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## Barcelona as a technological hub

So far **this year**, 52 companies in the technology sector have signed the rental of **76,825 square meters** of offices in Barcelona, which is **more than a quarter of the total contracting of the city**, according to [JLL](#) data.

- Dynamics: **In 2013**, the technological firms **barely exceeded 30,000** square meters. Two years later, **in 2015**, these companies more than doubled the hiring, reaching **70,000 square meters** and finally skyrocketed last year to **close to 95,000 square meters**, accounting **for 27% of total operations in 2017**.

- Sectors of the companies: Soft/Hardware development – 45%, IT consulting – **54%**, E-commerce – 1%.

- Big names: Everis, Indra, Amazon, King Games, Criteo España, Hewlett Packard, Playground, etc.

## Barcelona as Startup activity hub

- [Richard Florida](#) and [Ian Hathaway](#) have just published a new edition of their research "[Rise of the Global Startup City](#)".

  The research states that Barcelona is the only city in Southern Europe - **among the 30 most active global cities in this Startup Economy**. More specifically, in the **33rd hub** in terms of the number of agreements on the total **global venture capital** and it is positioned as the world's **27th hub in Early Stage agreements**.

- The [Startup Heatmap Europe](#) 2018 report "[The rise of the interconnected startup](#)" reveals that Barcelona is ranked the **3d popular location for starting a business**.

- [Barcelona Startup Ecosystem **Guide**](#) provides local entrepreneurs with a **350+ list of resources** for every stage of their startup journey, and outline a basic framework for **communities** to map their ecosystem.

- [Wayra Barcelona](#), the open innovation hub of [Telefónica Open Future](#), together with [Nekko Capital](#), [OneRagtime](#) and [Fundación Innovation Bankinter](#), have opened a new call aimed **at technological startups** in the **growth phase** seeking **funding**. The deadline is the **13th of November**, application can be sent through **[online form](#)**.

# Barcelona as a Smart City

In the article by [Carlos Prego](#) published on October 30, 2018 at [xataka.com](#) ["Smart Cities that were going to revolutionize the world but at the moment they have come to nothing"](#) Barcelona is named **one of the most "Smart" cities of Spain**.

- Among the **objectives** that were raised from 2013 the City Council highlighted the implementation of the lighting master plan (**Smart Lighting**), which sought to favor pedestrians and greater energy efficiency; a **smart consumption of electricity and water** and improving **urban mobility** in the locality.

- The **City's Digital Transformation Plan** is allocated a budget of [72 million euros](#). On its official website, the Consistory includes **three main axes** in its digital strategy. One seeks to **improve transparency** and innovation in local government, another **managing of Open Data** and a third line aims to "ensure that the city has the necessary **digital infrastructures**".

- Despite of the all policies applied so far Barcelona still struggles with **high levels of nitrogen dioxide (NO2), heavy traffic and electricity consumption problems**.