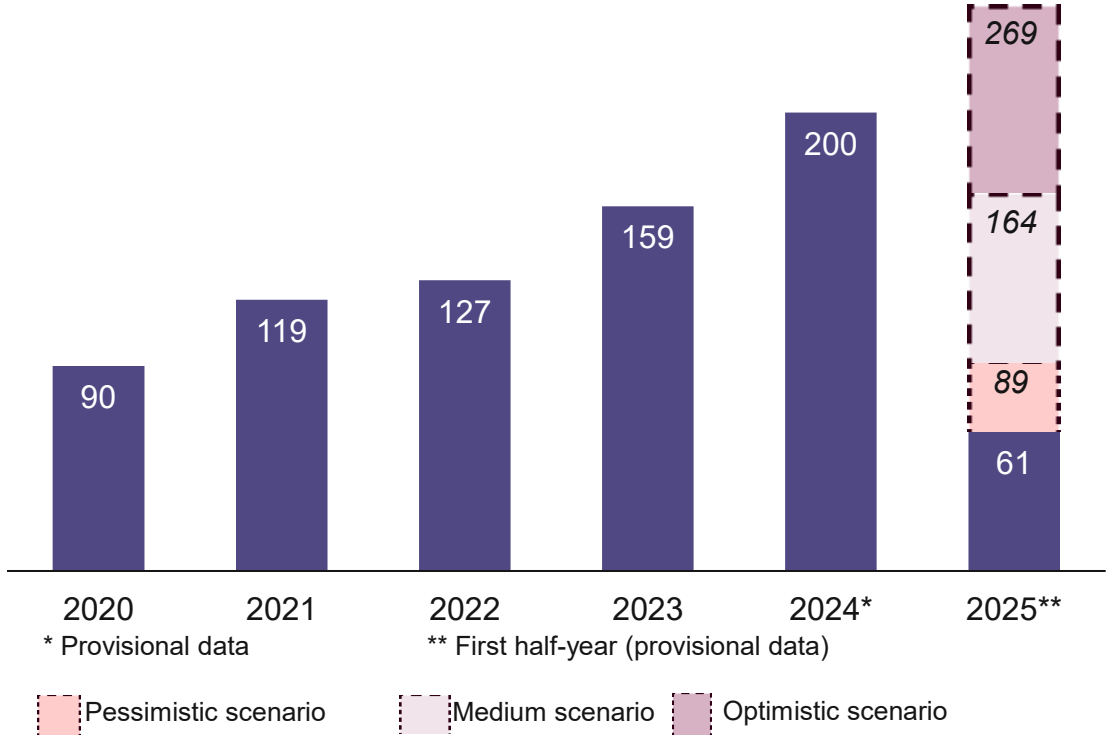
Note: this graph has been constructed with data from the 297 startups that have this data reported and have closed a round. The names and values of the funding stages follow the nomenclature used by the Barcelona & Catalonia Startup Hub.

Venture capital funding raised by deep tech startups in Catalonia (II)

In 2024, there was **record investment in deep tech startups in Catalonia for the sixth consecutive year**, with **€200 million**.

The optimistic forecast for 2025 aims to surpass the record set in 2024.

Investment volume in deep tech startups in Catalonia (millions of euros)



Note: Inquiry made on Dealroom taking Catalonia as the founding or operational headquarters of the startup. Exchange rate applied to investments in US dollars: EUR 1 = USD 1.1725.

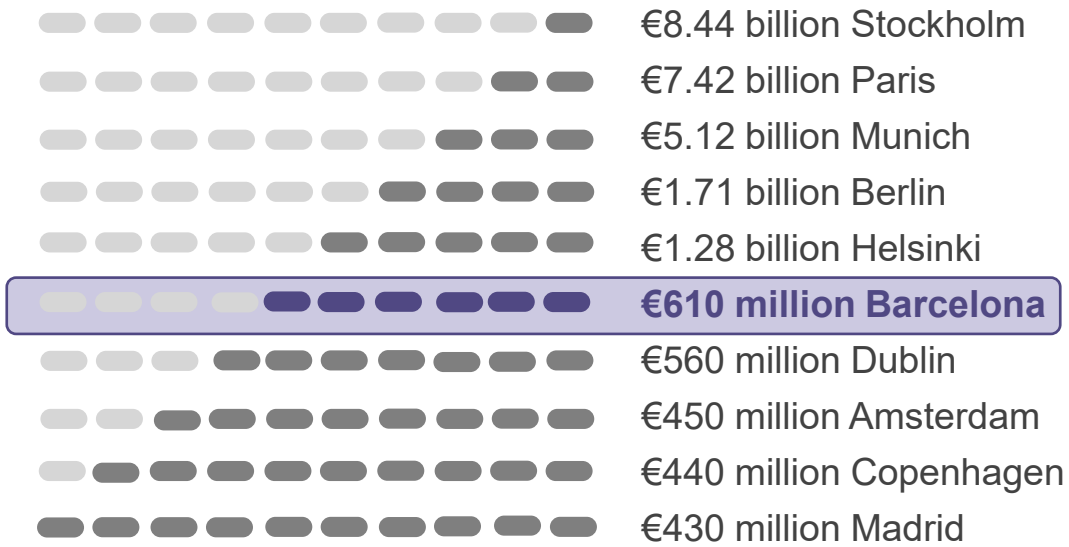
Source: Dealroom

Ranking of EU cities in venture capital funding raised by deep tech startups

Barcelona is the **6th largest hub in the EU** in venture capital raised by deep tech startups in the period 2020-2024, with more than **€600 million**.

Barcelona **gained one position and multiplied by 3.5** the investment in deep tech with respect to the five-year period 2015-2019.

Main EU cities by volume of investments in deep tech startups. 2020-2024



Note: Exchange rate applied to dollar investments: EUR 1 = USD 1.1725.
Provisional data for 2024.

Source: Dealroom

Attraction of European fundraising: Catalonia, benchmark in the EIC Accelerator

Between 2022 and the first quarter of 2025, **19 Catalan deep tech startups** have raised funding from the EIC Accelerator.

The 19 startups represent **43.2%** of the total number of beneficiary startups in Spain and **3.3%** of those in Europe.

The EIC Accelerator is the main funding programme of the EU that grants up to €2.5 million in subsidies and up to €15 million in capital investments, in addition to coaching, mentoring and networking.

ACCIÓ advises Catalan companies on how to submit their candidacy to European R&D&I programmes such as the EIC Accelerator:

Deep tech startups beneficiaries of the EIC Accelerator:

2022

ABCDx, ELEM, GATE2BRAIN Medicines beyond barriers, ignion, INBRAIN NEUROELECTRONICS, kriba, Methinks, SAALG GEOMECHANICS, timeisbrain

2023

LUXQUANTA, MIMARK, NIMBLE Diagnostics, PEPTOMYC, Quside

2024

CONNECTA, ESENCIA FOODS, Integra therapeutics

2025 (1st quarter)

NeuralTrust, NEXTMOL

Source: EIC Accelerator

Specific public financing instruments in the deep tech ecosystem in Catalonia

Startup Capital

€2 million each year

Aid intended to boost growth in the initial phases of technological and deep tech startups, with an allocation of up to €100,000 per startup.

Start-up Capital Co-investment Line

€2.5 million

Funding (up to €250,000 per startup) for startups up to 3 years old that develop deep tech technologies with the aim of encouraging the involvement and experience of private investors and venture capital funds.

Advanced Technology Investment Fund (FITA)

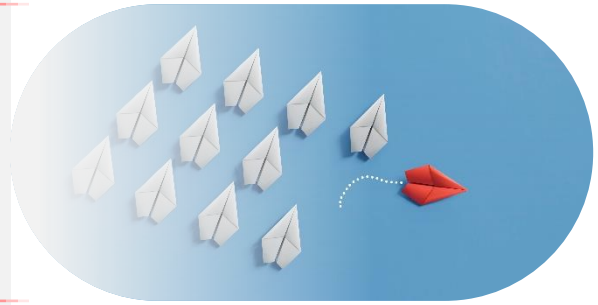
€55 million of endowment (2024-2028)

Venture capital instrument that invests in technological development projects in the early stages of growth of startups emerging from the Catalan knowledge system.

\+ various instruments that support technological projects in the initial phase of the project

ICF Institut Català de Finances · avançsa · AGAUR

5.3. Female deep tech talent in Catalonia

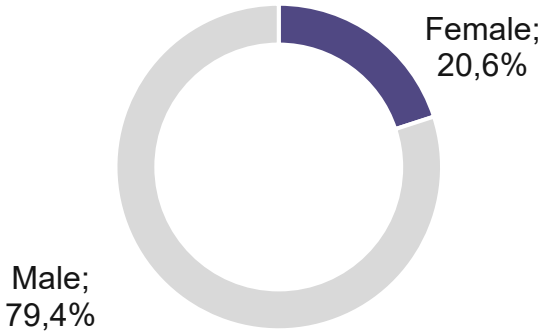


Female deep tech talent: presence of women in deep tech startups

20.6% of deep tech startups has a woman as CEO, women are part of **32%** of deep tech startup founding teams and **42.3%** of companies have at least one female founder or member of the management team.

Deep tech startups have a percentage of female founders higher than the average for Catalan startups, **32%** to **21.9%**.

Deep tech startup CEOs



Composition of the founding teams of deep tech startups

Deep tech startups with at least one female founder or member of the management team

42.3%

Sources: Barcelona & Catalonia Startup Hub, ACCIÓ and Dealroom

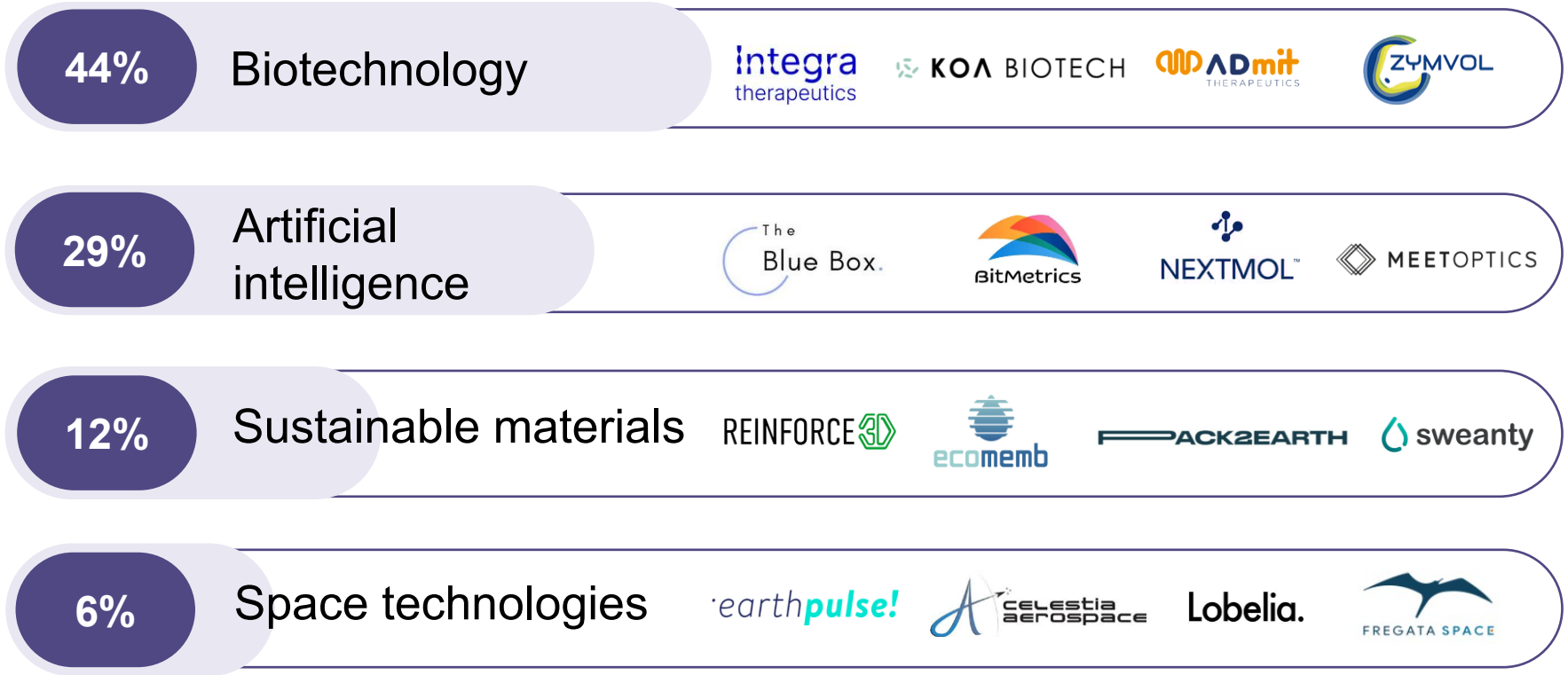
ACCIÓ Catalonia Trade & Investment

Generalitat de Catalunya Government of Catalonia

CataloniaConnects

Deep tech female talent: presence of women in deep tech startups by technology

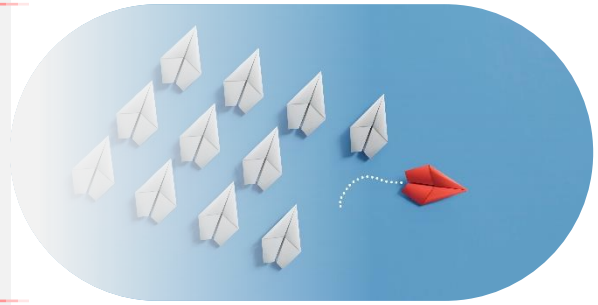
77 deep tech startups (20.6%) have a woman as CEO. Those specialising in **biotechnology** and in **artificial intelligence** are the dominant ones, with **44% and 29%** respectively.



Note: Partial illustrative image.

Source: ACCIÓ

5.4. Support initiatives for deep tech and support agents in Catalonia



Instruments for promoting deep tech at ACCIÓ

ACCIÓ promotes the **implementation and consolidation of deep tech technologies in Catalonia** through various cross-cutting instruments.

Aid and services

ACCIÓ accompanies Catalan companies in innovation processes with instruments such as the Innovation coupons, the European R&D&I grants, the Aid for Technological and Green Innovation, and the Grants for Open and Disruptive Innovation Projects.

Specific financing

ACCIÓ promotes Startup Capital, which allocates €2 million each year to promote deep tech startups, and Startup Capital Co-investment, which has already mobilised funding for 10 deep tech startups.

European projects

ACCIÓ participates as a partner in three European projects linked to the promotion of deep tech: RInnoValleys, DeepTechValleys and CHARGE.

Tractor projects

ACCIÓ participates in the project PRECISEU, a European-wide macro-project to promote personalised medicine and advanced therapies, and leads the DIH4CAT, a European-wide project with regional impact to promote the country's technological transformation.

Accompaniment to deep tech fairs

ACCIÓ organises missions to technology events such as TechCrunch Disrupt in San Francisco, Singapore Week of Innovation & Technology (SWITCH), Viva Technology in Paris, the Web Summit in Lisbon or the Helsinki Slush.

Attraction of technological investment

ACCIÓ supports foreign companies to make their projects a reality in Catalonia, with special emphasis on the technological component: in 2024, 52.4% of the 106 projects materialised are related to technological or digital transformation.

Deep tech facilitators

Ajuntament de Barcelona / Barcelona Activa

It promotes entrepreneurship, innovation and business growth in the city of Barcelona, and incubating startups with high technological impact.

CERCA Centres de Recerca de Catalunya

It promotes scientific excellence, knowledge transfer and the creation of economic and social value, as well as the promotion of disruptive startups and spin-offs.

fcri Fundació Catalana per a la Recerca i la Innovació

It drives scientific culture, promotes STEAM vocations and connects research with business and society, through the dissemination and transfer of knowledge.

SECPHO

It is the first specific deep tech cluster in Spain. It brings together more than 180 organisations and promotes innovation and technology transfer.

tecnio Associació

It drives the transfer of technology from research centres to companies and fosters innovation, the creation of spin-offs and economic development.

DCA Digital Catalonia Alliance

Initiative that brings together the main emerging technological sectors in the Catalan territory in an alliance of innovative, visionary, disruptive and collaborative technological communities.

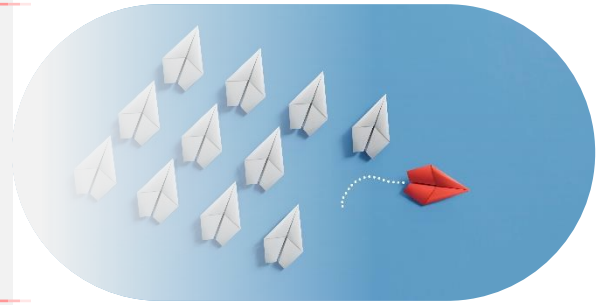
BARCELONA DEEPTECH SUMMIT

Event that positions Barcelona as a leading city in Europe in disruptive technology and that brings together the main agents of the deep tech ecosystem.

DE LA CIÈNCIA AL MERCAT

It provides PhD students and graduates from universities with the necessary tools to explore the transfer of their research to the market by creating a company.

5.5. Opportunities and challenges for the deep tech ecosystem in Catalonia



Opportunities and challenges for deep tech companies in Catalonia

Opportunities

- European framework and support policies
- European recognition as an innovative territory
- Solid scientific and technological capital
- Connection with strategic industrial sectors
- Response to major global challenges
- Mature and dynamic entrepreneurial ecosystem

Challenges

- Lack of patient and specialised funding
- Dependence on global chains and geopolitical context
- Overcoming technological “death valleys”
- Regulation and intellectual property
- Hybrid talent and gender gap
- Accurate and verifiable communication

Source: own work based on interviews

6. Success Stories in Catalonia

Success stories for deep tech startups in Catalonia

Reveal Genomics: personalising cancer treatment. It has developed the world's first test for HER2+ breast cancer. It applies AI and genomics to personalise cancer treatment.

Theker Robotics: mobile robotics for industry. It develops autonomous robots for industrial and logistics environments, and promotes intelligent automation.

Bamboo Energy: more energy flexibility with AI. It offers a SaaS platform with AI to optimise energy use through demand flexibility.

Aistech Space: thermal observation from space. It generates geospatial intelligence (thermal images) for sectors such as security, energy and the environment.

Ecomemb: nanomembranes to purify industrial water efficiently. It develops ceramic nanomembranes to reuse industrial wastewater and extract valuable resources from it.

Predictheon: predictive AI for safe surgery. It uses data and mathematical models to predict post-anaesthetic complications in real time.

ADmit Therapeutics: early molecular diagnosis for Alzheimer's. It develops molecular diagnostic tests for early detection of Alzheimer's using epigenetic biomarkers and AI.

Qilimanjaro: leaders in analogue quantum computing. It designs and operates custom quantum computers, and offers "Quantum as a Service" services from a new quantum data hybrid centre in Barcelona.

Openchip: high performance chips and systems for AI and HPC. It develops RISC-V chips and advanced systems for AI and HPC. It has received €111 million in funding and has been selected as an IPCEI project.

Pangea Propulsion: driving space sovereignty with advanced propulsion technology. Specialising in sustainable space propulsion, with expertise in aerospike engines and reusable systems.

Acknowledgements

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Secpho

Secretariat for Digital Policies

TECNIO Association

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