

TOMORROW'S BUILDINGS

KEY INFO IN

10

POINTS

1

▶ A BUOYANT MARKET

In France, the construction industry had more than 400,000 companies, 1.43 million employees and revenues of €126 billion in 2016. A third of employees in this sector specialize in shell construction while two-thirds are in light work (French Building Federation). Several French companies operate internationally, including Vinci, Bouygues, Eiffage, Saint-Gobain, Schneider Electric and Lafarge.

2

▶ SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

The French market for improving home energy efficiency increased in value from €12.6 billion in 2006 to €21.6 billion in 2015. There are 131,000 full-time jobs in sustainable building, predominantly in the heat pump and domestic wood sectors (15,920 and 15,560 jobs, respectively). (ADEME, 2017)

3

▶ RT 2020: POSITIVE ENERGY BUILDINGS

The RT 2020 thermal regulations are set to replace RT 2012. They aim to implement the concept of “positive energy buildings”, which produce more energy than they consume. Energy savings are made possible by the use of connected thermostats (Qivivo, Ween) and close monitoring of energy consumption (Deepki, Dotivision, etc.).

4

▶ AN ACTIVE RESEARCH ENVIRONMENT

Six of France’s innovation clusters work predominantly on developing sustainable buildings and energy efficiency: Nobatek/Inef4 in Nouvelle Aquitaine, NOVABUILD in Pays de la Loire, Efficacity and Advancity in Ile de France (Paris region), Fibres-Energivie in Grand Est, and Tenerrdis in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes.

5 ▶ **IMPROVING INSULATION**

Many French startups are coming up with innovative ways for the buildings of tomorrow to adjust to current environmental challenges. Ecoxia has developed an insulated and eco-designed building envelope enabling homes to produce more energy than they consume.

6 ▶ **INNOVATIVE MATERIALS**

A number of French startups and SMEs have been developing innovative materials for the construction industry. These include Placo with its anti-pollution plaster, Isobat with its next-generation insulators; Woodoo, which rebuilds wood at the molecular level; and Cellumat with its innovative aerated concrete building materials for the residential and industrial construction sectors.

7 ▶ **A HIGHLY INNOVATIVE SECTOR**

The 2017 Awards du bâtiment (building awards) paid tribute to many companies from the sector for their innovative and sustainable solutions: removable and recyclable bricks, concrete reinforced with recycled glass, entirely photovoltaic building facades, sandwich boards made from 100% bio-sourced materials (flax, hemp, wood, etc.), thermo-regulating paint that stores and delivers energy, etc.

8

▶ SMART BUILDINGS

There are a number of high-quality French companies emerging in the smart building sector, particularly in the field of engineering (Egis, Tractebel, OTCE, Artelia, Scoping, etc.) as well as project management and home automation (Scheiber, Avidsen, Lifedomus, etc.). French startups such as Finalcad and Prosys are developing solutions for Building Information Modeling (BIM), while Bouygues will make BIM compulsory on all its sites by 2020.

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▶ WELCOME TO FRANCE

Various large foreign construction companies have set up in France, including Mexican company Cemex (2,000 jobs in France) and Norwegian business Sapa (also 2,000 jobs). Spain's Garnica Plywood, a manufacturer of plywood panels, Belgium's Delma, which produces prefabricated concrete staircases, and Italy's Salini Impregilo, which specializes in the construction of large, complex infrastructures, all invested in France in 2017.

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▶ ECO-CONSTRUCTION TRADE SHOWS

France hosts a wide array of eco-construction and energy efficiency trade shows, such as Ecobat, Intelligent Building Systems, Passi'Bat, and the Mondial du bâtiment in Paris; but also WoodRise in Bordeaux, the Carrefour international du bois in Nantes, and the Salon habitat et bois in Épinal.



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FRANCE: EUROPE'S

#1

**DESTINATION
FOR FOREIGN INVESTMENT
IN INDUSTRY**

(EY, 2017)



400,000

**COMPANIES
IN FRANCE'S CONSTRUCTION
INDUSTRY IN 2016**

(FRENCH BUILDING FEDERATION, 2017)

ACCESS TO A MARKET OF
67
MILLION CONSUMERS
AND GATEWAY TO THE EMEA



(INSEE, 2018)

€21.6 billion



**THE GLOBAL MARKET
FOR IMPROVING HOME
ENERGY EFFICIENCY**

(ADEME, 2017)



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