The Barcelona Deep Tech Summit is the most important event in southern Europe in this field, serving as an international showcase for the latest developments in the sector. Here is where the most recent and innovative scientific and technological knowledge meets institutions, corporations, and investors.

For two days in Barcelona, all the key players in the Deep Tech ecosystem come together: entrepreneurs, spin-offs, established startups, research groups, industry leaders, researchers, investors, companies, universities, research centres, and any institution seeking to foster the transfer of deep technology to the market.

At the Barcelona Deep Tech Summit, we will discover the latest global trends and startups and spin-offs will have the opportunity to draw investment to bring the most advanced technology to market. The key challenges we face will also be addressed: emissions, water consumption, mobility, or emerging diseases.

The 2023 edition is the second Barcelona Deep Tech Summit. After the success of the first edition held at the Antiga Fàbrica DAMM in Barcelona, the organisers opted to extend the duration of the congress and occupy more available space.

This edition is taking place at the Palau de Congressos de Barcelona, in the Montjuic venue of Fira de Barcelona on 28th and 29th November. It is expected to draw nearly 1,000 people and features over 60 speakers, 50 startups showcasing their innovation, and the participation of 40 institutions and investor companies.
The Deep Tech sector is considered strategic because, by combining cutting-edge technology and scientific knowledge, it addresses disruptive solutions for the global challenges we face.

Deep Tech initiatives require significant investment to reach the market and entities must be willing to accept the risk they represent, as they propose unprecedented and innovative solutions.

Therefore, one of the challenges of the Deep Tech Summit is for investors, research groups, and startups to connect and accelerate projects.

The EU has made a very significant commitment to Deep Tech and has the goal of training 1 million people in Deep Tech by 2025.

In Catalonia, we have 320 Deep Tech companies; they generate a turnover of 161 million euros per year and employ 2,340 highly-qualified workers. Nearly 90% are in the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (Acció: Analysis of the Deep Tech startup ecosystem in Catalonia, 2023).

It is also the goal of Barcelona to be the capital of Deep Tech in Southern. In fact, it currently is the European city with the most startups in technological innovation, surpassing Paris (9.3) and London (7.5) (Startup Heatmap).
The Deep Tech ecosystem in Catalonia also includes **around 40 research centers**, including: Barcelona Supercomputing Center, Institut de Ciències Fotòniques, Centre de Regulació Genòmica, Institut Català de Nanociència i Nanotecnologia, Institut de Bioenginyeria de Catalunya and Institut de Física d’Altes Energies.

The 9 incubators and accelerators, as well as 31 specialized venture capital funds, are also key players.

The Barcelona Deep Tech Summit is an initiative of the **Barcelona City Council**, through **Barcelona Activa**, and five **Catalan universities** (UB, UAB, UPC, UPF, and UOC). The **Government of Catalonia** co-organizes the event through ACCIÓ (Departament d’Empresa i Treball), and the Departament de Recerca i Universitats.
Objectives

The Barcelona Deep Tech Summit will showcase the latest proposals from startups, entrepreneurs, and research groups in Deep Tech and connect them with potential investors, companies, and institutions to help bring the research to market, not only generating business and activity, but also helping meet global challenges.

Specifically, the Barcelona Deep Tech Summit aims to:

- Foster a culture and activity of scientifically and technologically based entrepreneurship.
- Facilitate the entry of technological initiatives into the market by connecting them with investors.
- Provide large corporations and potential investors with knowledge of the startups and spin-offs who have solutions relevant to their challenges.
- Present the latest trends in deep technologies to the world.
- Share initiatives to make it easier for deep technologies to address the most complex challenges.
- Promote the growth of research centres and Deep Tech startups in Barcelona and Catalonia.
These **objectives** are gathered into **four axes** that capture the spirit of how the summit is organised:

**Inspire:** Based on understanding the main technological trends and how they impact society and the economy.

**Connect:** Creating spaces for the exchange of ideas across the entire ecosystem and fostering collaboration opportunities.

**Showcase:** Providing a space for start-ups and research centres to demonstrate their innovative solutions to investors, corporations, institutions, and stakeholders.

**Build:** Promoting entrepreneurship within the scientific community to accelerate the transfer of knowledge and innovation in the Deep Tech sector.
We will propose disruptive solutions to global challenges in **four main areas**:

1. **Energy transition**
   Innovations will be presented to redefine how we generate, consume, and conserve energy, with water as a key element. We will also explore the newest technology to optimize urban and rural mobility, reduce emissions, and enhance the citizen experience. Some of the specific issues we address are:
   - Innovations in the production, storage, and distribution of sustainable and clean energy
   - Autonomous and connected vehicles
   - Sustainable urban mobility
   - Smart cities
   - Logistics and intelligent transport
   - Transition towards energy sovereignty

2. **Tech Industry**
   We will delve into the digitisation and automation of processes, connectivity provided by the Internet of Things (IoT), the use of big data, and artificial intelligence to optimise production. We will also explore the impact of advanced robotics on the supply chain and what opportunities there are in 3D printing.

We discuss:
- Automation and robotics
- IoT applied to the industry
3. Connectivity
The latest innovations in communication infrastructures, cybersecurity, photonics applied to advanced telecommunications, and high-precision sensors. We will also discuss quantum computing, which has the promise of solving problems unattainable by conventional computers.

We focus on:
- 5G and the future of connectivity
- Satellites and global connectivity
- Smart cities
- Challenges in cybersecurity
- Photonics
- Quantum computing

4. Health Tech
We will explore the latest innovations in personalised medicine, virtual health, advanced therapies, and understand how technology can radically change disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

We address questions such as:
- AI in diagnosis
- The future operating room
- Personalised genomics
- Digital therapies and virtual reality
- Wearables and the Internet of Things
Speakers

At the Barcelona Deep Tech Summit, more than 60 international experts in Deep Tech are set to present the most surprising developments we’ll be hearing about in the coming months. Here are some of the international references we’ll have the opportunity to listen to:

**Nolen Gertz**  
**Assistant Professor of Applied Philosophy at University of Twente**

Gertz serves as an Assistant Professor of Applied Philosophy, at the University of Twente in the Netherlands. His impressive body of work includes authoring books like "Nihilism," "Nihilism and Technology," and "The Philosophy of War and Exile." His influence extends far and wide, with his work translated into multiple languages and featured in prestigious academic journals and international publications, including The Washington Post, the Atlantic, and Aeon.

**Gemma Marfany Nadal**  
**Full Professor of Genetics at Universitat de Barcelona**

Gemma Marfany brings a wealth of knowledge as a Full Professor of Genetics at the prestigious University of Barcelona. Her scientific and academic journey spans Barcelona, Edinburgh, and Oxford, enriching her perspective on genetic research. She leads a dynamic research group focusing on genetic diagnosis of rare retinal diseases, animal and organoid models, and gene editing. Notably, she is also the co-founder and scientific adviser of a spin-off company, DBGen Ocular Genomics, dedicated to genetic diagnosis of inherited visual disorders.
Based in New York, Ariadna Font brings a wealth of expertise in Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). With over a decade of experience as a technical leader at prominent companies like IBM and Twitter, she elevated the concept of Responsible AI to the corporate level. Today, she leads Alinia, a pioneering startup dedicated to helping businesses deploy AI reliably and safely.

Carlos Casanovas started his career as a wind turbine drivetrain engineer and later earned an MSc in Mechanical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has played a pivotal role in the offshore wind industry, and has worked with businesses such as Ecotècnia (now GE Wind), Bluewater Energy Services, and Gamesa. In 2017, he co-founded X1 Wind and currently serves as the CTO, heading up technical development.

Javier Marcipar, a civil engineer and numerical methods expert, embarked on his tech journey in 2001 with a startup focused on designing and manufacturing large temporary shelters. In 2011, his passion for innovation led him to co-found CIMNE Technologies, dedicated to fostering scientifically based startups. Since then, as Managing Director, he’s overseen the creation of 16 spin-offs and successfully exited three of them.

Camila Tomas
VP Innovation & Technology of Puig

Based in Barcelona, Camila Tomas is a visionary leader who is spearheading transformative changes in the perfume industry. As the VP of Innovation at Puig, she and her tech-savvy team are at the forefront of shaking up the fragrance world through digital and retail innovations. Camila works at the intersection of aesthetics and technology, redefining how we experience scents and shopping.
Maria Fatima Lucas
CEO of Zymvol

With a Ph.D. in Computational Chemistry and over 20 years of experience in protein sciences. Co-founder and CEO of Zymvol, a biotechnology company specialising in the design and development of enzymes through computer simulations. Thanks to this work, in 2020, she was one of the winners of the EU Prize for Women Innovators, awarded by the European Commission.

Limor Schweitzer
Fundador of MOV.AI

Limor Schweitzer, a technology entrepreneur, is the visionary founder behind MOV.AI, a groundbreaking robotics software engine. With a diverse entrepreneurial background spanning areas such as telecom billing, internet security, and email marketing, Limor is a true innovator. He holds several patents, frequently shares his expertise by giving talks on robotics and the future of labour, and has a rich international background, having lived in the UK, Italy, USA, Israel, and Portugal.

Josemaria Siota
Executive Director
IESE Business School (EIC)

Executive Director at IESE Business School - University of Navarra and a Harvard Business School alum, Josemaria Siota is renowned for his work on open innovation, corporate venturing, and technology transfer. He works with people around the world to drive innovation and have a positive impact on society.
Activities
At the Barcelona Deep Tech Summit on 28th - 29th November, we have the opportunity to listen to more than 60 speakers in various formats:

- Presentations
- Panel discussions
- Interviews
- Debates
- Workshops
- Meetings
- other activities

Some of the additional activities include:

**Investment Forum**
Meeting point for investors with Deep Tech start-ups seeking funding. Selected early-stage start-ups with high potential will pitch to specialised investors to assess potential investment opportunities.

**S2F Investors – Startups**
In this networking activity, we will connect investors with Deep Tech startups looking for funding. Through one-on-one meetings, startups will have the opportunity to present their business models, innovations, and growth plans, while investors explore and evaluate upcoming businesses for potential investment.

**Open Innovation Challenge**
In this activity, we will connect startups and Deep Tech research groups with corporations seeking innovative solutions. Through one-to-one sessions, companies and startups will explore opportunities to collaborate or integrate, bringing forth creative answers.
Global Innovation Area

Global Innovation Area for attendees to discover the latest technological trends. Exhibition space featuring a selection of the top 50 startups in the sector, showcasing innovations for attendees to observe, listen to, and interact with. Startups will present their projects throughout the summit.

Deep Tech Awards

Showcase for five previously selected advanced technology startups to present their innovations. An expert jury will determine the best startup of 2023. The 2022 winner was Qilimanjaro Quantum Tech, a quantum computing specialist.

In addition, the Joan Roget Knowledge Transfer Awards will be presented, which recognise individuals, projects, and entities that have achieved impact over the course of their research career, also assessing the ability to bring the work into practice and the degree of connection with potential users.
What are Deep Tech startups?

Deep Tech startups are companies **rooted in cutting-edge scientific knowledge and technological advancements**. They propose **disruptive solutions** by leveraging deep technologies to address **global challenges**, primarily linked to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) such as environmental impact reduction, climate change mitigation, energy generation, mobility, industrial and energy efficiency, food, health, etc.

Examples of Deep Tech include **5G infrastructure**, **blockchain technology**, the **Internet of Things (IoT)**, advanced **analytics**, **quantum technology**, and **machine learning**. According to experts, Deep Tech has revolutionary potential, opening new avenues to solve highly complex problems. As emphasised by the Boston Consulting Group, "**Deep Tech can transform the world as the Internet once did.**" Gartner also highlights, "**Deep Tech is at the core of the most impactful emerging technologies with the potential to make significant advances in the current production model.**"

For this reason, Deep Tech is considered to have high geopolitical value. The European Union has set the goal of training 1 million people in Deep Tech by 2025. Deep Tech requires highly specific talent and a financing ecosystem that understands the need for time and capital to achieve returns. Moreover, they entail higher risks due to their disruptive nature. Therefore, bringing potential investors together with the people and initiatives developing Deep Tech is crucial.
The advanced technologies proposed by Deep Tech can either offer new products or solutions directly to the market or develop solutions for existing businesses to improve certain aspects of their operations.

In Catalonia, there are already **nearly 320 emerging companies** working on Deep Tech technologies, employing 2,340 highly qualified workers. They generate a revenue of 161 million euros annually.
According to data collected in the Deep Tech in Catalonia report 2023 (Acció):

**320 Deep Tech startups**

In Catalonia, there are nearly 320 Deep Tech companies, constituting 15% of the entire entrepreneurial ecosystem. A 10% increase compared to 2022, demonstrating the momentum of this sector.

**+2,300 Qualified Jobs**

These Deep Tech companies in Catalonia have created 2,340 qualified jobs (a 35% increase compared to the previous year) and have an annual revenue of 161 million euros (a 30% increase).

**90% of employees in a Deep Tech company in Catalonia hold university degrees.**

**180 million euros in funding raised**

They have achieved 20% more than the previous year, reaching the same amount in history. 80% of Catalan Deep Tech companies have secured funding.

**Main Areas of the Catalan Deep Tech startups**

Deep Tech companies in Catalonia work in biotechnology (39.7%), artificial intelligence (23.7%), frontier materials (11%), and robotics (8.6%).
European Deep Tech Revenue Soars by 60% compared to 2020

European Deep Tech startups experienced exponential growth, with a 60% increase in revenue compared to 2020. (Deep Tech Report Europe by Dealroom)

European Union aims to train one million Europeans in Deep Tech

The European Union aims to train one million Europeans in Deep Tech by 2025, according to the European Institute of Innovation and Technology.

Barcelona, Europe's 3rd Preferred City for Tech Entrepreneurs

Barcelona is the 3rd preferred city for technology startups in Europe, only behind London and Berlin, according to the Start-up Heat Map Europe (2023).

Barcelona, the European city with the most startups

Barcelona (13.9) has the highest number of technological innovation startups in Europe, surpassing Paris (9.3) and London (7.5).

International Investors in Deep Tech Ecosystem multiplied by 20

In the past five years, the number of international investors in the Deep Tech ecosystem in Barcelona has multiplied by 20 (from 6 to 70 from 2014 to 2020). Biocat.
Barcelona Deep Tech Summit
28-29 November 2023
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