



dealroom.co

IOT TRIBE × DEALROOM

Silicon sovereignty: Europe's push for semiconductor independence

IoT Tribe's research on Europe's semiconductor industry, with Dealroom funding data and a landscape of the companies in it.

What semiconductors are and why they matter

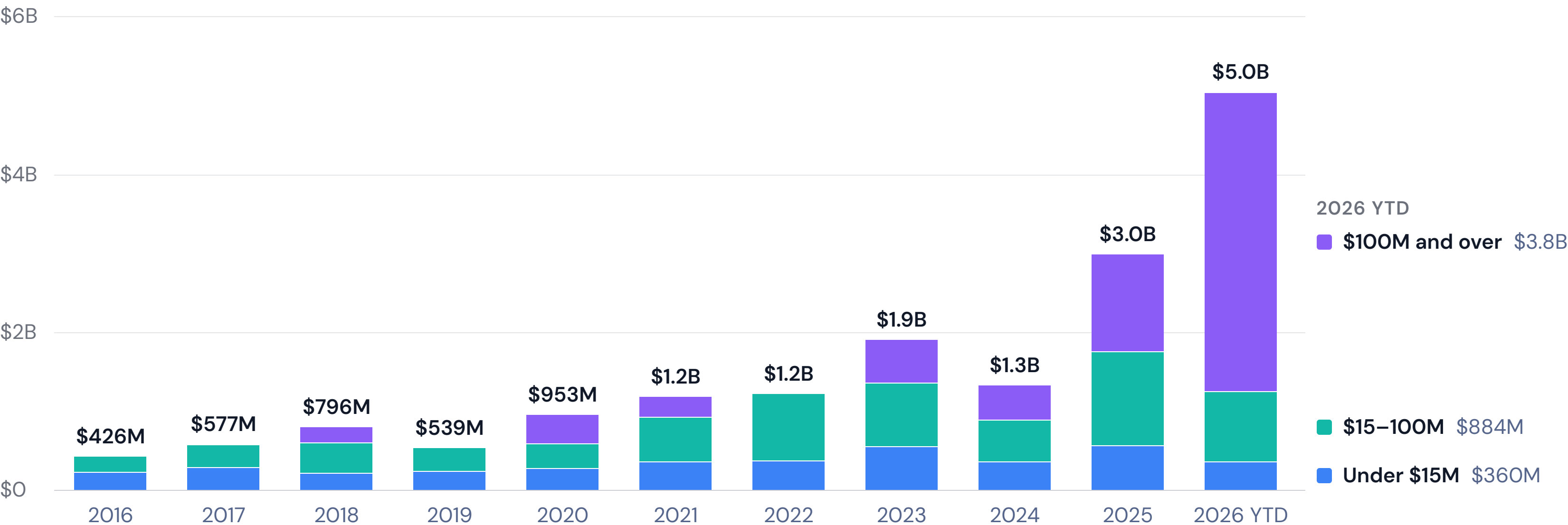
- Semiconductors are materials, typically silicon, whose conductivity sits between a conductor and an insulator, so they can control electrical signals.
- They are the basis of transistors, microprocessors, memory chips and sensors, and so of smartphones, electric vehicles, satellites, medical devices and AI systems.
- Control over the technology has become a matter of national security, economic resilience and industrial competitiveness.

\$1T

Global semiconductor market by 2030, on
McKinsey's 2022 forecast

European semiconductor startups raised \$5B in 2026 to 28 September, more than in any previous year

VC funding by round size, 2016 to 28 September 2026.



Europe's strengths are equipment, power chips and chip design

NETHERLANDS

ASML

The only maker of extreme ultraviolet (EUV) lithography machines, needed for the most advanced chips.

GERMANY

Infineon Technologies

Power semiconductors for cars and energy systems.

FRANCE AND ITALY

STMicroelectronics

Sensors, microcontrollers and automotive chips.

UNITED KINGDOM

Arm

Designs the processor architecture other companies license for their chips.

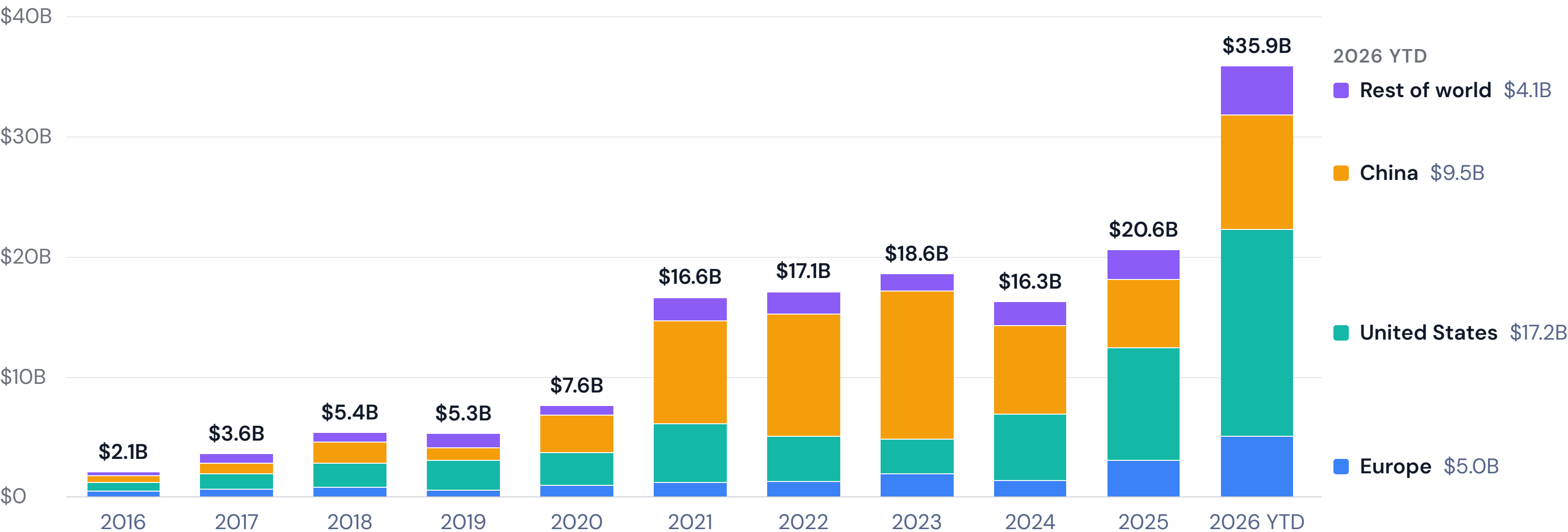
“The continent’s strength in the semiconductor industry lies in its highly specialised equipment and research. This makes the continent’s key players, such as ASML, essential to the entire global semiconductor supply chain.”

Peter Jenkins

CEO, Infinitesima

The United States overtook China in semiconductor VC funding in 2025

VC funding in semiconductor startups by region, 2016 to 28 September 2026.



“The market is largely dominated by U.S. and Asian players, and while Europe has champions like ASML, Infineon, NXP and ARM, the region as a whole is still somewhat fragmented and dependent on external supply.”

Vladimír Marhefka

Vice Chairman, RVMagnetics

Europe depends on East Asian manufacturing and imported raw materials

Chip shortages during COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine exposed the risk. The European Chips Act originally aimed to double the EU's share of the global market to 20% by 2030.

Geographic concentration

Advanced chip manufacturing is concentrated in East Asia, including Taiwan.

Raw materials

Chipmaking relies on gallium, germanium, tungsten, cobalt and rare earths, many of them mined, refined or controlled by China.

Manufacturing

Building a chip factory is expensive and slow, often held up by permits and regulation.

Talent

Europe has a skills gap in semiconductor engineering and fabrication.

COMPANIES

European semiconductor companies named in IoT Tribe's research

Three companies the research names for defence uses, and three notable startups.

GERMANY

Black Semiconductor

Uses graphene to build fast, energy-efficient links that let thousands of chips work as one.

FINLAND

IQM

Builds quantum computers, a technology with national-security uses.

SWEDEN

Silex Microsystems

A MEMS foundry whose chips enable next-generation defence sensors.

FRANCE

SiPearl

Energy-efficient processors for European supercomputers and AI, built on Arm Neoverse V1 cores.

FRANCE

Alice & Bob

Working to build a universal, fault-tolerant quantum computer.

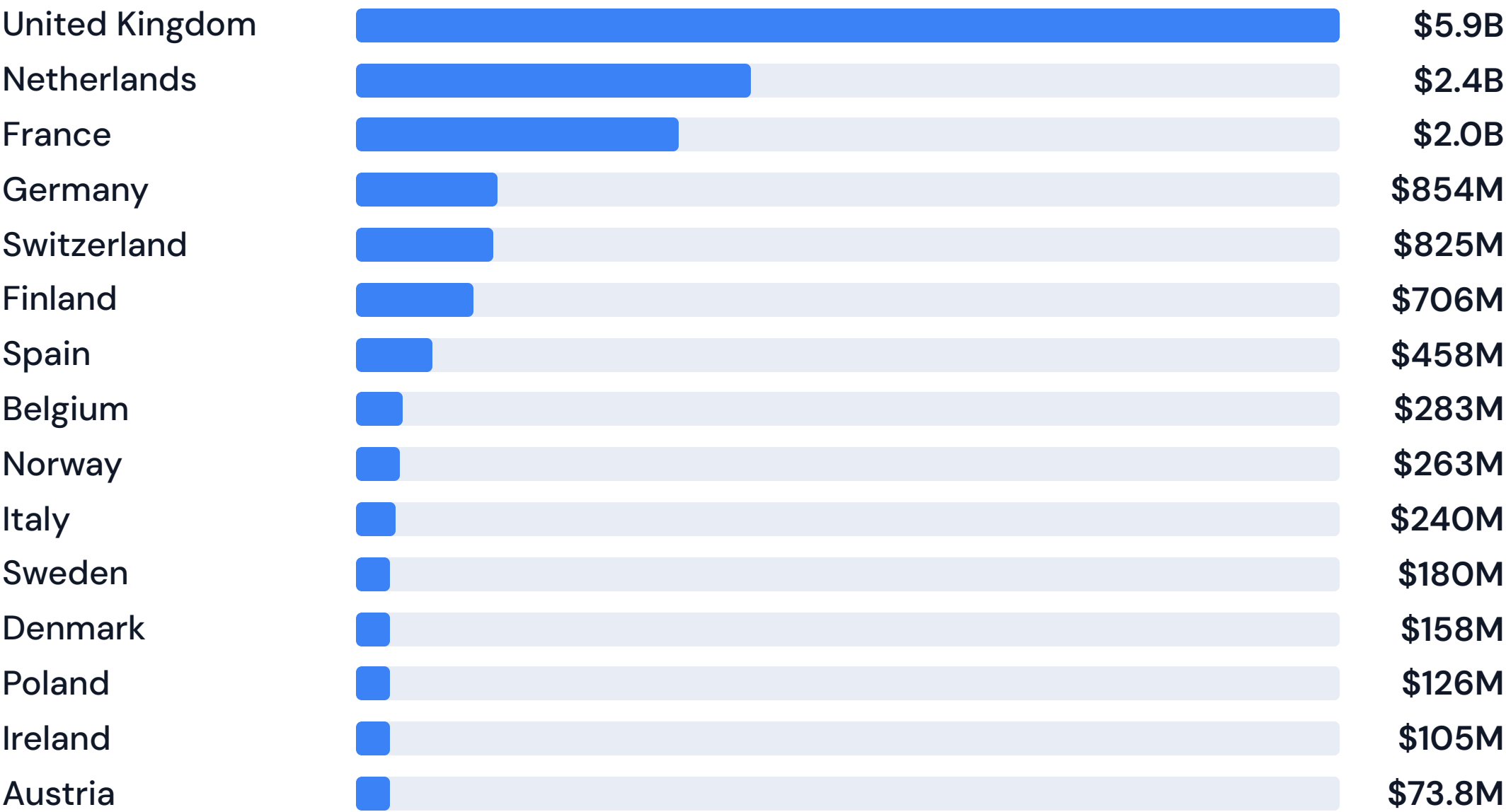
NETHERLANDS

Axelera AI

AI hardware and software for edge computing.

UK semiconductor startups raised \$5.9B from 2020 to 28 September 2026, the most in Europe

VC funding in semiconductor startups from 2020 to 28 September 2026, top 15 European countries.



443

grants to VC-backed European semiconductor startups over the same period, worth \$1.3B in total

Public investors backing the sector include the EIC Fund, Invest-NL and Bpifrance.

European quantum startups raised \$4.5B from 2020 to 28 September 2026, the most of the five segments

VC funding in European startups in the five segments of IoT Tribe’s research. A company can sit in more than one segment, and the five do not add up to Europe’s total.

Segment	2026 to 28 September	2020–2026
Quantum computers and processors	\$1.4B	\$4.5B
AI chips and processors	\$2.2B	\$3.5B
Semiconductor engineering tools and equipment	\$815M	\$1.6B
Photonic chips and processors	\$704M	\$1.3B
Neuromorphic chips and processors	\$22.0M	\$155M

IN 2026

\$2.2B

raised by AI chip startups to 28 September, the most of the five segments this year

OUTLOOK

The European Investment Bank's €70B TechEU programme aims to generate at least €250B of investment

- TechEU, announced in June 2025, offers equity, loans and guarantees for 2025–2027 in AI, supercomputing, critical raw materials, green industries and defence.
- IoT Tribe's research sees openings in compound semiconductors, edge AI chips and European design houses focused on niche applications.
- Capital intensity and long time to market remain barriers for startups.

“Local innovation often faces hurdles in attracting the necessary capital to compete, with many startups having to look to the US in order to secure the funding required for growth.”

Peter Jenkins

CEO, Infinitesima, on the UK

181 companies in 35 categories

Selected for IoT Tribe’s research, including companies based outside Europe. Metahelios and RVmagnetics are IoT Tribe companies.

Quantum computers & processors 30

AegiQ
Alice & Bob
Alpine Quantum Technologies
Arctic Instruments
CreoTECH
Delft Circuits
eleQtron
Groove Quantum
IQM
Orange Quantum Systems
Oxford Ionics
Oxford Quantum Circuits
Pasqal

planqc
Qblox
QC Design
Qilimanjaro Quantum Tech
Quandela
Quantinuum
Quantum Motion
Quantware
QuiX Quantum
Quobly
SemiQon
Sparrow Quantum
TreQ

Universal Quantum
Viqthor
Welinq
ZuriQ

Sensor tech 29

AeroSpec
Azalea Vision
Canatu
E-peas
EYCO
EYE4NIR
FaradaIC

Fibersail
INFICON
Inxpect
ISORG
MEMSYS
Muon Vision
NanoChronia
Novelda
Phlux Technology
Robin Radar Systems
RVmagnetics • IoT Tribe
Sencure
SensorDynamics

Silent Sensors
Silicon Integrated
Silicon MicroGravity
Singular Photonics
Sonair
Spacetek
Sycon
Tageos
USound

181 companies in 35 categories

Selected for IoT Tribe’s research, including companies based outside Europe. Metahelios and RVmagnetics are IoT Tribe companies.

Lithography and other chip manufacturing15				
AlixLabs	Singulus Technologies	GreenWaves Technologies	Ipronics	QuantaMap
ATLANT 3D	Unisers	RaiderChip	NcodiN	QuantumDiamonds
Chiral Nano	Advanced AI and high-performance computing chips13	Semron	Oriole Networks	AR/VR hardware & holography7
Comptek Solutions		SiPearl	PHOTON IP	
Eulitha		Vaire Computing	Salience Labs	
FononTech		VSORA	Quantum sensing8	
inPhocal		Photonics: data centre networking and interconnects8		
Keiron	Arago	Aquark Technologies	Aledia	
Lace Lithography	Arm	DIASENSE	AllFocal Optics	
LIDROTEC	Axelera AI	InSpek	OQmented	
Morphotonics	Corintis	2D Photonics CamGraPhIC	Swave Photonics	
SCIL Nanoimprint Solutions	Flow-computing	Astrape Networks	TriLite Technologies	
Siltectra	Fortaegis Technologies	Black Semiconductor	WaveOptics	
	Graphcore		XPANCEO	

181 companies in 35 categories

Selected for IoT Tribe’s research, including companies based outside Europe. Metahelios and RVmagnetics are IoT Tribe companies.

Next-gen lasers for various applications 6		Memory and storage tech 4	Other chips 4	GaN semiconductors 3
Amplitude Technologies	Scintil Photonics	Cerabyte	NovoViz	Cambridge GaN Devices
Cailabs	SMART Photonics	Ferroelectric Memory Company	Qualinx	Hexagem
Fluence.technology	Photonics: sensing 6	Intrinsic Semiconductor	Sequans	Poro Technologies
Fusion Bionic		QulnAs Tech	SOMOS semiconductor	Metrology 3
Photonicsens	Axithra	Neuromorphic chips 4	AI-driven electronic design automation (EDA) 3	Nearfield Instruments
Quantune Technologies	Living Optics	Gemesys	Celus	TeraView
Photonics foundries 6	MantiSpectra	Innatera Nanosystems	ChipFlow	Wooptix
EFFECT Photonics	NIL Technology	SpiNNcloud	Circuit Mind	Other optical tech 3
LiGenTec	Optics11	SynSense		Bifrost Communications
Lightium	Steerlight			Eye4Sky Technologies
Phix Systems				Metahelios • IoT Tribe

181 companies in 35 categories

Selected for IoT Tribe’s research, including companies based outside Europe. Metahelios and RVmagnetics are IoT Tribe companies.

Photonics: computing 3	RISC-V 3	Semiconductor IP 2	In-memory computing 1	Post-quantum encryption 1
Finchetto	Keysom	Agile Analog	Fractile	SEALSQ
Lumai	Ubitium	Arteris		
Optalysys	VyperCore	Biochips & biomemory 1	Integrated photonic circuits for sensing and communication 1	Quantum cascade lasers 1
Quantum communication 3	Display tech 2	Biomemory		MirSense
Q*Bird	Ceres	Decentralised computing 1	Photonpath	Quantum computing software 1
QphoX	Helio Display Materials	Signaloid	Novel transistors 1	QMill
Quantum Optics Jena	Photonics: other 2	Graphene-based semiconductors 1	NordAmps	Semiconductor materials 1
Quantum cryptography 3	Knowledge Development	Paragraf	Photonics design tools 1	Soitec
Nu Quantum	PICadvanced		Wave Photonics	
Random Power				
Terra Quantum				

Follow these companies on Dealroom

Every company in the landscape has a Dealroom profile: funding rounds, team, Signal and news, updated as it happens.

IoT Tribe	iottribe.org
The research online	dealroom.co/iot-tribe/semiconductors
IoT Tribe on Dealroom	dealroom.co/iot-tribe