NS Global Consultants Pte Ltd in association with NITK Singapore Chapter Alumni Association

Singapore - The Ideal Ecosystem for Startup

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Why Singapore is the Ideal Startup Hub

A world-class destination for entrepreneurs, innovators, and global businesses seeking a competitive edge in Asia and beyond.

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GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Why Singapore? A Global Hub for Innovation

🌏 Premier Innovation Festival

SWITCH — Asia's flagship innovation festival — underscores Singapore's deep commitment to technology and entrepreneurship.

🏆 Top 5 Globally

Ranked among the world's top five startup ecosystems by Startup Genome, Singapore punches well above its weight.

🔗 Gateway to SEA

A strategic launchpad into Southeast Asia's 680 million-person market, with unparalleled connectivity and regulatory clarity.

The Singapore Startup Ecosystem: A Structured Approach

Enterprise Singapore at the Helm

Enterprise Singapore spearheads flagship programmes designed to integrate startups into the nation's innovation fabric.

SLINGSHOT

A global deep-tech pitching competition acting as a structured entry point to Singapore's ecosystem.

Year-Round Community

Ongoing engagement events foster meaningful collaboration and shared ambitions among founders and partners.

Innovation at the Crossroads of Asia

Singapore sits at the intersection of East and West — a city-state engineered for ambitious founders building world-changing companies.

Funding Your Growth: Beyond Traditional VC

A Maturing Capital Landscape

Singapore's funding environment in 2026 is more diverse and resilient than ever. Founders now have access to a rich spectrum of capital sources beyond traditional venture capital.

SGX plays a pivotal role in capital markets, offering high-growth startups a credible path to public listing and long-term capital access.

Government Co-Investment

Additional public funds injected to de-risk early-stage deep-tech ventures.

Corporate Partnerships

Rising trend of MNC-startup co-development deals providing non-dilutive capital.

SGX Capital Markets

A mature, regulated exchange offering growth-stage startups a credible exit runway.

Building Your Dream Team in Singapore

World-Class Talent Pool

Access skilled professionals from a diverse, multilingual workforce shaped by one of Asia's finest education systems.

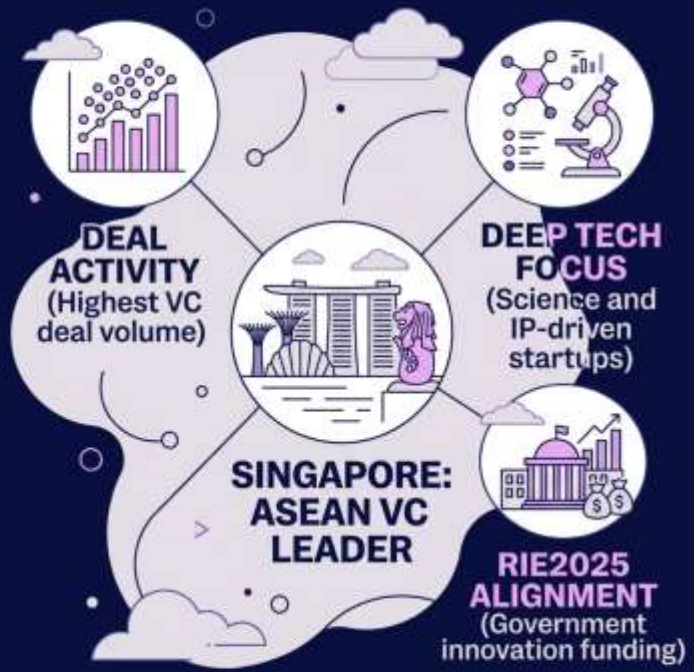
AI-Powered Hiring Tools

Leverage cutting-edge recruitment technology and AI screening to identify and onboard top talent faster.

Fractional Talent Models

Engage senior expertise on a part-time basis — optimise costs while retaining strategic capability for sustainable growth.

Singapore's Commitment to Innovation: Data Speaks Volumes



A Resilient Funding Landscape

Singapore leads ASEAN in venture capital deal activity, reflecting robust and sustained investor confidence in the market.

- **RIE2025 domains** — advanced manufacturing, health, sustainability — attract focused institutional capital.
- **Deep tech** is the hallmark of Singapore's ecosystem, built on rigorous scientific foundations and proprietary IP.
- The funding landscape has shown remarkable **resilience** even amid global macroeconomic headwinds.

Leading the Pack: Singapore's Venture Funding Dominance

Consistently outpacing ASEAN peers, Singapore commands the region's venture capital activity — a testament to its trusted regulatory environment, investor-friendly policies, and world-class infrastructure.

Your Launchpad to Success

Singapore offers everything an ambitious founder needs — from day one to global scale.

Leverage the Ecosystem

Tap into Singapore's supportive infrastructure, strategic location, and robust funding landscape to build with confidence.

Engage with SWITCH & SLINGSHOT

These flagship programmes offer structured pathways to investors, mentors, and a global community of innovators.

Take Flight Globally

Singapore is where bold ideas become global companies. Innovation thrives here — and so will your startup.

Ready to begin? Apply for SLINGSHOT 2026 before **30 June 2026** and take your first step into Singapore's world-class startup ecosystem.

Legal Framework, Credibility & Global Reputation

Robust Dispute Resolution

Singapore is a preferred jurisdiction for dispute resolution, offering efficient courts and internationally recognised arbitration centres. This is critical for investor confidence and protecting business interests across borders.

Reputation & Credibility

Having a Singapore-based entity enhances credibility with investors, partners, and customers globally, making it significantly easier to build trust, attract opportunities, and open doors that would otherwise remain closed.

> **"A Singapore address is more than a location — it is a signal of quality, stability, and ambition to the global business community."**

Singapore's combination of legal excellence, global reputation, and pro-business governance makes it the definitive choice for startups with international ambitions.

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Key Advantages

Reasons why Singapore leads as the world's premier startup hub.

#1

Ease of Business

Consistently ranked among the world's top destinations for doing business.

Why Singapore is Perfect for AI-Powered Startups

Cutting-Edge AI Infrastructure

Singapore's world-class digital infrastructure and advanced telecommunications networks provide the perfect foundation for AI-powered businesses to operate seamlessly and scale globally.

Access to AI Talent & Resources

Singapore offers access to world-class AI talent, research institutions, and innovation hubs, making it easy for solo entrepreneurs to find expertise and collaborate with the broader tech ecosystem.

Regulatory Support for Innovation

Singapore's transparent and efficient regulatory framework actively encourages AI innovation, with clear guidelines and support for emerging technologies and digital business models.

Government AI Initiatives

The government actively promotes AI adoption through funding, grants, and innovation programmes, creating an ecosystem where AI-powered startups can thrive and scale with minimal barriers.

Singapore: The Strategic Gateway to ASEAN

A top-ranked ecosystem offering zero capital gains, global IP protection, and premier arbitration for MNCs.

1. Ease of Business

Ranked #2 globally in the World Bank Index. Offers unrestricted flow of funds in and out of the country for seamless cross-border operations.

2. Tax Friendly

Zero capital gains tax. Startups and MNCs can exit or sell shares without tax penalty, maximizing wealth preservation and growth.

3. IP Protection

Ironclad protection for global R&D. Strict enforcement of intellectual property laws providing a safe harbor for global tech companies.

4. Int'l Arbitration

Singapore International Arbitration Centre (SIAC) is globally ranked #2, providing unmatched legal certainty for MNC dispute resolution.

Regional Launchpad & MNC Operations Base

10 ASEAN Nations

A centralized gateway to Southeast Asia. Reaching 10 member countries efficiently by establishing operations in one politically stable and highly connected hub.

MNC Operations Base

Top choice for centralizing sales, risk, compliance, banking & treasury. Driven by the rule of law, global talent availability, and unmatched physical infrastructure.

OTHER COUNTRIES
START UP JOURNEY

Dynamic ecosystems. Global ambition.
The next wave of innovation is coming from everywhere.

1. **GLOBAL STARTUP ECOSYSTEM RANKING**
   Measures the overall health, scale, and performance of startup ecosystems worldwide.

2. **CHINA**
   A global leader in AI, sustainability and deep tech innovation.

3. **ESTONIA**
   A digital-first nation and startup hub leading in e-governance and tech.

4. **EUROPE**
   Strong research base and growing startup momentum across the region.

5. **INDIA**
   A powerhouse of talent and innovation driving global impact.

6. **AUSTRIA & INDIA** (JOINT FOCUS)
   Collaboration in deep tech, green innovation and startup exchange programs.

7. **VIENNA**
   A growing innovation hub with strong support for startups and research.

8. **THAILAND**
   Emerging as a regional startup hub in Southeast Asia.

9. **SOUTH KOREA**
   A hub for advanced technology, innovation and global startups.

10. **ISRAEL**
    A startup nation known for breakthrough innovation and global impact.

11. **UNITED STATES**
    The world's leading destination for startups, capital and innovation.

These countries are shaping the future of innovation and building the **next generation of global startups.**

GLOBAL STARTUP ECOSYSTEM RANKING

(2021–2025)

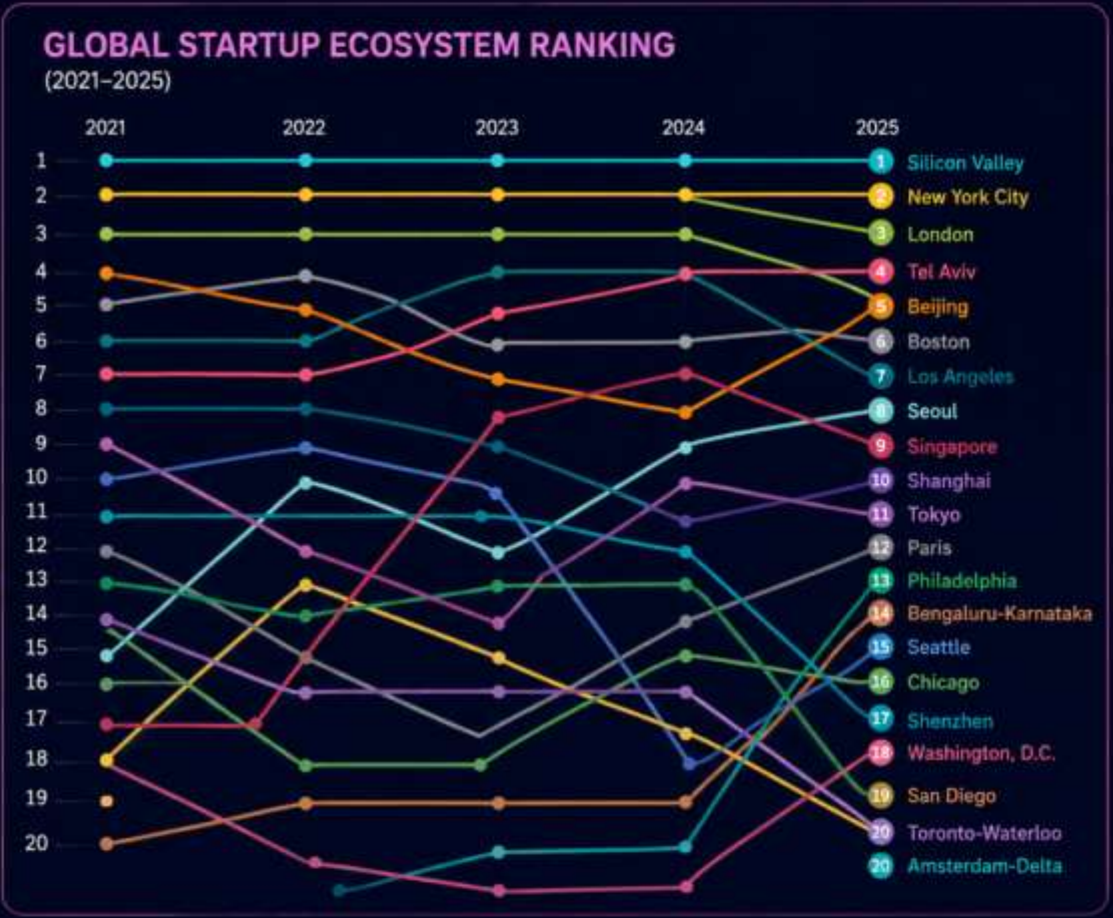
The Global Startup Ecosystem Ranking tracks the performance of the world's top startup hubs over time based on key factors like funding, innovation, talent, market reach, and infrastructure.

This ranking highlights the shifting leadership of global innovation hubs and the rise of new startup powerhouses.

Funding Access | Innovation Output | Talent & Experience | Market Reach | Infrastructure & Support

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Silicon Valley** has maintained the #1 position throughout 2021–2025.
- **New York City** and **London** continue to hold strong in the top 3.
- Emerging hubs like **Seoul, Shenzhen, Bengaluru,** and **Toronto** are gaining momentum.



Young Entrepreneurs Embracing AI-Powered Solo Ventures

The Rise of One-Person Companies in China

1 **Breaking Age Barriers**

Young professionals are increasingly starting one-person companies to escape age discrimination in the workplace, particularly the "curse of 35" — a widespread challenge in tech and competitive sectors.

2 **AI as the Great Equalizer**

AI tools have dramatically lowered entry barriers, enabling solo founders to accomplish what previously required entire teams. Young entrepreneurs can now generate significant income — up to 40,000 yuan (S$7,500) per month — through AI-powered services.

3 **Government Support Driving Growth**

The Chinese government is actively backing AI-powered startups. Suzhou pledged to cultivate over 10,000 one-person company talents by 2028, while Chengdu offered subsidies up to 20,000 yuan for graduates launching AI-driven ventures.

4 **A Major Emerging Trend**

Solo entrepreneurship powered by AI is becoming a major trend in China, with young professionals increasingly choosing independent projects and micro-businesses over traditional corporate jobs, driven by technological empowerment and economic opportunity.

Competing for Capital: Estonia's Cleantech in a Defence-Tech-Dominated EU

Investment Landscape Comparison

Defence Tech

- 2022: $248.1M funding across 8 rounds
- 2023: $376.5M funding across 10 rounds
- 2024: $763.6M funding across 20 rounds
- 2025: $1,292.3M funding across 22 rounds

Growth trend: Exponential increase in both funding and deal activity

Cleantech

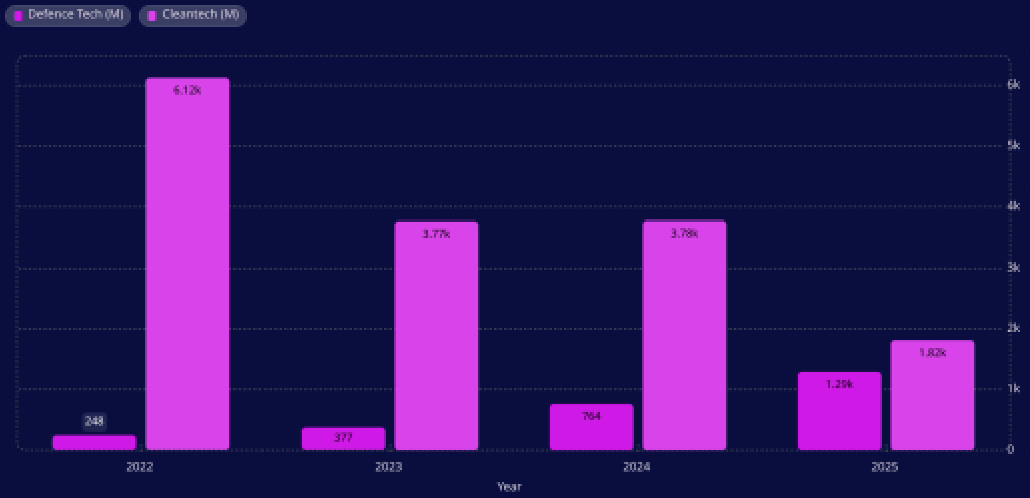
- 2022: $6,124.5M funding across 395 rounds
- 2023: $3,772.9M funding across 325 rounds
- 2024: $3,782.1M funding across 291 rounds
- 2025: $1,815.1M funding across 180 rounds

Trend: Consolidation phase with focus on quality over quantity

Key insight: Singapore's strategic position attracts significant VC and PE investment across emerging sectors like Defence Tech and Cleantech, demonstrating investor confidence in the region's startup ecosystem.

The Geopolitical Shift: Defence Tech Reshaping European Startup Investment

A Shift in VC and PE Capital Allocation



Main insight: Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, venture capital and private equity have increasingly pivoted towards defence technologies, diverting significant capital from clean technologies.

Key findings:

Defence Tech Surge

- Exponential growth trajectory from $248.1M (2022) to $1,292.3M (2025)
- 50% increase from 2022 to 2023
- More than doubled from 2023 to 2024
- Surpassed the billion-dollar mark in 2025
- Deal activity increased from 8 rounds (2022) to 22 rounds (2025)

Trend expected to continue as global instability reinforces security concerns

Cleantech Consolidation

- Steep decline from $6,124.5M (2022) to $1,815.1M (2025)
- Shift from quantity to quality: rounds decreased from 395 to 180

Market consolidation phase with focus on strategic investments

Capital diversion to defence priorities

Startup, Investment & Mobility Opportunities

WHY AUSTRIA

Your Gateway to Europe

Austria offers unparalleled access to European markets and a thriving investor community, making it an ideal launchpad for ambitious startups from India and beyond.

Grants & Accelerators

Robust support through government grants, world-class accelerators, and incubator programmes

Working Holiday Programme

Encouraging youth mobility, global exposure, and cross-cultural professional development

Startup Networking

Strong focus on international collaboration and building meaningful entrepreneurial connections

Bengaluru is the Leader by a Mile

Bengaluru leads innovation, investment, talent and opportunity across India's startup ecosystem.

#1 in Unicorns & Soonicorns

Bengaluru leads India, followed by Delhi-NCR and Greater Mumbai.

Most Job Opportunities

Leads in top-end, future-relevant technologies across AI, NLP, Robotics, Blockchain, Cybersecurity and Quantum Computing.

Highest Salaries for Tech Talent

Bengaluru offers the highest pay packets to tech professionals.

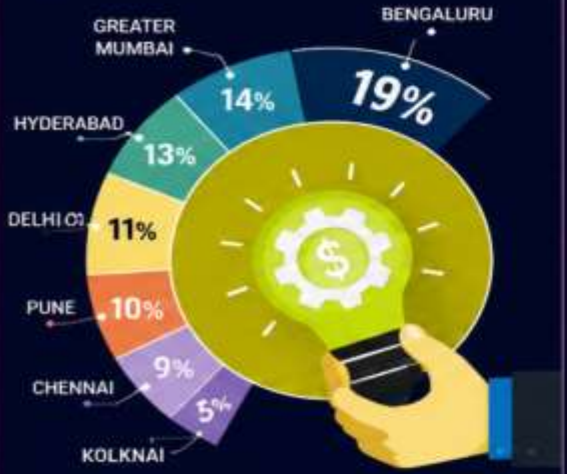
Vibrant Ecosystem & Network Effect

For virtually every problem you are dealing with, there is someone here who can help and handhold you.

– Fintech Founder, Delhi-NCR (now in Bengaluru)

Startup Capital

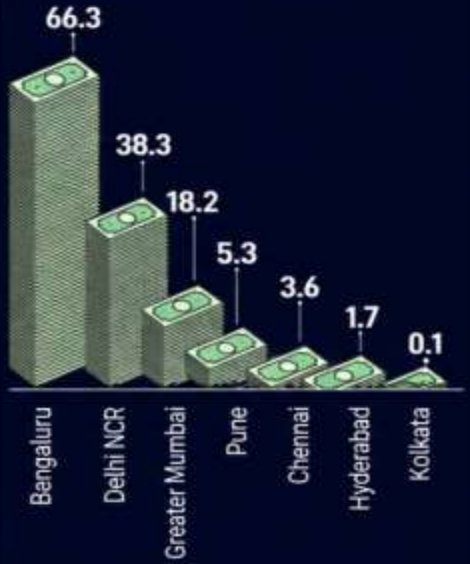
Share of startups formed during 2014–23 that were funded by any kind of investor (%)



SOURCE Tracxn

Flush With Funds

Equity funding received by startups from VC funds during 2014–23 ($ bln)



SOURCE Tracxn

Austria & India Innovation Partnership

Two dynamic innovation ecosystems converging to shape the future of global entrepreneurship and technology collaboration.

Austria's Rise

Emerging as a premier European startup and innovation hub with world-class infrastructure

India's Strength

Contributing exceptional technology talent and breakthrough startup innovation at scale

Growing Collaboration

Deepening ties in entrepreneurship, technology, and cross-border business ventures

Global Expansion

Increased opportunities for international business growth and market access

ViennaUP & Future Growth Opportunities

ViennaUP stands as one of the world's most significant startup networking platforms — a catalyst for the Austria–India innovation story.

Global Startup Platform

ViennaUP brings together investors, founders, and technology partners from across the globe, creating unmatched opportunities for deal-making and collaboration.

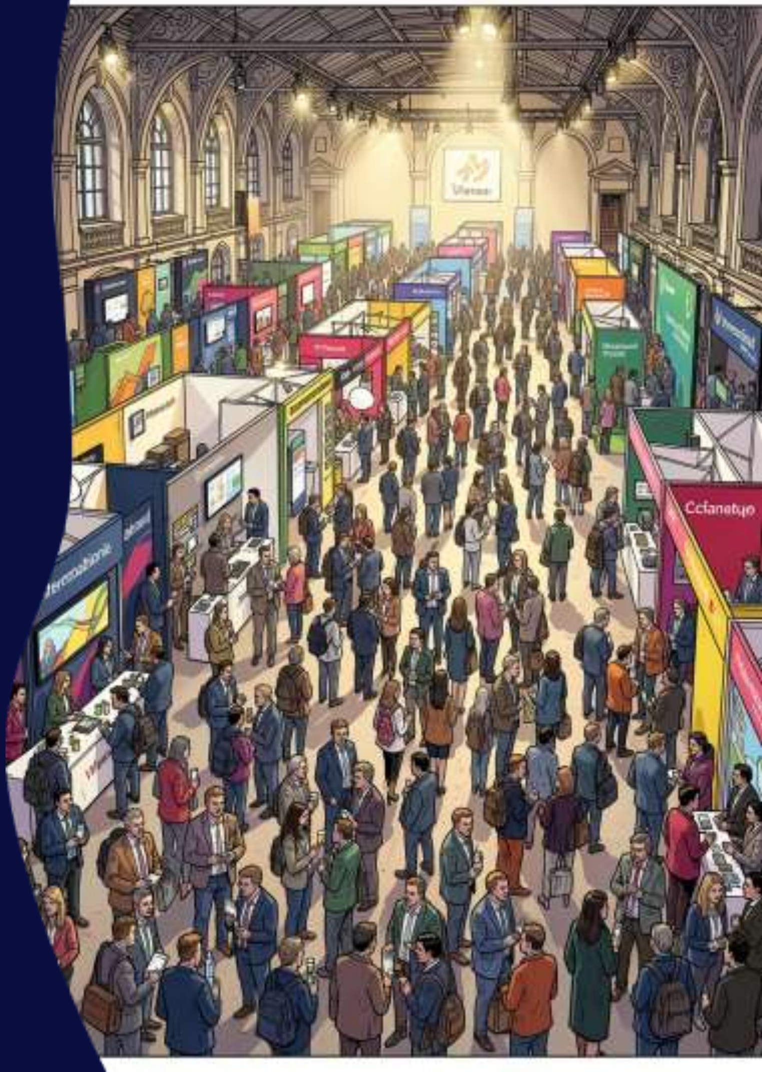
Cross-Border Innovation

Austria and India are positioned as complementary innovation ecosystems — Austria's precision engineering and regulatory expertise paired with India's agile tech talent.

Future Growth Trajectory

Cross-border collaboration is driving the next wave of innovation, opening doors for technology partnerships, joint ventures, and sustainable long-term growth.

Austria and India are not just partners — they are **complementary forces** shaping the future of global innovation together.



Thailand Corridor: The RISE Innovation Hub

Seamless Market Expansion

Bangkok-based RISE acts as the dedicated gateway for Singapore startups entering the Thai market, seamlessly connecting them to one of Southeast Asia's most dynamic tech economies.

Global Innovation Alliance (GIA)

Selected as a premier GIA partner by Enterprise Singapore, ensuring government-backed credibility and support.

Network of 500+ Corporates

Provides immediate and direct access to a vast ecosystem of top Thai conglomerates and strategic enterprise partners.

Accelerated Market Entry

Fast-tracks localization by assisting startups in adapting products and rapidly securing high-value pilot projects.

SEOUL VISION 2030 FUND

Investing Today. Building Tomorrow.

To support the continued development of the innovation and startup ecosystem, the Seoul Metropolitan Government is establishing the **Seoul Vision 2030 Fund**, a **$4 billion** initiative running from 2023 to 2026.

Through this fund, the city aims to actively **overcome the investment downturn** and strategically **invest in future industries.**

SEOUL VISION 2030 FUND

FUND SIZE	DURATION	FOCUS
$4 BILLION	**2023 – 2026** (4 YEARS)	**Future Industries**

WHY ISRAEL BECAME A STARTUP POWERHOUSE

A unique blend of culture, talent, innovation, and global ambition.

1 STRONG INNOVATION CULTURE

- Culture of experimentation, resilience, and problem-solving.
- Failure is seen as part of learning, encouraging calculated risks.
- Entrepreneurial mindset and strong networks fuel aggressive innovation.

2 MILITARY-TO-TECHNOLOGY PIPELINE

- Elite military intelligence and cyber units develop world-class technical expertise.
- Experience in cybersecurity, AI, data analytics, and communications systems.
- Veterans turn their knowledge into groundbreaking startups.

3 HIGH RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (R&D) INTENSITY

- Among the highest R&D investment as a % of GDP globally.
- Strong collaboration between universities, government, and private investors.
- Global tech giants like Google, Microsoft, Intel, and NVIDIA run major R&D centers in Israel.

4 VENTURE CAPITAL & GLOBAL ORIENTATION

- Small domestic market drives startups to think global from day one.
- Targeting the U.S., Europe, and Asia from the start.
- Highly active VC ecosystem with frequent global acquisitions and IPOs.

In 2025, Israeli tech companies reportedly raised

US$15–16 BILLION

in funding, demonstrating resilience even during regional instability.

Israel's winning formula:

Talent + Technology + Tenacity =

Global Impact

The Key Reason for Silicon Valley's Success

Silicon Valley's success is rooted in world-class talent pipelines, venture capital, and a culture of risk-taking entrepreneurship.

Proximity to World-Class Universities

Stanford, UC Berkeley, and Caltech—with their stellar engineering schools—helped meet the early staffing needs of pioneers like Shockley Semiconductor, Fairchild, Intel, and eventually HP, Apple, and many more.

Stanford University | Berkeley University of California | Caltech

Boston: Another Early Tech Hub

Around the same time, the Boston area—powered by MIT and Harvard—played a key role in birthing companies like DEC, Wang, and many other technology pioneers.

MIT | Harvard University

Venture Capital & a Culture of Risk-Taking

Silicon Valley's true edge comes from its venture capital ecosystem and a deep-rooted culture that embraces risk and innovation.

Strong Venture Capital Ecosystem

Access to capital and mentorship enabled bold ideas to scale.

Risk-Taking Entrepreneurs

A higher tolerance for risk encouraged founders to bet on big ideas.

From Ideas to Impact

This mindset turned garage ideas into global companies.

> "Many founders went all-in to bring their ideas to life.
>
> Steve Jobs sold his Volkswagen for $1,500 to help start Apple and named at least six others he knew who also took major personal risks to get their tech idea to market.

U.S. Leads Global AI Investment in 2025

Venture capital investment in AI is surging worldwide, **with the U.S. leading by a wide margin.**

U.S. to Invest $87.4B in AI in 2025

Highest predicted venture capital investment in AI in 2025, a 3,432.7% increase since 2012 ($2.4B to $87.4B).

Leads in AI Compute Startups

The U.S. will invest the most in AI compute startups in 2025, at $9.5B.

China Leads in AI for Sustainability

China is the biggest investor in AI for environmental sustainability in 2025, investing $3B—17.8% more than the U.S.

Global Growth Across the Board

All countries analyzed show positive growth in venture capital AI investment.

Predicted Venture Capital Investment in AI (US$ Billions)

All figures rounded. Source: AIPRM (2025 Forecasts)

AI Compute Startups

Predicted VC investment in 2025

United States	$9.5B
China	$6.6B
United Kingdom	$1.0B

AI in Environmental Sustainability (2025)

Predicted VC investment

China	$3.0B
United States	$2.5B
United Kingdom	$0.6B

China to invest 17.8% more than the U.S.

Thank You

Thank you for your attention.

Any Questions?

Let's discuss how we can help you thrive.