Why Spain for the *ICT Industry*?

✔ Information & Communications Technology propels economic development and modern knowledge-based societies. The digital economy is at the core of the Spanish Government economic growth and sustainability strategy, in line with the European Union. Spain’s RRP is one of the largest and most ambitious on digital, devoting 28.2% of the total allocation to digital (€19.6 billion).

✔ A mature market:
  - With over 36,541 (+0.4%) domestic and international ICT companies.
  - Directly employing 582,412 people (+10%).
  - €114.5 billion in revenue in 2021 (5.2% of GDP).
  - Technology and business activities related to Spain’s ICT industry extend beyond its borders through services exports (4% of the domestic total).

✔ A growing industry, Spain is ranked 7th in the EU for its high levels of connectivity and use of digital technology, according to the DESI -Digital Economy and Society Index 2022. Spain is an EU leader in connectivity and ranks 3rd for the second consecutive year.
Facts & Figures

Market size and maturity

Over 47 million consumers and over 33 million Internet users (mobile penetration rate of 120%).

Leader in ICT infrastructure

Spain boasts:

- The largest FTTH network in the European Union (3rd in the OECD).
- 88.3% of high-speed internet connections of 100 Mbps or more and 96.2% are 30 Mbps or above.
- Over 56 million mobile lines.
- 172,000 mobile telecommunications stations.
- The Spanish Supercomputer Network hosts supercomputer Mare Nostrum 4, the 3rd more powerful in Europe and 13 worldwide.
- A strategic node for undersea cables, an extensive network connects Spain to Europe, Africa and the American continent.
- RedIRIS: a high-capacity optical network that connects research centres in Spain with international academic networks.

Highly skilled talent at a moderate cost

48% of the population between the ages of 25 and 34 have higher-education qualifications.

21.9% are graduates with STEM degrees (above the average for Europe at 13.6%).

Labour costs below those of other neighbouring countries and below the European average.

The broad network of Spanish universities and vocational training schools offer ICT degrees and regulated studies all along the Spanish territory. Companies closely collaborate with Universities fostering digital skills related training courses. Additionally, business schools and coding schools add up to the training available offer.

Institutional support and innovation

The ICT industry is a core priority for European and Spanish institutions: EU’s Digital Strategy and Digital Spain 2026 place digitalization at the centre of economic development.

Support for the deployment of infrastructure: next-generation broadband and 5G technology (National 5G Observatory).

34 technology centres and 64 science parks are involved in the management of public/private funds to finance R&D&I projects and promote collaboration with business.

A very attractive tax incentives framework for R&D&I investment.

Investment opportunities

Clear bet of the Spanish Government for the enabling technologies: AI, ML, big data, 3D printing, cybersecurity, IoT, quantic computing, etc. applied to all driving sectors of economy, thus fostering projects in Industry 4.0, Green Tech, Health Tech, Connected Vehicle or Smart Tourism.

Launchpad

Spain’s geostrategic location and cultural ties make it an ideal springboard to a market of 1.5 billion consumers:

- European Union (446 million).
- MENA countries (575 million).
- LATAM countries (658 million).
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