



Startup Island TAIWAN is the national startup brand of Taiwan. The brand embodies the transformative journey from a burgeoning 'startup island' to a formidable force on the global stage. It proudly showcases the unwavering ambition and prowess of Taiwan's startup ventures, highlighting their dedication and ability to enhance startup ecosystems worldwide.

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# 01

## Introduction to Taiwan

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- Taiwan at a Glance
- Advantages of Choosing Taiwan
- Globally Acclaimed Innovation Hub
- Destination for International R&D Investments

Taiwan is a beautiful island in the heart of East Asia. Filled with rich culture, important history, and stunning scenery, Taiwan has much to offer. Taiwan also stands as a global hub of innovation and technology. This section highlights features that make Taiwan attractive as an optimal destination for opening a business, fostering entrepreneurship, and welcoming investment.



# Taiwan at a Glance

## ► Economy

The World Bank classifies Taiwan as a high-income economy

Renowned for its advanced computer microchip manufacturing, Taiwan is a leader in technological innovation. Manufacturing has long served as the cornerstone of Taiwan's economy, with small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) playing a pivotal role. In the 1980s, Taiwan made significant strides into the high-technology sector. Its information and communication technology industries stand among the most respected and recognized in the world.

## ► Population

Population of 23.42 million people

Comparable to Australia (25 million) or the state of Florida (22 million) in the USA.

**23.42** million people

## ► Geography

Diverse coastal and mountain landscapes

Taiwan has diverse landscapes of beaches and mountains, making it ideal for various sports and outdoor activities. The island's terrain is predominantly mountainous, with a central range running from north to south. Yushan (Jade Mountain), the highest peak in Northeast Asia, towers at approximately 3,952 meters (12,966 feet) above sea level. Taiwan's coastline stretches for about 1,566 kilometers (973 miles), featuring sandy beaches, rocky cliffs, and numerous bays and harbors.

## ► GDP Per Capita

Comparable to nearby economies in Japan and Korea

According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Taiwan's nominal GDP per capita was \$33,230 USD. In 2024, Taiwan's GDP grew 4.27%. Taiwan's GDP is on par with similar economies in Japan (GDP per capita \$32,860 USD) and Korea (\$36,130 USD) respectively.

**\$33,230** USD  
2024 GDP per capita

## ► Area

Comparable to Australia (25 million) or the state of Florida (22 million) in the USA.

**35,980**  
square kilometers

## ► Location

### Positioned centrally in Asia

Taiwan is home to three of the top 10 largest shipping companies globally: Evergreen, Yang Ming, and Wan Hai.

Taiwan occupies a strategic position in the Asia-Pacific area, bordered by Continental America to the east, Japan to the north, and the emerging markets of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to the south. Its central location makes it an ideal gateway for both maritime and aerial shipments, facilitating connections to the vibrant Asia-Pacific and global markets. Consequently, Taiwan stands out as the preferred destination for multinational corporations seeking to establish operational headquarters in the Asia-Pacific region. Taiwan offers convenient access to several neighboring countries and key business hubs within a 4-hour flight time, including:

**Japan:** Tokyo, Osaka, Fukuoka, Sapporo, and Okinawa

**South Korea:** Seoul, Busan, and Jeju Island

**Hong Kong**

**Singapore**

**Philippines:** Manila and Cebu

**Thailand:** Bangkok

**Vietnam:** Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi, and Da Nang





# Advantages of Choosing Taiwan

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International entrepreneurs looking to enter the Asian market face several challenges. Language and cultural barriers, intellectual property concerns, unfamiliar and complex regulations, and a new customer base are just a few of the multitude of difficulties related to expanding or starting a business in Asia.

In addition to its thriving and innovative startup ecosystem, Taiwan boasts several advantages from a business and lifestyle perspective that make it an optimal place to start or expand a business in Asia. With quality infrastructure, qualified and skilled talent, strong regulations, high quality of life, and a strategic location, Taiwan stands out as a stable and innovative hub for conducting business in Asia.





## Destination for Entrepreneurship

Taiwan is an exceptional destination for starting or expanding a business, offering a powerful combination of technological expertise, talent, infrastructure, and protection for innovation. With increasing national competitiveness, Taiwan has emerged as a key hub for innovation and entrepreneurship. As the global leader in IC packaging and testing, Taiwan's dominance in this sector provides access to cutting-edge technology and resources. Its highly skilled and creative workforce, ranked #18 in the world in the IMD Worldwide Talent Ranking 2024 and #3 in Asia, behind Hong Kong and Singapore, ensures a strong foundation for innovation and growth.

Additionally, Taiwan boasts world-class digital infrastructure, ranking #14 globally for fixed broadband speed and #9 in the IMD World Digital Competitiveness Ranking, one of the highest in Asia, behind Korea and Hong Kong. With strong intellectual property protection, ranked #21 in the International Intellectual Property Index and #4 for patent protection rights in Asia, Taiwan creates a secure environment for safeguarding and developing innovations. These advantages make Taiwan the perfect place to launch and scale a business.

### ▶ Technology Powerhouse

**#1** Global market share and revenue  
for IC packaging and testing

### ▶ Qualified and Innovative Talent

**#18** IMD Worldwide Talent  
Ranking 2024

**#3** In Asia

### ▶ Quality Digital Infrastructure

**#14** Fixed Broadband Speed

**#9** IMD World Digital Competi-  
veness Ranking 2024

### ▶ Intellectual Property Protection

**#21** International Intellectual  
Property index

**#4** Patent protection rights in  
Asia

## Life in Taiwan

Taiwan offers an excellent quality of life, with world-class healthcare, a safe environment, and an affordable cost of living. Taiwan's National Health Insurance (NHI) provides some of the most affordable and highest quality healthcare in the world, leading Taiwan to the #1 global rank in the 2024 Numbedo Healthcare Index. Taiwan's leading health infrastructure, in addition to readily available public transportation, sense of safety, and natural environment are significant factors in its #2 rank on the 2023 InterNations Quality of Life Index for Expats. Taiwan presents a unique blend of career development and personal well-being, making it a top choice for individuals seeking new opportunities and a better quality of life.

### ▶ World Class Healthcare

**#1** 2024 Numbeo Healthcare  
Index

### ▶ High Quality of Life

**#2** InterNations Quality  
of Life Index for  
Expats

# Globally Acclaimed Innovation Hub

International startup indicators and innovation assessments are invaluable tools for gauging Taiwan's entrepreneurial landscape. In 2024, Taiwan ranked highly across several reports, demonstrating a strong environment for innovation and entrepreneurship.

- #08** ▶ Most competitive economy in the world (IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2024)
- #01** ▶ Most competitive economy in the world population > 20 million (IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook 2024)
- #22** ▶ Global Startup Ecosystem Index (StartupBlink 2024)
- #03** ▶ National Entrepreneurship Context (Global Entrepreneurship Monitor, 2023)

Taiwan's rank across several notable innovation reports has risen over time, demonstrating its growth into a premier global startup ecosystem and innovation hub.

Indicator Name	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
IMD	17	16	11	8	7	6	8
StartupBlink	-	-	30	26	25	24	22
GEM - NECI	-	4	3	3	-	3	-

Taiwan's rankings across various innovation reports from 2018 to 2024  
Source: IMD, StartupBlink, GEM

**The International Institute for Management Development (IMD)** is a prestigious Swiss independent academic institution that publishes the annual IMD World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY). The report ranks countries based on their competency management for long-term value creation across four focus areas: economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency, and infrastructure. Since its inception, the WCY has evolved into a global reference point for evaluating countries' competitiveness.

Since 2021, Taiwan has been ranked as one of the top 10 most competitive economies in the WCY. In 2024, Taiwan was ranked 8th in the world and first among economies in areas with a population greater than 20 million people.

International research institution **StartupBlink** conducts an annual assessment of global startup ecosystems. Its Global Startup Ecosystem Index is based on the quantity and quality of startups, investors, coworking spaces, accelerators, events, size of investments, and other factors. StartupBlink also takes elements of the startup business environment such as infrastructure, language barriers, tax policies, and labor laws into consideration.

Since its debut in the Global Startup Ecosystem Index in 2020, Taiwan has consistently increased its rank. In the 2024 report, Taiwan ranked 22nd in the world.

The **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) Report**, published by Babson College in the United States and London Business School in the United Kingdom, provides a long-term evaluation of entrepreneurial environments and their development around the world.

Although it is not included in GEM's 2024 report, Taiwan has consistently performed well, especially in the GEM National Entrepreneurship Context Index (NECI).

Taiwan's recognition in international reports demonstrates its growing and thriving startup ecosystem and prowess for innovation. Active partnerships between government, corporations, investors, and the community continue to create an environment that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship.

# Destination for International R&D Investments

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Taiwan has emerged as a prime destination for major international corporations seeking to invest in cutting-edge research and technologies. Its expertise in the global semiconductor industry, top-notch talent and R&D personnel, management of intellectual property rights, thriving industrial clusters, dynamic innovation ecosystem, and highly coordinated COVID-19 response have propelled international R&D efforts in Taiwan.

According to the WorldBank, Taiwan led the world in R&D personnel per thousand total employment from 2013-2021, indicating a high concentration of R&D talent in Taiwan's workforce. These highly skilled and qualified talents have contributed to Taiwan's R&D growth across industries.

Taiwan's government also offers incentives for international R&D projects. Several subsidy programs exist under the Ministry of Economic Affairs' A+ Industrial Innovative R&D Program to help international companies offset the steep upfront costs of opening R&D hubs and innovation bases. Furthermore, tax incentives and talent cultivation programs serve to further encourage R&D investment in Taiwan and bolster its position as a global innovation hub.



Opening an R&D center with focus on AI and silicon photonics



Opened their Global EUV (extreme ultraviolet) Training Center in Tainan



Launched its newest innovation lab in Taiwan



Established an innovation center in Taoyuan

Over 30 large international firms have set up R&D centers in Taiwan, investing over \$60 billion NTD (\$1.9 billion USD) and generating an estimated annual production value of nearly \$340 billion (\$10.9 billion USD). Established R&D centers include Google's data center, the largest in Asia, and Microsoft's AI R&D center, launched in 2019. More recent highlights include Nvidia's newly built AI R&D center, German firm Infineon's plans to open an R&D center, and Advanced Micro Devices' efforts to gain government support and open a new R&D center in Taiwan.



Only innovation center outside of  
France in Taiwan



Largest hardware lab and main R&D  
hub outside of the U.S.



Announced plan to launch \$1.2  
billion R&D center in Taiwan



Completed supercomputer Taiwan-1  
as part of national R&D initiative

# 02

## Taiwan's Foundation for Innovation

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- Thriving Economic Activity
- Taiwan's Strong and Nimble Policy Foundation
- Center for Innovative Technology
- Taiwan Startup Industry Trends
- Hub for Innovation: Company Spotlight

This section highlights Taiwan's strong economic, policy, and technological foundation that make it a prime hub for innovation. Heightened global demand for AI-related products and steady domestic consumption are driving Taiwan's strong economy, entrepreneurship, and investment scene. Taiwan's National Development Council creates economic policies to bolster economic activity through a commitment to fostering innovation in all spheres of the economy. Taiwanese companies continue to break new ground in established industries and lead the way in developing new methodologies and technologies that are shaping the global landscape.





# Thriving Economic Activity

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**In 2024, Taiwan's nominal gross domestic product (GDP) was \$24.9 trillion New Taiwan Dollars** or \$775.02 billion USD with a growth rate of 3.90%. This growth is driven by steady domestic consumption and demand for AI-related product exports. In the second half of 2024, export growth slowed, reflecting global economic uncertainties. The central bank has maintained the benchmark interest rate at 2% since March, balancing economic growth with inflation control. However, damage related to typhoons has resulted in moderate inflation for certain foods and medical services.

**Taiwan's exports grew 9.08% during 2024** as a result of increased global demand for AI. With a key role in the global semiconductor supply chain, Taiwan's products are essential for the increased computing power necessary for AI. In addition to a surge in exports, Taiwan has received significant investment in light of global demand for increased computing power and high-tech development. International firms such as Infineon, Nvidia, and Advanced Micro Devices have announced plans to invest in R&D and data centers in Taiwan to further drive innovation in their industries.

2024 GDP

**\$775.02**

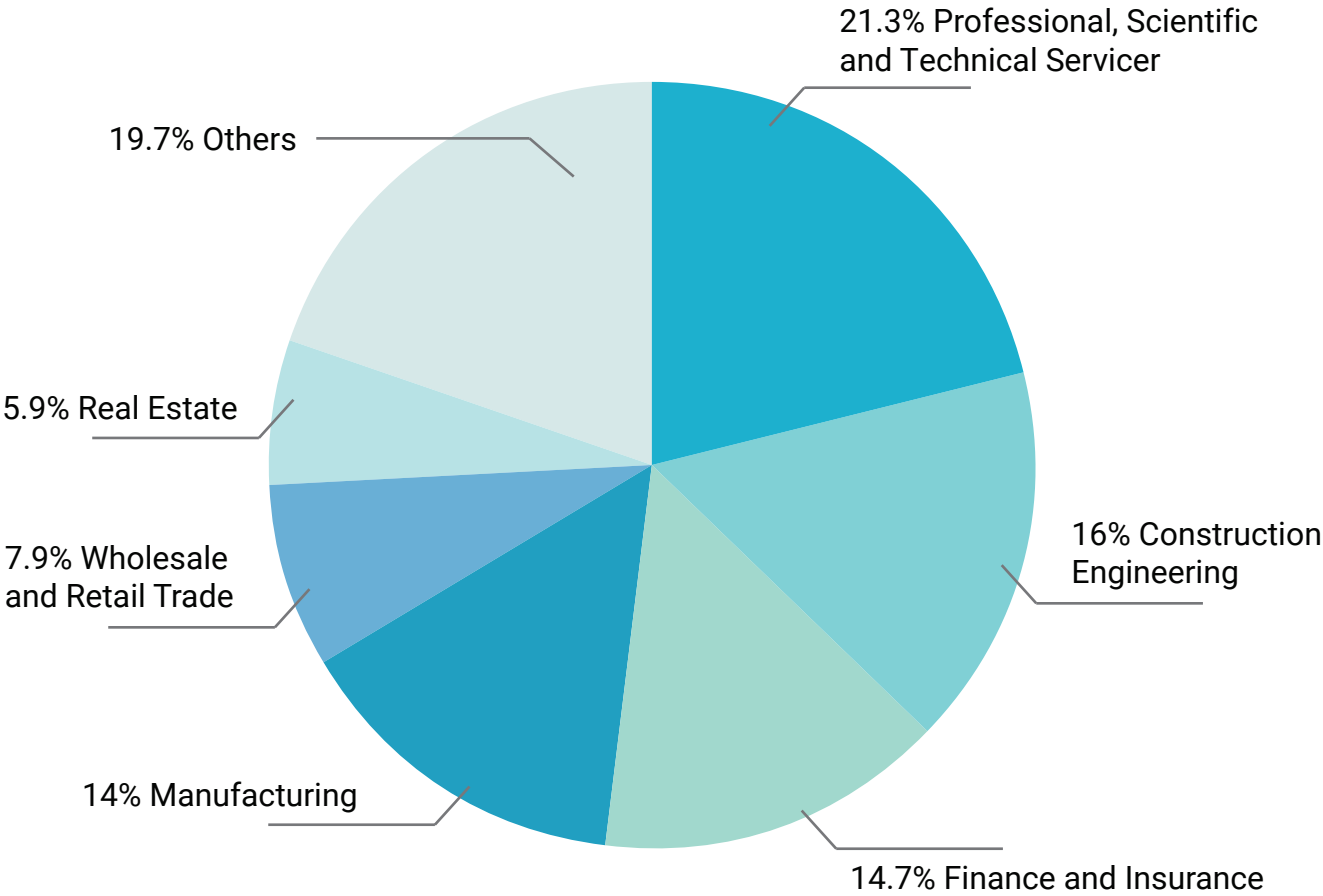
billion USD 2024 GDP

**9.08%**

2024 Growth Rate of  
Exports

By the end of Novmber 2024, Taiwan had a record-breaking 790,928 registered companies, a 2.2% increase compared to the end of 2023. Manufacturing leads with 203,000 companies (25.7%), followed by construction (124,000; 15.7%) and professional/scientific/technical services (108,000; 13.7%), together accounting for 55% of total registrations. From January to November 2024, 42,993 new companies were established, a historic high for this period, marking a 4.7% year-over-year increase. Among these, professional/scientific/technical services (21.3%), construction (16.0%), finance/insurance (14.7%), and manufacturing (14.5%) were the most active sectors. Notably, the share of female business leaders continues to grow, reducing the gender gap from 38.4 percentage points in 2019 to 35.8 points by September 2024. Women entrepreneurs are becoming key contributors to Taiwan’s economic development and currently represent 32.1% of all business owners.

2024 Q1-Q4 Newly Established Companies – Separated by Industry



Source: Ministry of Economic Affairs

# Taiwan's Strong and Nimble Policy Foundation

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## ► 5+2 Innovative Industries

The government enacted the **5+2 Innovative Industries Policy in 2016** to prioritize high-value-added businesses, services, and solutioning in Taiwan's economy. With the goal of stimulating innovation, boosting Taiwan's industry competitiveness, and increasing corporate profitability, the policy emphasized bringing balanced economic development to all of Taiwan. The 5+2 Innovative Industries Policy has seven focus areas including: smart machinery, Asia Silicon Valley, green energy, biomedicine, national defense, new agriculture, and circular economy.

## ► Six Core Strategic Industries

The **Six Core Strategic Industries Policy**, enacted in **2020**, emphasized post-pandemic opportunities for innovation in Taiwan. With the foundation of the 5+2 Innovative Industries policy, the Six Core Strategic Industries Policy prioritized the strengthening of soft infrastructure including: recruiting, cultivating, and retaining bilingual professionals and digital talent, optimizing Taiwan's regulatory environment, and providing financial support. In addition, the policy outlined promotional strategies for information and digital industries, cybersecurity, precision health, national defense, green and renewable energy, and strategic stockpile industries.

## ► Five Trusted Industry Sectors

Taiwan's most recent economic plan, the **Five Trusted Industry Sectors plan**, was enacted in September **2024** and is designed to position Taiwan as an essential part of the global supply chain and as a key technological partner of democracies around the world. The policy outlines plans to strengthen capabilities and operations in semiconductors, artificial intelligence, military, security and surveillance, and next-generation communications as well as strengthen job opportunities, national security, and resilience.

01

5+2 Innovative  
Industries Policy

2016

2020

02

Six Core Strategic  
Industries Policy


2024

03

Five Trusted  
Industry Sectors




# Center for Innovative Technology

A close-up image of a semiconductor chip with a grid of gold pins, set against a dark background.


Semiconductor

A stylized image of a green plant with glowing blue leaves, set against a dark background with a grid pattern.

Green Energy

A hand interacting with a glowing blue circular interface, with a robotic arm visible on the left side.

Artificial Intelligence

A row of test tubes in a rack, with a blue liquid being added to one of them. The background is a blurred image of a person in a lab coat.

Biomedicine

Taiwan has emerged as an essential player in global technological innovation, with contributions that extend beyond the island and impact industries worldwide. With strengths spanning semiconductors, AI, green energy, and biomedicine, Taiwan has built a versatile tech landscape that not only drives economic growth but also aligns with global needs for sustainable and health-oriented technology solutions.

In artificial intelligence, Taiwan leverages its semiconductor expertise to create powerful, energy-efficient computing platforms that support advancements in machine learning and automation, meeting global demands for high-performance AI applications in autonomous systems, healthcare, and more.

In the green energy sector, Taiwan is rapidly advancing its renewable energy infrastructure, aiming to generate 20% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025. Taiwan's investments in offshore wind farms and solar energy make it a model for sustainable energy transition in Asia, driving both regional environmental initiatives and energy independence.

Taiwan's biomedicine sector is gaining recognition for innovations in precision medicine and biotech, propelled by collaborations between academia, industry, and the government. This synergy has positioned Taiwan as a key player in developing solutions for cancer treatment, infectious diseases, and personalized healthcare.

As the world's leading semiconductor manufacturing hub, Taiwan produces over 60% of the global supply of integrated chips, with Taiwanese companies like TSMC pioneering cutting-edge nodes that are essential components for smartphones to advanced AI applications.

## ► AI Industry

Taiwan has emerged as a crucial center for global AI development, producing over 90% of the world's AI servers. The convergence of Taiwan's semiconductor expertise with AI capabilities has created unique advantages in computing infrastructure, research and development, and practical applications. Industry analysts project the AI market to reach \$632 billion USD by 2028, cementing Taiwan's position as a critical enabler of global AI advancement.

Taiwan has become home to an impressive concentration of advanced AI computing facilities. Amazon Web Services (AWS) is developing its "Asia Pacific (Taipei) Infrastructure Region," and the Zettabyte-Wistron partnership is establishing Taiwan's first hyperscale AI data center with state-of-the-art liquid cooling technology. NVIDIA's two AI supercomputer centers, including "Taipei-1", and Palo Alto Networks' new data center further strengthen this robust computing foundation.

Taiwan's AI research and development capabilities have attracted unprecedented investment from global leaders. Google has established its largest hardware R&D base outside the United States with over 50 advanced laboratories. AMD is investing NT\$86.4 billion in a cutting-edge R&D center, while NVIDIA's first Asian R&D center will employ 1,000 engineers. IBM's Software Technology Integration Center in Kaohsiung and Cisco's smart technology initiatives add to this diverse innovation ecosystem.

In AI infrastructure manufacturing, Taiwan produces over 90% of global AI servers, leveraging its semiconductor expertise to create powerful, energy-efficient computing platforms. This manufacturing capability, combined with advanced cooling technologies and system integration expertise, enables Taiwan to deliver comprehensive AI computing solutions that power the world's most sophisticated AI technologies.

### R&D/Research Centers

Taiwan's highly qualified R&D personnel, cutting-edge technology, intellectual property rights, and dynamic innovation ecosystem make it a top R&D investment destination for major players in the AI industry.



### Infrastructure / Data Centers

Taiwan is on the cutting edge of data center development. With strengths in digitalization, AI, connectivity, and clean energy, Taiwan is a prime destination for data centers and infrastructure. Several top companies have made significant investments to establish and expand data centers and infrastructure in Taiwan.



### Manufacturing / Hardware

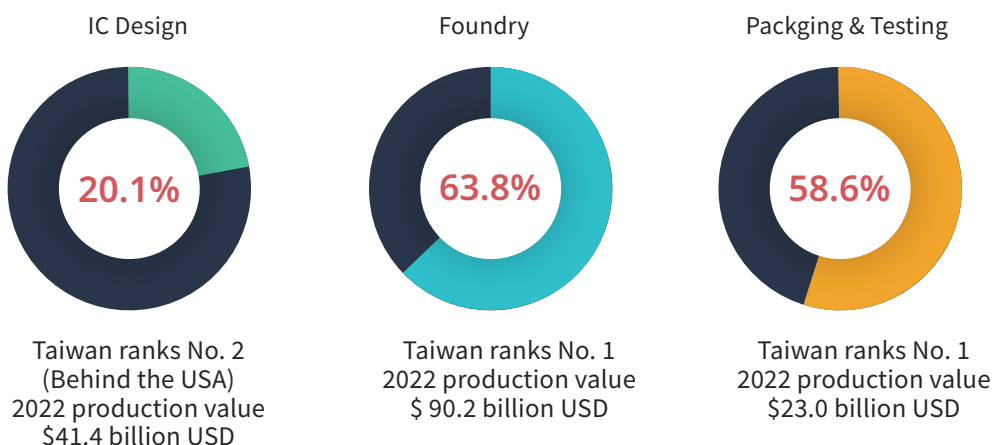
With a unique prowess for manufacturing quality and speed, Taiwan has emerged as a key link in the global manufacturing supply chain for AI components. Several companies have made notable investments to produce various technologies essential for advancing AI.



## ► Semiconductor Industry

Taiwan remains the global leader of the semiconductor industry. The semiconductor supply chain can be separated into three parts: IC design, IC manufacturing, and testing and packaging. Taiwan holds a large global market share, ranking first in IC manufacturing and testing and packaging and second in IC design.

### Taiwan's Global Share in the Semiconductor Industry



Source: IEK Consulting, ITRI, Industrial Development Bureau (IDB), Ministry of Economic Affairs (MoEA), R.O.C. (Taiwan), July 2023

## IC Design

In 2023, Taiwan accounted for 19.3% of the global IC design market. This percentage is projected to rise to 20.1% in 2024. Taiwanese firms MediaTek, Novatek, and Realtek are among the world's top 10 IC design companies, ranking 5th, 7th and 8th respectively. MediaTek is renowned for its mobile phone application processors (APs) and stands as one of the largest global suppliers of mobile phone APs alongside Qualcomm from the United States. Realtek leads in the development of wireless network cards, while Novatek specializes in producing display driver chips. Together, these three companies accounted for 60% of Taiwan's IC design market and over 12% of the global market share in 2023.

### Global Top 10 IC Design Companies, By Revenue

IC Design Market Share			Revenue			Market Share	
2023	2022	Company	2023	2022	YoY	2023	2022
1	2	NVIDIA (US)	55,268	27,014	104.6	0.33	0.18
2	1	Qualcomm (US)	30,913	36,722	-15.8	0.18	0.24
3	3	Broadcom (US)	28,445	26,640	6.8	0.17	0.18
4	4	AMD (US)	22,680	23,601	-3.9	0.14	0.16
5	5	MediaTek (TW)	13,888	18,421	-24.6	0.08	0.12
6	6	Marvell (US)	5,505	5,895	-6.6	0.03	0.04
7	8	Novatek (TW)	3,544	3,708	-4.4	0.02	0.02
8	7	Realtek (TW)	3,053	3,753	-18.7	0.02	0.02
9	9	Will Semiconductor (CN)	2,525	2,462	2.6	0.02	0.02
10	-	MPS (US)	1,821	1,754	3.8	0.01	-
-	10	Cirrus Logic (US)	1,790	2,015	-11.2	-	0.01
Total Revenue			167,642	150,231	11.6	100%	100%



## IC Manufacturing

In IC manufacturing, Taiwan possesses 75.2% of the global foundry market in 2023, projected to increase to 76.8% in 2024. Over 90% of the world's most advanced semiconductor chips are manufactured in Taiwan. In 2023, 4 IC manufacturing companies from Taiwan were among the top ten IC manufacturing companies in the world – TSMC (1), UMC (4), PSMC (8), and VIS (10). In the first quarter of 2024, these four companies accounted for 70% of the global IC manufacturing market share, with TSMC alone holding 62% of the global market.

Global Top 10 IC Manufacturing Companies, By Revenue

Foundries Market Share			Revenue			Market Share	
2024Q1	2023Q4	Company	2024Q1	2023Q4	QoQ	2024Q1	2023Q4
1	1	TSMC (TW)	18,169	19,178	-5.3	0.62	0.63
2	2	Samsung (KR)	3,557	3,619	-7.2	0.11	0.12
3	3	Global Foundries (US)	1,549	1,854	-16.5	0.05	0.06
4	4	UMC (TW)	1,710	1,780	-3.9	0.06	0.06
5	5	SMIC (CN)	1,750	1,678	4.3	0.06	0.06
6	6	Huahong Group (CN)	460	455	1.0	0.02	0.01
7	7	Tower (IL)	327	352	-7.1	0.01	0.01
8	8	PSMC (TW)	332	342	-3.0	0.01	0.01
9	9	Nexchip (CN)	310	308	0.6	0.01	0.01
10	10	VIS (TW)	295	297	-0.5	0.01	0.01
Total Revenue			29,200	30,489	-4.2	100%	100%

## IC Packaging and Testing

Taiwan's packaging and testing industry accounted for 50.4% of the global market share in 2023 and was expected to maintain the same proportion of market share in 2024. Improved projections for 2024 derive from increasing demand for AI mobile phone shipments, the transition to Wi-Fi 7 standards, and an anticipated market recovery. Six Taiwanese firms – ASE Group, PTI, KYEC, Chipmos, Chipbond, and Sigurd – are among the world's top 10 IC packaging and testing firms by revenue, ranking first, fifth, seventh, eighth, ninth, and tenth respectively. The top ten outsourced semiconductor assembly and test (OSAT) companies in the world account for 85% of global market share, and these six Taiwanese companies commanded 42% of global market share in the first quarter of 2024.

Global Top 10 IC Packaging and Testing Companies, By Revenue

Packaging and Testing Market Share			Revenue			Market Share	
2024Q1	2023Q4	Company	2024Q1	2023Q4	QoQ	2024Q1	2023Q4
1	1	ASE Group (TW)	2,267	2,515	-9.9	0.28	0.27
2	2	Amkor (US)	1,366	1,752	-22.0	0.17	0.19
3	3	JCET (CN)	941	1,270	-25.9	0.11	0.14
4	4	TFME (CN)	727	876	-17.0	0.09	0.09
5	5	PTI (TW)	562	584	-3.8	0.07	0.06
6	6	Huatian (CN)	428	444	-3.6	0.05	0.05
7	7	KYEC (TW)	252	261	-3.4	0.03	0.03
8	8	Chipmos (TW)	166	176	-5.5	0.02	0.02
9	9	Chipbond (TW)	131	147	-10.9	0.02	0.02
10	10	Sigurd (TW)	128	123	3.7	0.02	0.01
Total Revenue			8,197	9,258	-11.5	100%	100%

Taiwan maintains a significant competitive edge in producing advanced chips, such as those used in AI and high-performance computing, with TSMC and other manufacturers pushing the boundaries of node technology to 2nm and beyond. However, this progress demands increased resource efficiency, with companies adopting tools like 6D BIM for sustainable manufacturing.

## ► Green Energy

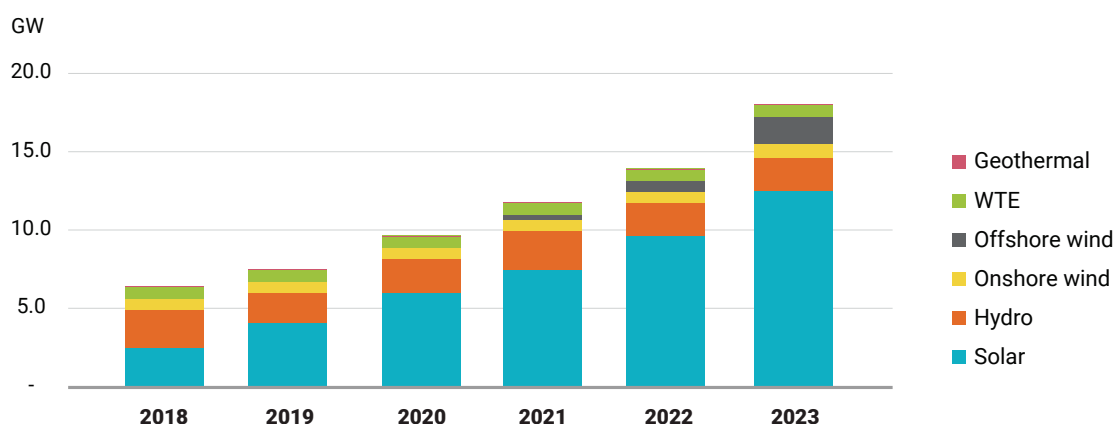
Taiwan is rapidly transforming its energy sector, positioning green energy as a key pillar of its economic development strategy. The government has set ambitious targets to generate 20% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025, with a focus on solar and offshore wind energy. This transition is part of the NDC's 5+2 innovative industries plan aimed at fostering sustainable growth and reducing carbon emissions.

In 2023, Taiwan generated over 26 TWh of renewable energy, with solar energy accounting for approximately 48% of total renewable generation. Taiwan aims to build 20 GW of solar power capacity by 2025, supported by an investment plan of NT\$1.2 trillion (USD 37.2 billion). Additionally, Taiwan plans to install around 5.6 GW of offshore wind power capacity by the same year, attracting investments totaling over NT\$865.5 billion (USD 26.8 billion).

Despite these ambitious goals, challenges remain. In 2023, only 9.5% of Taiwan's total electricity generation came from renewable sources, indicating a need for improved market mechanisms to facilitate the trading and integration of green power into the electrical grid. The government is actively promoting initiatives such as advanced metering infrastructure and smart energy cities to enhance the efficiency and reliability of green energy systems.

In 2023, Taiwan's total installed capacity of RE power generation facilities (including solar and wind power) increased by 3.8GW to reach 17.9GW in 2023. Solar power capacity grew by 2.7GW, or 30% year-over-year, to 12.4GW. Taiwan's wind power capacity increased by 1.1GW to 2.7GW in 2023, mainly due to the addition of a new offshore wind farm in Changhua County.

Renewable Energy Capacity in Taiwan



Source: PwC analysis, 2023 CPPA market report

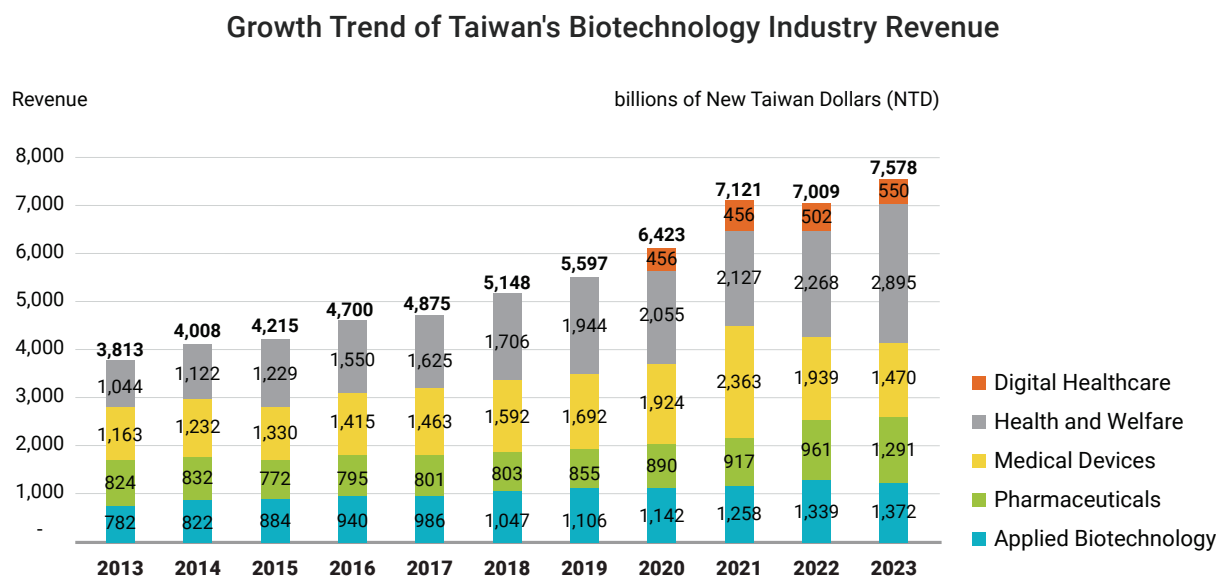
## ► Biotechnology

Taiwan's biotechnology industry is committed to enhancing human health and promoting sustainable ecological development. The sector focuses on the development of pharmaceuticals, health and nutritional products, bioenergy, and advanced medical technologies. This commitment addresses human healthcare needs while contributing to global efforts toward achieving net-zero carbon emissions through the use of renewable resources and innovative technologies.

With well-established healthcare infrastructure and a highly skilled workforce, Taiwan holds a competitive edge in the biomedical sector. Taiwan ranks highly in global health indicators and possesses a robust network of medical centers that facilitate clinical trials and research. Furthermore, Taiwan's regulatory environment is conducive to innovation, with strong intellectual property protections that attract both domestic and international investments.

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the domestic development and manufacturing of biomedical products, leading to a significant increase in revenue for the sector. The government has introduced various subsidies and programs to encourage research and development in areas such as IoT mobile devices and high-end medical imaging technologies.

In 2023, Taiwan's biotechnology industry generated approximately NT\$757.8 billion (\$24.9 billion USD), reflecting an 8.12% increase from the previous year. As of the end of 2023, there were 134 biotechnology companies listed on the Taiwan Stock Exchange, with a total market capitalization exceeding NT\$1.31 trillion (\$43.5 billion USD). This growth is supported by significant private investment, which reached NT\$55.055 billion (\$1.8 billion USD) in 2022.



Source: Data compiled by the Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Industry Promotion Taskforce under Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs, with contributions from the Industrial Technology Research Institute and the Development Center for Biotechnology.

# Taiwan Startup Industry Trends

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Over the past fourteen years, Taiwan has become a key destination for startups. As of December 2024, **Taiwan is home to 9583 startups**. 97.7% of currently operating startups are domestically registered with 63% operating as a company limited by shares and 34.6% operating as limited companies. Taiwan boasts a five year startup survival rate of 77%, outpacing the global average five year survival rate of approximately 50%.

# 9583

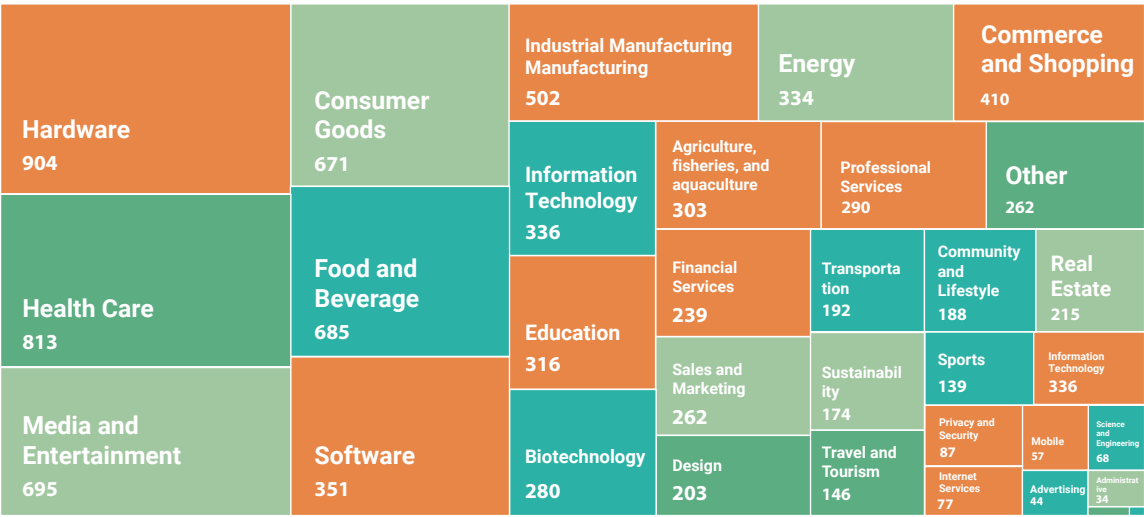
## Startups

Startups are spurring the growth and maturity of Taiwan's industries through integration with existing sectors, driving industrial transformation. Taiwan's startups are distributed across a variety of industries. The top eight are: hardware, healthcare, media and entertainment, consumer goods, food and beverage, software, manufacturing, and energy.

Taiwan has 904 hardware startups, accounting for nearly 9.4% of the total. Close behind is the healthcare sector with 813 startups, or 8.4% of the total. Taiwan's critical role in the global information and communication technology (ICT) industry, supported by its robust industrial and technological advantages, contributes to a significant number of startups in these industries (including those in software, information technology, data analytics, and mobile technologies).

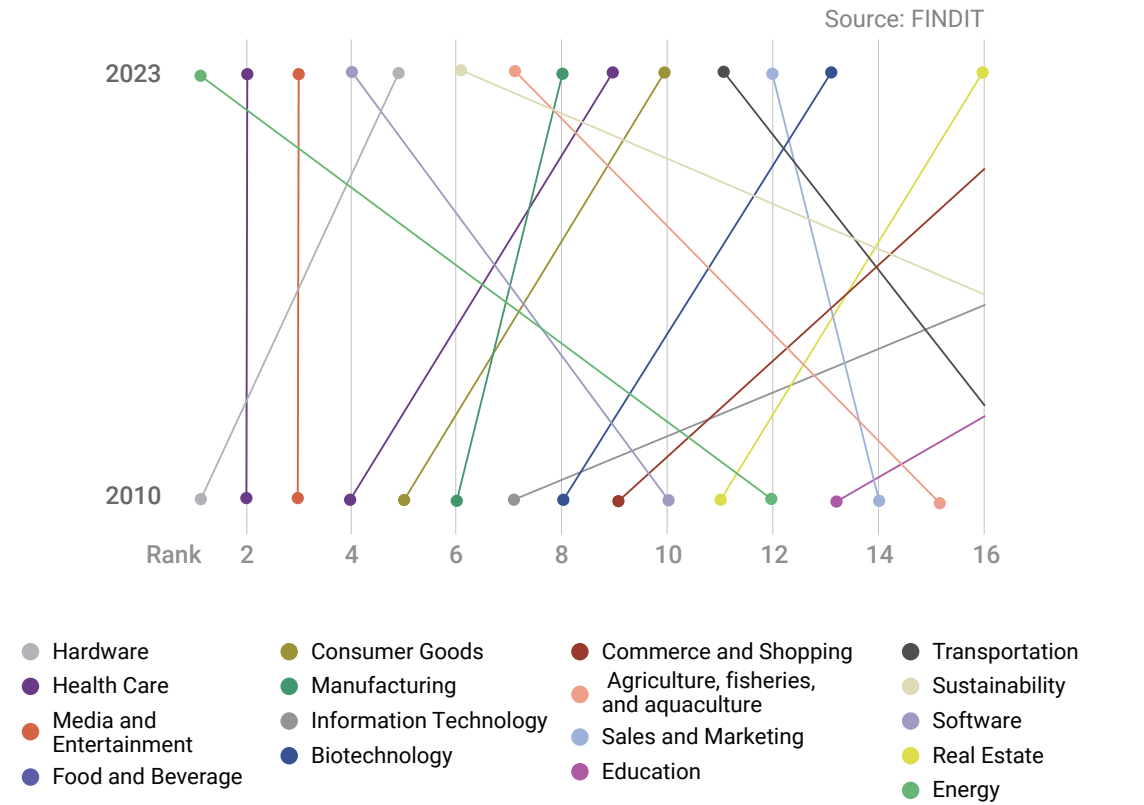
Taiwan's startup industry breakdown has significantly diversified since 2010. In light of interest in net-zero and sustainability topics, startups related to electric vehicles, renewable energy, and battery and energy storage applications have propelled the energy sector from 12th place to 1st. The sustainability industry also rose to 6th place. Although the top three industries for startups in 2010, hardware, healthcare, and media and entertainment, saw a decline in ranking by 2023, they remain within the top five. The software sector surged to 4th place in 2023 in line with a global surge in demand for AI. Fields in agriculture and food production also gained significant attention due to issues related to climate change and agricultural transformation, resulting in a marked improvement in ranking.

Distribution of Startup Industries and Number of New Startups from 2010 to 2024



Natural Resources (5 startups) and Government/National Defense (4 startups) are not displayed in the graphic but contribute to Taiwan's total 9583 startups as of December 2024.  
Source: FINDIT

Changes in the Ranking of Primary Application Fields for Startups Between 2010



# Hub for Innovation: Company Spotlight

Taiwan is home to hundreds of innovative companies finding creative solutions to issues in today's world. This report spotlights 12 Taiwanese startups innovating in biotechnology, green energy, AI, and more.

The logo for AIRECO, featuring the company name in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

Waste Management

Year Established: 2023

**AIRECO produces smart recycling solutions to increase operational efficiency and reduce waste at recycling plants.** Their AI image recognition system inspects recycled goods to ensure quality and correct classification in compliance with local recycling regulations. Their automatic sorting robot arm which operates in conjunction with their AI image recognition device enables continuous plant operation, reducing labor and operating expenses. AIRECO's intelligent plant management system leverages AIoT and edge computing devices to monitor plant operation and visualize key data on their software platform. When combined together, these three solutions enable high-speed, automated, and precise recycling sorting in order to recover high-value materials and reduce waste. AIRECO participated in the 2024 Garage+ Startup Global Program as a part of the Taiwan batch.



Biotechnology

Year Established: 2018

**CancerFree Biotech is focused on innovative precision medicine on in vitro amplification of Circulating tumor cells Derived Organoid (CDO) and related analysis.** Their proprietary platform, EVA Select, can rapidly expand patient-derived cancer cells from blood and provide patients with a precise drug screening report for developing strategies against cancers at all stages. While traditional genetic testing matches patients with treatments solely based on genetic compatibility, EVA Select directly tests a patient's cell response to a specific drug, reducing the risk of implementing ineffective cancer treatment. CancerFree Biotech's technology can be applied in other areas of cancer treatment and research, such as cell therapy and new drug development.



Healthcare

Year Established: 2013

**H2U is a comprehensive and holistic personal health management solution.** The platform helps companies provide corporate digital health benefits to employees. Data-driven insights and AI health monitoring provide highly personalized and holistic services to each individual user, improving quality of life and promoting public health. In early 2024, H2U finished its \$10 million USD series B funding round with international investments from Seoul Clinical Laboratories (SCL), Standard Foods, Leadgene Biomedical, and GrandTech C.G. Systems Inc.



Agriculture

Year Established: 2017

**IDWater is an agricultural climate tech company that leverages nature-based solutions to enable stable aquaculture production.** Their AIoT-equipped shrimp farming operations create an optimized production process with solutions such as AI auto-feeding mechanisms to facilitate water quality, image recognition to monitor shrimp health and growth, and water monitoring. Each is connected to a system that displays all the monitoring data in order to optimize the farming operation. Waste water from the farm is siphoned into nearby mangrove forests in order to offset the carbon emissions from farming and enhance local ecosystems and biodiversity. An alumni of Taiwan Tech Arena, IDWater currently has over 30 domestic and international partners using their product for more sustainable aquaculture and carbon reduction.



MedTech

Year Established: 2018

**iPreg is a medical technology company specializing in infertility treatment.** Their innovative Sperm Sorting Chip supports medical professionals in conducting infertility treatment. Their technology optimizes sperm selection for in vitro fertilization (IVF) through a safe, rapid and precise process, resulting in higher pregnancy success rates. iPreg also designed a sperm sorting station that leverages AI-driven image recognition to further analyze sperm quality and identify healthy and viable sperm for use in IVF. The company was selected for the 2024 cohort at the Berkeley Health Innovation Accelerator program in the United States and recently secured certification from the Taiwanese Food and Drug Administration.



MedTech

Year Established: 2018

**JelloX Biotech is a Taiwanese medical technology company developing the first 3D digital imaging technology for pathology.** Coupled with their AI analysis platform, 3D digital imaging enables precision cancer diagnosis, optimized treatment plans, and better treatment outcomes. Their technology fills gaps in cancer diagnosis that are often invisible when examined with traditional 2D pathology methods. JelloX presented at the Mayo Clinic MedTech Accelerator in June 2024 and is currently collaborating with the Mayo Clinic to further develop and validate their technology.





Cybersecurity

Year Established: 2022

**Jmem Technology creates application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC) solutions for cybersecurity.** Their polymorphic memory IP is used in advanced IC manufacturing to enhance security through leveraging random data derived from randomly occurring physical phenomena. Their information security, product certification, and authenticity identification technology help mitigate cybersecurity issues in the IC industry including data leakage, counterfeit chips, identity theft, and algorithm tampering.



Software/AI

Year Established: 2015

**MoBagel is a Taiwanese AI startup that specializes in predictive analytics, helping businesses leverage data to drive innovation and growth.** Its flagship product, Decanter AI, automates complex data processes such as preparation, analysis, and model building, enabling companies to gain actionable insights without requiring extensive data science expertise. Decanter AI leverages machine learning to help organizations forecast trends, optimize operations, and refine strategies, making it indispensable across industries such as finance, retail, manufacturing, and healthcare. The platform's versatility highlights MoBagel's ability to process large datasets effectively, positioning the company as a leader in AI-driven business intelligence.



MedTech

Year Established: 2017

**MtM+ Technologies is a health tech company with the mission of improving sleep quality and eliminating sleep disorders.** Their product, ZionCare, is a user-friendly app that, when paired with a medical-grade wearable sleep monitoring device, can provide detailed information about oxygen levels, heart rate, and movement during sleep. The collected data is uploaded in the ZionCare app where users can receive detailed sleep reports and tap into resources such as cognitive behavioral therapy courses and breathing exercises to improve sleep quality, and medical professionals can develop personalized care plans for patients looking to improve their sleep. MtM+ Technology has partnered with hospitals in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Thailand to support sleep studies and patients with sleep disorders.



Technology/AI

Year Established: 2018

**Profet AI is a Taiwanese startup specializing in AI-powered solutions that transform the manufacturing sector by optimizing production processes, predicting issues, and reducing operational costs.** Its innovative offerings include an AutoML Platform, which automates the creation and deployment of machine learning models for streamlined data analysis, and Ready-to-Go Applications tailored for specific business needs. Profet AI also provides a no-code AI Learning Model (AILM) platform for building custom AI models and an AI Co-Create product service for collaborative AI solution development. The company's innovations showcase how AI can enhance efficiency and productivity in traditional sectors, further solidifying Taiwan's global competitiveness in both hardware and software-driven solutions.



Transportation

Year Established: 2018

**Turing Drive is a company devoted to creating reliable autonomous driving solutions.** They produce necessary software and hardware solutions for vehicle manufacturers and customize their offerings based on client needs. Turing Drive's operation management system enables users to track, manage, dispatch, and monitor autonomous vehicles equipped with its hardware. With solutions implemented in a variety of venues such as recreational sites, ports of entry, and industrial sites, Turing Drive has a proven track record and a growing global presence.



Cybersecurity

Year Established: 2020

**Turing Space, a pioneering TrustTech innovator, is redefining digital identity management through its three flagship product lines: Turing Certs, Turing Facts, and Turing Green.** Turing Certs, already adopted by over 400 institutions across ten countries, provides reliable verification for critical records like diplomas, medical certifications, and carbon credits. Turing Facts targets high-stakes sectors such as food safety and cybersecurity, while Turing Green supports renewable energy certification, aligning with Taiwan's green energy reforms and global sustainability trends. Turing Space is accelerating its global expansion into Japan and Europe and building a secure and global ecosystem of digital trust.

# 03

## Taiwan Open For Investment

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- Early-Stage Investment Overview
- Industry Profiles

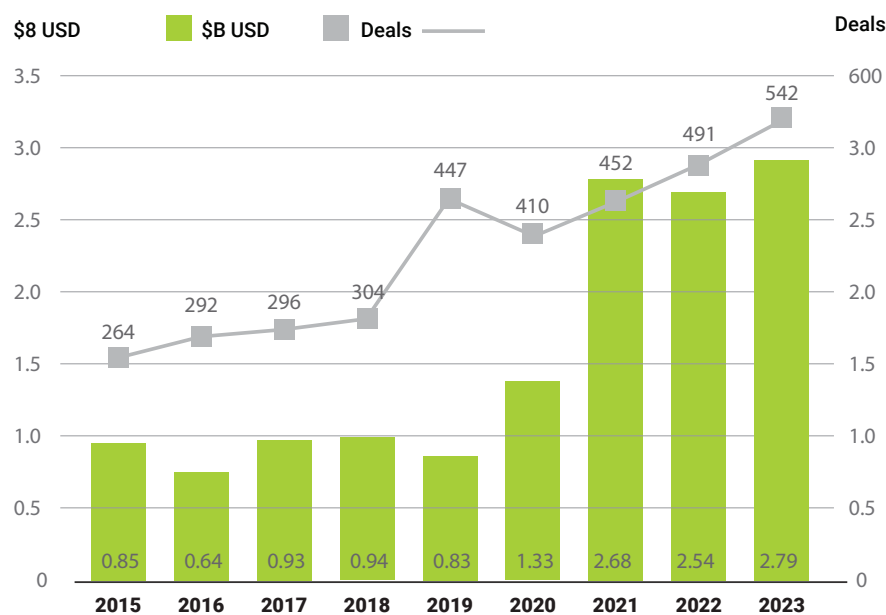
Taiwan's robust investment scene holds many opportunities for investors to drive cutting-edge innovation. With a variety of industries at the center of the global supply chain, Taiwan is a key player in driving global innovation.



# Early-Stage Investment Overview

Taiwan’s investment scene is thriving. In 2023, early-stage investments reached 542 deals, a 10.4% increase from 2022. The total investment value in 2023 was \$2.79 billion USD, a 9.8% increase from 2022. This growth contrasts sharply with slowing growth in the global venture capital market, showcasing Taiwan’s resilience in light of investment uncertainty. Corporate venture capital (CVC) accounted for 63.9% of early-stage investments in Taiwan, playing a significant role in driving startup growth and innovation.

2015~2023 Taiwan Early-Stage Investment Amount and Number of Deals



Source: FINDIT, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER)

In 2023, energy, health and biotech, manufacturing, IT and software, and transportation attracted the most early-stage investment activity. Each industry has a unique profile of opportunities that make it attractive to different types of investors. Energy and biotech/healthcare sectors attracted the most attention, with energy investments totaling \$1.07 billion, the highest among all industries. Hardware and manufacturing also attracted significant investment, highlighting Taiwan's continued prowess in these sectors

### 2015-2023 Early-Stage Investment by Industry, Number of Deals

Deals	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
★ Energy	4	6	9	17	28	47	60	74	94
★ Health and Biotech	59	59	59	58	78	83	86	88	94
Hardware	50	52	51	52	73	64	68	55	76
Manufacturing	40	35	37	34	37	24	36	44	43
IT and Software	19	18	23	34	37	39	36	45	35
Transportation	5	8	7	9	18	11	17	19	23

Data Period: 1/1/2015-12/31/2023

Source: FINDIT, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER)

### 2015-2023 Early-Stage Investment by Industry, Investment Amount (\$M USD)

Deals	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
★ Energy	1.9	38.1	50.5	131.5	70.3	393.9	898.5	800.8	1,070.5
★ Health and Biotech	235.9	216.0	102.8	122.9	132.6	200.0	699.2	420.3	564.5
Hardware	82.4	91.0	84.4	141.8	156.4	234.4	271.6	387.6	278.1
Manufacturing	82.7	45.3	87.7	94.1	40.0	46.3	153.6	185.6	204.0
Transportation	33.1	13.3	307.4	10.0	33.9	25.5	65.4	68.6	145.6
IT and Software	19.5	25.6	53.1	54.1	90.3	38.7	145.3	132.0	82.1

Data Period: 1/1/2015-12/31/2023

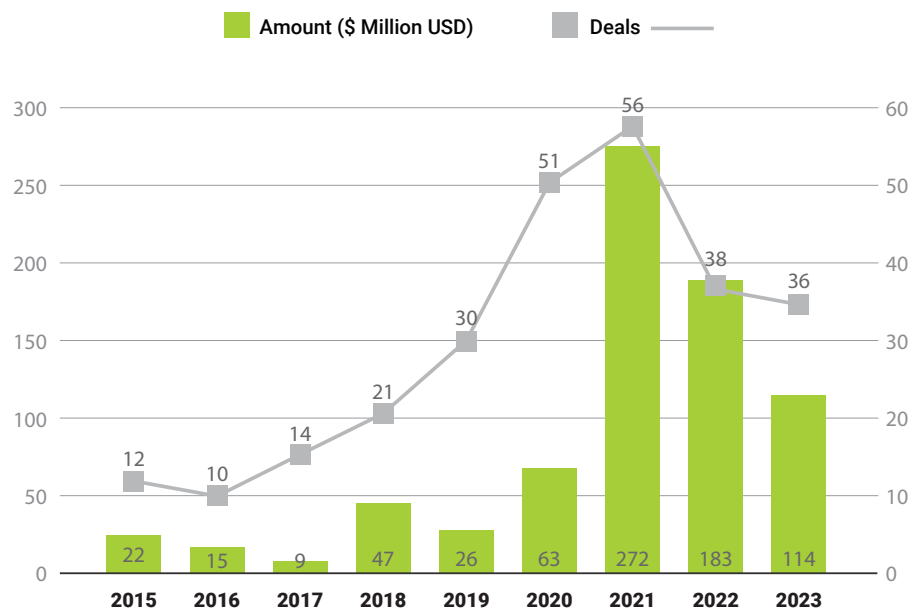
Source: FINDIT, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER)

# Angel Investment

Taiwan’s angel investment scene has grown over the past ten years. In 2021, it peaked at 56 deals, marking significant growth since 2015. From 2015 to 2023 there were 268 angel investments recorded in Taiwan. With 130 deals occurring since 2021, more recent deals account for 48.5% of all angel investments during the period. 60% of angel investments from 2015-2023 were pre-seed round investments.

In Taiwan, there are several active angel investment organizations that are vital to the early-stage investment scene. Alumni angel investment groups include the NCTU Angel Club, Taipei Angels Investment, NTU Innovation & Incubation Center Angel club, and Tsinghua Angel Club. Other private angel organizations including AVA Angels, Taiwan Global Angels (TGA), Silicon Valley Taiwan Angels (SVT Angels), Taiwan Leap Venture, SIC Sustainable Impact Angels, and XChange Angel Investment have made significant investments in Taiwan’s early-stage startups. Among these organizations, AVA Angel Platform was the most active with 15 deals, followed by SIEF Angel club with 10 deals.

2015-2023 Angel Investment Number of Transactions and Total Transaction Amount



Data Period: 1/1/2015-12/31/2023  
Source: FINDIT, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER)



Angel investors in Taiwan are most active in the healthcare (12.9%), software (10.3%), hardware (7.7%), commerce and shopping (7.2%), and biotechnology (5.7%) industries. Most investments in healthcare are focused on medical technology. Since 2015, major angel investment cases include Primor Biotech, a precision medicine company with backing from Anfa Angel and CDIB Capital. In addition, CoreMediTech, a company specializing in advanced neurosurgical equipment design and development; MedAI, a company applying AI to drug discovery; and Justmed Biotech, a company developing cancer therapies received angel funding from the Taiwan National Development Fund's Business Angel Investment Program.

AI has driven significant angel investment in software, accounting for one-third of angel investments. The Silicon Valley Angels, FlyingV Angels, and the TCTU Angels are active in software angel investment, supporting MoBagel and ProfetAI.

The 36 angel investment transactions in 2023 remain concentrated in health care and software. In addition to ProfetAI and Primor Biotech, Surglasses, a smart surgical glasses hardware and software integration company received major investment from Taiwan Cedar Venture Capital, Integration Capital, and 500 Global. In the first quarter of 2024, angel investments spanned financial services, sustainability, biotechnology, software, advertising, healthcare, energy, and hardware. Two significant software investments were in Asia-Pacific Intelligent Machines, which developed Opentalk; and Life Liberation Co., offering online garbage collection booking services. Biotechnology investments focused on pharmaceuticals, with QiXin Biotech, a microbial testing products provider and PanStone Pharmaceuticals, a broad-spectrum vaccine developer.

2015-2023 Angel Investment by Industry

Health Care 12.9%	Hardware 7.7%	Transportation 5.2%	Energy 4.6%	Media and Entertainment 4.6%	Privacy and Security 4.1%
	Commerce and Shopping 7.2%	Sales and Marketing 5.2%	Food and Beverage 3.6%	Data and Analytics 3.6%	Education 3.1%
			Information Technology 3.6%	Professional Services 2.6%	Community and Lifestyle 2.1%
Software 10.3%	Biotechnology 5.7%	Other 5.2%	Consumer Goods 3.6%	Internet Services 2.1%	Manufacturing 1.5%
					Sustainability 1.5%

Data Period:1/1/2015-12/31/2023, Excludes convertible corporate bonds  
Source: FINDIT, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER)

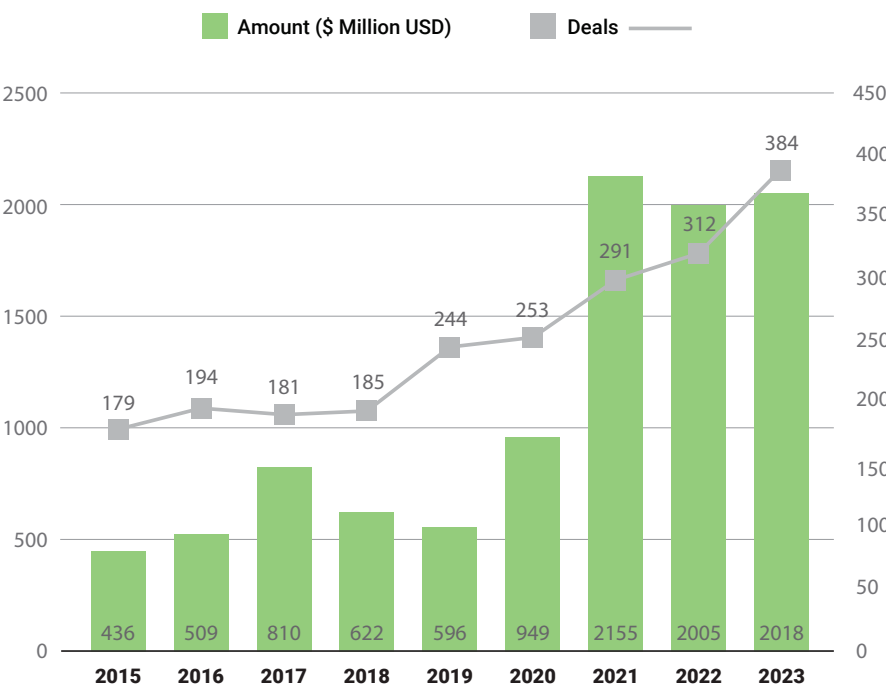
# CVC Investment

Strategic considerations for a company’s development often drive corporate venture capital (CVC) investments. CVC investment has steadily grown in Taiwan since 2015. In 2023, Taiwan had 384 CVC deals with a total value of \$218 million USD. Despite a slowing global investment landscape, Taiwan’s CVC investment has remained strong.

From 2015-2023, CVC investments were concentrated in the energy (18.7%) and hardware (15.7%) industries followed by healthcare (12.9%) and manufacturing (10.3%). CVC has supported growth in Taiwan’s early-stage investment scene despite slowing growth in global CVC investments.

The majority of active CVC investors are focused on the energy sector, regardless of their core business, reflecting global trends towards sustainability and green energy. As governments roll out new renewable energy targets, companies must invest in innovative solutions to comply with regulations. Furthermore, energy investments are necessary to support the large amount of computing power required to run large language models and produce chips for growing AI innovations, a fast-growing industry in Taiwan.

2015-2023 CVC Number of Transactions and Total Transaction Amount



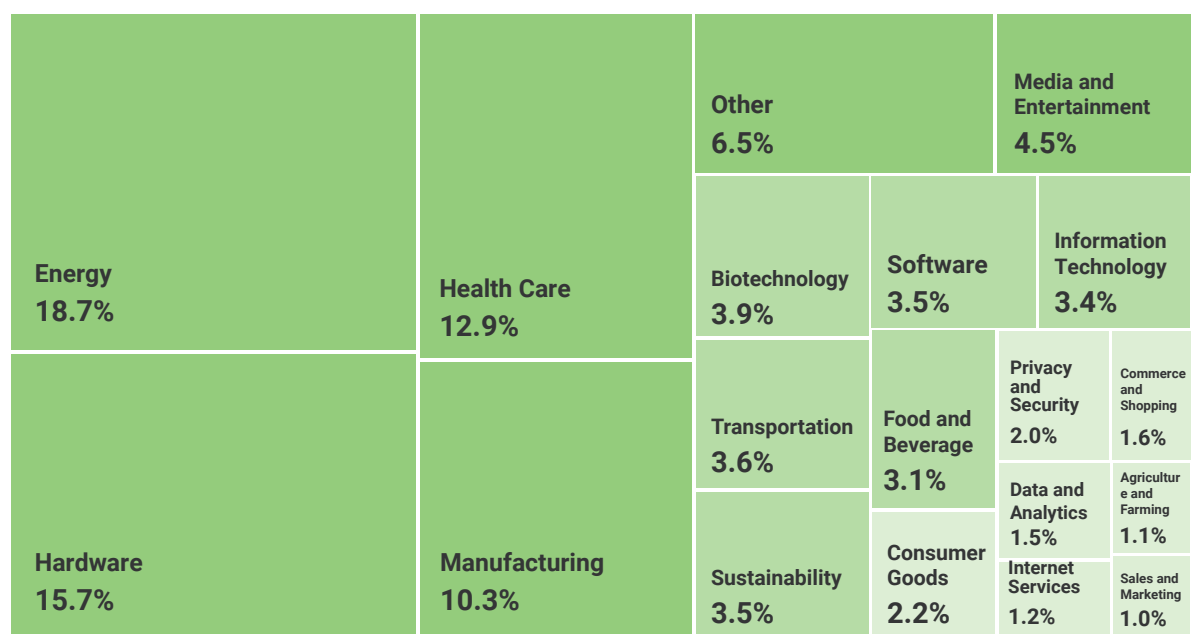
Data Period: 1/1/2015-12/31/2023  
Source: FINDIT, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER)

In 2023, key CVC investors in the energy sector include Hotai Motor, Shin Kong Financial, and Chailease Holding. These investors contributed to energy projects related to solar energy and battery development.

Notable hardware companies including Main Drive, with a focus on robotic modules; Kneron, an edge AI provider; and TMYTEK, a 5G antenna provider received CVC investments from United Microelectronics Corporation (UMC), Innodisk, Elan Microelectronics, and others. Notable companies that received CVC investments in the healthcare industry in 2023 include Anji Pharmaceutical, a small molecule drug development company; and Medeon, a medical device development company. Active CVC investors in healthcare included AUO Corporation and Wistron.

From 2021-2023, there were several significant CVC deals in the manufacturing sector. Unicorn Semiconductor Corporation, a compound semiconductor component company; Shinsol Advanced Chemical Corporation, a half-venture between Shinkong Synthetic and Solvay; and Taisic Materials Corporation, a semiconductor manufacturer; received investments. The semiconductor industry has several subsidiary companies of larger corporations. CVC investors in the manufacturing industry tend to be in related fields to companies receiving investment.

2015-2023 CVC Investment by Industry



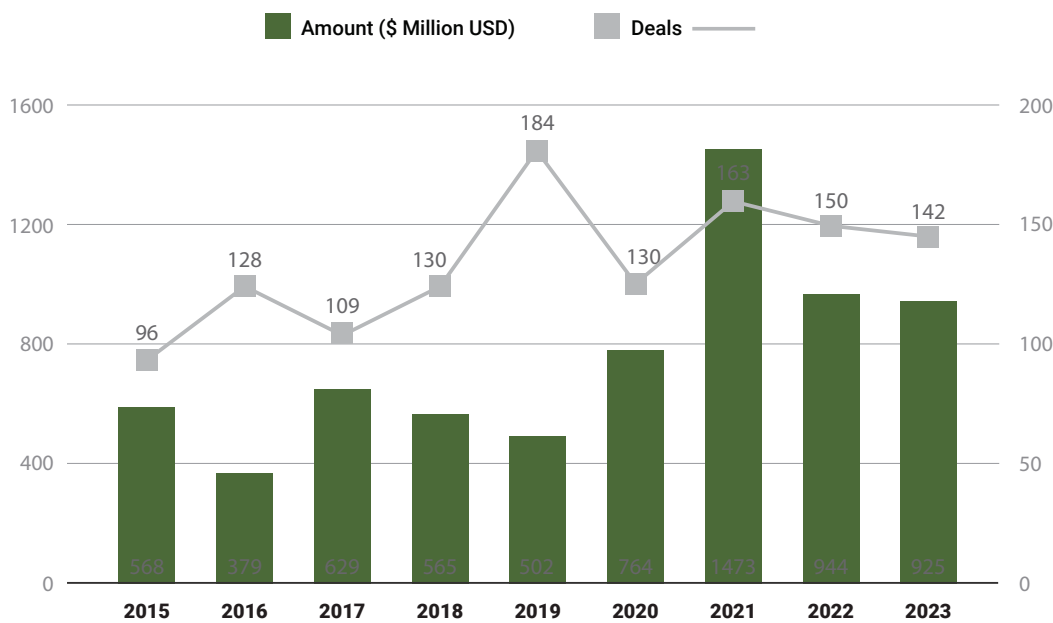
Data Period:1/1/2015-12/31/2023, Excludes convertible corporate bonds  
Source: FINDIT, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER)

# VC Investment

From 2015-2023, over 500 domestic and international venture capital (VC) firms participated in early-stage investments in Taiwan. 2019 had the highest number of transactions at 184, while 2021 had the highest investment amount at over \$1.4 billion USD. Since 2021, there has been a decline in the number of investment deals and investment amount, aligning with global cooling in the venture capital market.

The top two VC players in Taiwan are KGI Financial (formally China Development Financial) and Taiwan Capital Management Corporation, a VC firm under the National Development Fund. Other notable VC firms include SparkLabs Taiwan, Hive Ventures, SinoPac Venture Capital, AppWorks, Chang Hwa Bank Venture Capital, Fubon Venture Capital, and many others. With a variety of active venture capital players and a robust and innovative startup ecosystem, Taiwan has emerged as a key destination for investment.

2015-2023 VC Number of Transactions and Total Transaction Amount

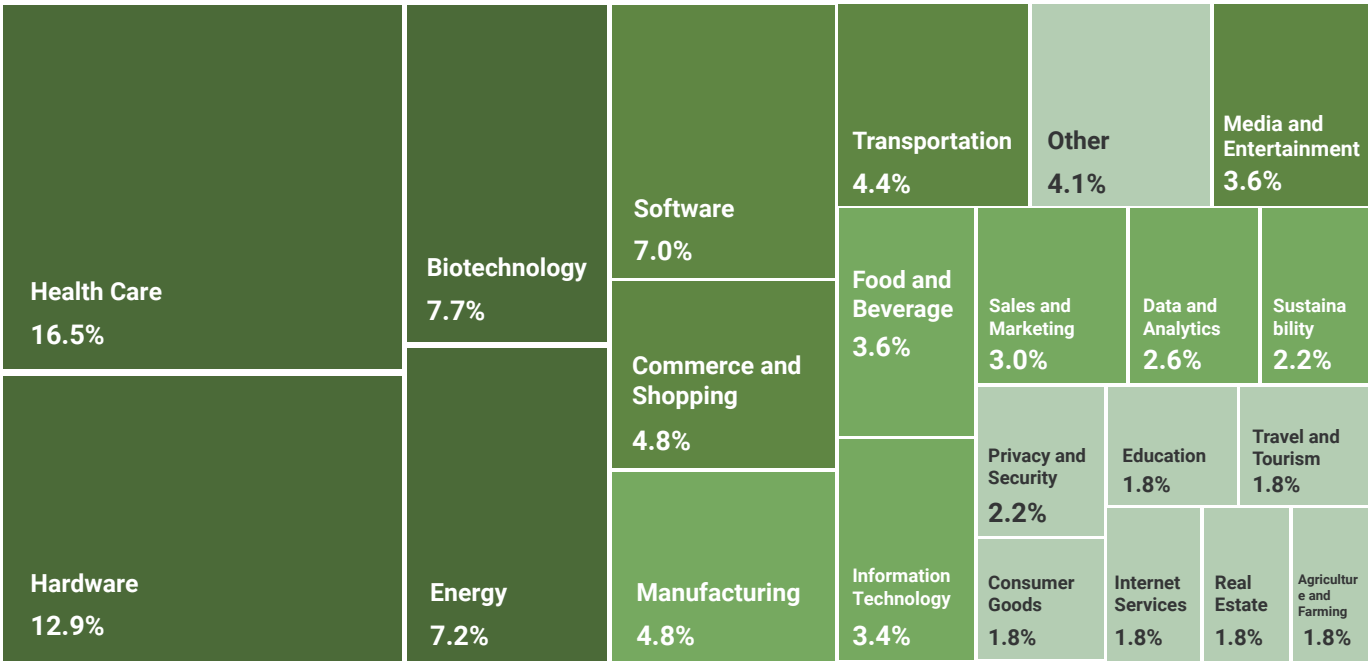


Data Period: 1/1/2015-12/31/2023  
Source: FINDIT, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER)

VC investments in Taiwan are concentrated in healthcare (16.5%), hardware (12.9%), biotechnology (7.7%), energy (7.2%), and software (7%). Within the healthcare sector, VCs have a strong preference for medical devices and biotechnology. Taiwan’s robust healthcare ecosystem supports rapid product development and innovation, opening numerous channels for investment. Hardware investments are concentrated in electronics, aligning with Taiwan’s strengths in electronics manufacturing.

From 2022 to 2023, there were 12 large-scale transactions exceeding \$20 million USD concentrated in healthcare, biotechnology, hardware, and energy. The most prominent investment cases include Acepodia, a new cancer drug company; Kneron, a terminal AI solution provider; Taiwan Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Co., a commissioned development and manufacturing service company (CDMO) to develop new drugs, and Obigen Pharma, a botulinum toxin R&D company. Notable VC investors include Yushan Venture Capital, Fubon Financial, China Development Capital, Taishan Investment, and Cathay Venture Capital, among others.

2015-2023 VC Investment by Industry



Data Period:1/1/2015-12/31/2023, Excludes convertible corporate bonds  
Source: FINDIT, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER)

# Industry Profiles

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Taiwan's industries boast many advantages and are attracting investors from around the world. Learn more about the top six industries attracting investment.

## ► Energy Industry

Taiwan has emerged as a prime location for energy startup innovation, demonstrated by the sector's consistent growth from just 4 early-stage investment deals in 2015 to 94 deals in 2023, with a total investment value of \$3.69 billion USD – the highest among all sectors. This dramatic growth reflects Taiwan's unique advantages for energy startups.

**Advanced Energy Hardware Manufacturing:** Taiwan's comprehensive supply chain enables rapid development and scaling of energy solutions. Manufacturing partners, from power electronics to energy storage systems, are within an hour's drive, with particular strengths in power management and smart grid technologies.

**Ready Market and Testing Environment:** Taiwan's dense urban environment provides an ideal testing ground for energy innovations. With the low electricity rates and high population density, startups can cost-effectively develop and validate solutions in smart grid, energy efficiency, and building management.

**Complete Innovation Ecosystem:** A mature network of research institutions, industrial partners, and experienced talent accelerates development cycles. Taiwan's ecosystem particularly excels in smart grid technology, energy storage, and renewable integration.

The energy sector benefits from strong government support through initiatives like the **5+2 Innovative Industries Plan** and Taiwan's commitment to achieving 20% renewable energy by 2025. Recent successes in smart grid solutions, energy storage systems, and building energy management platforms demonstrate Taiwan's potential for global leadership in energy technology. As the world accelerates toward sustainability, Taiwan's combination of manufacturing excellence, policy support, and market opportunity positions it as a key hub for energy innovation.

## NextDrive

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NextDrive is a cutting-edge energy management solution provider, pioneering IoT technology in the energy sector with its comprehensive software and hardware integration services. From energy gateways to cloud computing and device data management platforms, NextDrive optimizes power usage efficiency and accelerates the transition to net-zero carbon energy with advanced data analysis. At the end of 2021, NextDrive raised \$31 million USD in its series C round, with funding from ARM Holdings, Foxconn Technology Group, Ta Ya Electric Wire & Cable CO., New Economy Ventures, and Sino-American Silicon Products.

nextDrive

## 3Egreen

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3Egreen solves the problem of expensive, complicated, troublesome, and dangerous industrial electricity management with their AIoT smart electricity meter and integrated software and cloud platform. Their device analyzes the power consumption and carbon emissions of machines and manufacturing equipment. Through an integrated cloud platform, users can view real time electricity consumption data, optimize power consumption, and configure warnings about irregular power usage, preventing accidents and fires, minimizing wear and tear on equipment, and reducing carbon emissions. 3Egreen completed a pre-A funding round of NT\$63 million (\$1.95 millionUSD) led by Hon Hai and CITIC Financial Holdings.



## ► Health and Biotech

Taiwan has positioned itself as a key development hub for healthcare and biotech innovations, showing remarkable growth from 59 deals in 2015 to 94 deals in 2023, reaching \$2.79 billion USD in total investments. This consistent expansion reflects Taiwan's established strengths in both medical excellence and technological capabilities.

**Comprehensive National Health Insurance Database:** Taiwan's universal healthcare system covers 99% of the population, creating an unparalleled database for medical research. This coverage enables efficient patient data collection and real-world evidence generation for healthcare innovation.

**FDA-Certified Medical Centers:** Over 100 Taiwan FDA-certified medical centers provide world-class facilities for clinical trials and research. This robust infrastructure accelerates the testing and development of new medical technologies, streamlining the path from innovation to market.

**Strong Science Park Ecosystem:** Biotech clusters in Hsinchu, Taipei, and Southern Taiwan integrate research institutions, manufacturing facilities, and corporate partners, providing startups with immediate access to resources and expertise.

The sector benefits from robust government support through **the Act for the Development of Biotech and New Pharmaceuticals Industry**, which provides tax incentives for R&D and enhances international collaboration opportunities. Recent breakthroughs in AI-powered diagnostics, precision medicine, and digital health platforms demonstrate Taiwan's potential for global leadership in health tech innovation. As healthcare digitalizes, Taiwan's combination of medical excellence, technological capability, and supportive policies makes it an attractive destination for health tech investment.

### aetherAI

aetherAI is an AI medical imaging and diagnostic tool for gastric cancer, breast cancer, and other medical imaging applications. aetherAI collaborates with BioPharma companies to develop other medical AI applications and has partnerships with major medical centers in the United States, Taiwan, Japan, and Europe. In 2024, aetherAI raised NT\$7.65 million (\$23.3 million USD) with investment from Quanta Computer Inc., CDIB Capital Group, TBB Venture Capital, Cathay Venture Inc.



### Point Robotics

Point Robotics creates innovative robotic solutions for minimally invasive spinal surgery. Their robotic-assisted surgical system is a highly precise and versatile robotic hand equipped with interchangeable surgical instruments, auto safety mechanism, optical tracking, and real-time tool positioning. In 2020, they completed an \$18 million USD series A funding round supported by Taiwania Capital and Translink. In 2022, Point Robotics received 510(k) FDA clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and is taking its product to operating rooms around the world.



## ► Hardware

Taiwan has established itself as a global hub for hardware innovation, with 551 investment deals since 2015 and total investments of \$1.77 billion USD. This sustained growth reflects Taiwan's decades-long leadership in hardware manufacturing and deep technological expertise.

**World's Most Complete Electronics Supply Chain:** Taiwan produces over 90% of the world's advanced notebooks and motherboards. From semiconductor giants to precision component makers, the dense network of suppliers within a one-hour drive enables unprecedented speed from prototype to mass production.

**Deep Technical Expertise & Engineering Talent:** With over 10,000 electronics engineering graduates annually, Taiwan offers an exceptional talent pool experienced in power management, thermal design, and system integration. This expertise spans from design to mass production, backed by experience with global technology leaders.

**Rapid Prototyping to Mass Production Capabilities:** World-class facilities across science parks in Hsinchu, Taichung, and Tainan support efficient scaling. Startups can quickly iterate designs while accessing the same high-quality manufacturing ecosystem that supports global technology giants.

The hardware sector benefits from government support through initiatives like **Taiwan Tech Arena**, providing startups with resources, mentorship, and global market connections. **Mighty Net**, a private company, has supported several Taiwanese startups in hardware R&D and innovation. As global demand for sophisticated hardware grows, particularly in edge AI computing and advanced sensors, Taiwan's comprehensive ecosystem makes it an ideal location for hardware startup development.

### CuboAi

CuboAi produces an AI-enabled baby camera with the mission to enhance safety, promote better sleep, and capture unforgettable memories. CuboAi was recognized in the 2022 CES Innovation Awards and 2021 Mom's Choice Awards, showcasing its impact on parenting and AI innovation. In October 2024, CuboAi completed a series B funding of NT\$110 million (\$3.36 million USD).



### Tron Future

Tron Future is a leading tech company specializing in the world's thinnest all-digital phased array systems that power anti-drone defense solutions and space tech innovations. In May 2024, Tron Future Tech successfully completed a series A funding round of NT\$ 900 million (\$32.4 million USD) led by Taiwan Capital and the CID group.





## ► Manufacturing

Taiwan has positioned itself as a center for smart manufacturing innovation, with 337 investment deals since 2015, totaling \$0.96 billion USD. This growth represents Taiwan's successful transition from traditional manufacturing to Industry 4.0 leadership.

**Legacy Manufacturing Base Ready for Digital Transformation:** With over 900,000 small and medium-sized enterprises seeking digital upgrades, Taiwan offers a ready market for smart manufacturing solutions. This transformation is particularly strong in precision machinery, electronics, and components manufacturing, creating immediate opportunities for innovative startups.

**Strong Automation & Robotics Capabilities:** Taiwan's deep expertise combines hardware excellence with software integration. The island's robotics and automation clusters, especially in Taichung's precision machinery ecosystem, provide startups with advanced testing facilities and potential corporate partnerships.

**Established Global Manufacturing Networks:** Taiwan's position in global supply chains offers startups immediate access to international markets. Long-standing relationships with global brands in electronics, automotive, and consumer goods create natural pathways for startups to scale their solutions worldwide.

The manufacturing sector benefits from government initiatives like the **Smart Machinery Development Program and Industry 4.0 Promotion Plan**, which provide funding and resources for manufacturing innovation. Recent breakthroughs in predictive maintenance, industrial IoT, and smart factory management systems demonstrate Taiwan's potential to lead the next wave of manufacturing technology. As global manufacturing continues to digitalize, Taiwan's combination of traditional expertise and technological innovation makes it an increasingly attractive hub for manufacturing startups.

### IsCoolLab

IsCoolLab produces an AI-powered industrial automation software for robotic process automation in smart manufacturing. Their products can also automate data entry in non-manufacturing office contexts. The software enables companies to optimize operations, reduce efficiency, and reduce costs through leveraging AI to complete repetitive tasks. In December 2023, IsCoolLab completed their Pre-A series round of NT\$90 million (\$3 million USD) with plans to begin series A fundraising in 2025.



### Kapito Inc.

Kapito Inc. is an AI company focused on universal image recognition AI for manufacturing quality control. With versatile industry applications and solutions for a variety of production lines and manufacturing scales, Kapito Inc. is revolutionizing quality control and increasing manufacturing efficiency.



## ► IT & Software

Taiwan has emerged as a distinctive player in the IT and software sector, with 294 investment deals since 2015, reaching \$0.65 billion USD. This growth demonstrates Taiwan's strengths in creating software solutions that bridge hardware and digital innovation.

**Unique Position Between Hardware and Software:** Taiwan's deep understanding of hardware manufacturing creates unparalleled opportunities for software innovation. Local startups excel in developing solutions that optimize manufacturing processes and enable advanced system integration, particularly valuable in industrial software, IoT platforms, and embedded systems.

**Strong Base of Industrial/Enterprise Customers:** Taiwan's robust manufacturing sector provides software startups with immediate access to enterprise clients seeking digital transformation. Major technology manufacturers and their suppliers create strong demand for specialized solutions in supply chain management, quality control, and production optimization.

**Growing AI / Cloud Computing Infrastructure:** The establishment of major AI and cloud computing centers by AWS, Google, and NVIDIA creates a powerful foundation for software development. This infrastructure, combined with high-speed internet and advanced data centers, enables sophisticated AI applications and cloud-based solutions.

The software sector benefits from government initiatives promoting digital transformation and AI development, such as the **Digital Nation & Innovative Economy Development Program (DIGI+)**, which aims to elevate Taiwan's global ranking in AI software applications from 25th to the top 3 by 2028. Recent successes in enterprise software, industrial AI applications, and cloud services demonstrate Taiwan's growing capabilities. As demand for integrated hardware-software solutions grows, Taiwan's unique ecosystem positions it as an attractive destination for software startup development.

### Appier

Appier is a software-as-a-service (SaaS) company that uses artificial intelligence to power business decisionmaking. Its innovative AI-powered solutions help businesses build a holistic understanding of their customers, anticipate actions, and make data-driven decisions that drive better outcomes and advertising ROI. Appier was recognized as a unicorn in 2019 and had its IPO in 2021 on the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

The Appier logo is written in a blue, rounded, sans-serif font.

### PERFECT

Perfect Corp. is an SaaS artificial intelligence and augmented reality app used for photo editing and online shopping. Their consumer and enterprise services offer accessible AI solutions that leverage 3D tracking to deliver hyperrealistic AI photo editing and beauty care simulations. Perfect Corp became a unicorn early in 2022 and had its IPO on the New York Stock Exchange in October, 2022.

The PERFECT logo is written in a pink, bold, sans-serif font.

## ► Transportation

Taiwan has positioned itself as an ideal testbed for transportation innovation, with steady growth in investments reaching \$0.70 billion USD since 2015. This development leverages Taiwan's unique combination of urban density and technological capabilities to drive mobility solutions.

**Advanced Mobility Testing Environment:** Taiwan's dense urban areas provide a perfect real-world laboratory for mobility innovations. With over 14 million scooters, sophisticated mass transit systems, and growing electric vehicle adoption, startups can validate solutions in a complex environment ideal for developing smart traffic management and last-mile delivery solutions.

**Strong EV & Electronics Components Base:** Taiwan's leadership in electronics manufacturing provides transportation startups with immediate access to critical components. The island's expertise in battery management, power electronics, and sensor technologies creates unique advantages for developing electric and autonomous vehicle solutions.

**Established Public Transportation Infrastructure:** Taiwan's comprehensive network of high-speed rail, metro systems, and buses provides an excellent foundation for integrated mobility solutions. This infrastructure, combined with high technology adoption rates, makes it ideal for testing new concepts in mobility-as-a-service and smart ticketing.

The transportation sector benefits from government policies promoting electric vehicle adoption and smart city development. Initiatives such as the **Forward-looking Infrastructure Development Program (FIDP)** aim to enhance transportation infrastructure and stimulate investment in innovative technologies. Recent innovations in electric scooter systems, fleet management platforms, and intelligent transportation solutions demonstrate Taiwan's potential as a global transportation leader. As global transportation trends move toward electrification and smart mobility, Taiwan's blend of infrastructure, manufacturing capabilities, and urban testing environment positions it as a key hub for transportation innovation.

### GoFreight

GoFreight is a comprehensive freight forwarding management solution. The platform includes automatically integrated container tracking and shipment management to provide companies with real-time and accurate data about their shipments. In November 2022, GoFreight raised \$23 million USD from its series A funding, co-led by Flex Capital and Headline, a new record for the highest Series A funding amount in Taiwan's SaaS history.



### MOOVO

MOOVO is a public bicycle network bringing a new level of mobility to Changhua and Yulin counties in Taiwan. Riders access the smart bicycles through an app which also displays real-time updates about bicycle availability and docking stations. In April 2021, MOOVO raised \$200 million NTD (\$6.1 million USD) in seed funding. In June 2021, they received another \$10 million USD of strategic investment from COLOPL Inc., a Japanese publicly listed gaming company – which makes MOOVO's pre-A funding accumulated nearly NT\$300 million (\$9.1 million USD).



# 04

## Support for Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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- The National Development Fund
- Government Research and Funding Programs
- Startup Hubs
- Global Innovation Showcases
- Talent Taiwan/Visa Programs

Taiwan has a wide variety of support for innovation. The Asia Silicon Valley Development Plan provides a solid foundation and robust framework for Taiwan's innovation ecosystem. Under this umbrella, various funding opportunities, policy initiatives, entrepreneur-friendly visa options, and startup hubs throughout the island create a supportive environment to nurture entrepreneurs and their businesses.



# The National Development Fund

National Development Fund (NDF) promotes industrial innovation, economic transformation, and improving R&D capacity in line with various policy objectives. Currently, the NDF has a variety of projects primarily focusing on catalyzing high-tech development, renewable/green energy, biotechnology, new agriculture, national defense, and Internet of Things. The NDF provides government-sponsored financial support for domestic industrial innovation, R&D, and technology upgrading, assuming some of the risk associated with early-stage investment in these key areas in order to attract additional investment from other domestic and international entities.

The NDF makes several different types of investments to support Taiwan’s economic growth.

### Direct investment: Emerging Industries

The National Development Fund’s direct investments are related to emerging industries to support industrial structure, create employment opportunities, and foster economic growth. At the end of 2023, the NDF had 70 important direct investments valued at NT\$73.472 billion (\$2.278 billion USD) and 66 venture capital investments totalling NT\$23.696 billion (\$722.5 million USD). Of these investments, NT\$14.368 billion (\$438 million USD) was invested in Taiwania Capital, Taiwan’s national level investment company founded in partnership between the NDF and private enterprises.

### Venture Capital Investment Enterprises (VCIEs)

The National Development Fund invests in VCIEs who, in turn, reinvest in promising companies in key industries. At the end of 2023, the NDF had invested approximately NT\$31.976 billion (\$975.7 million USD) in 107 domestic and overseas VCIEs who have generated a reinvestment value of NT\$ 178.773 billion (\$5.45 billion USD).

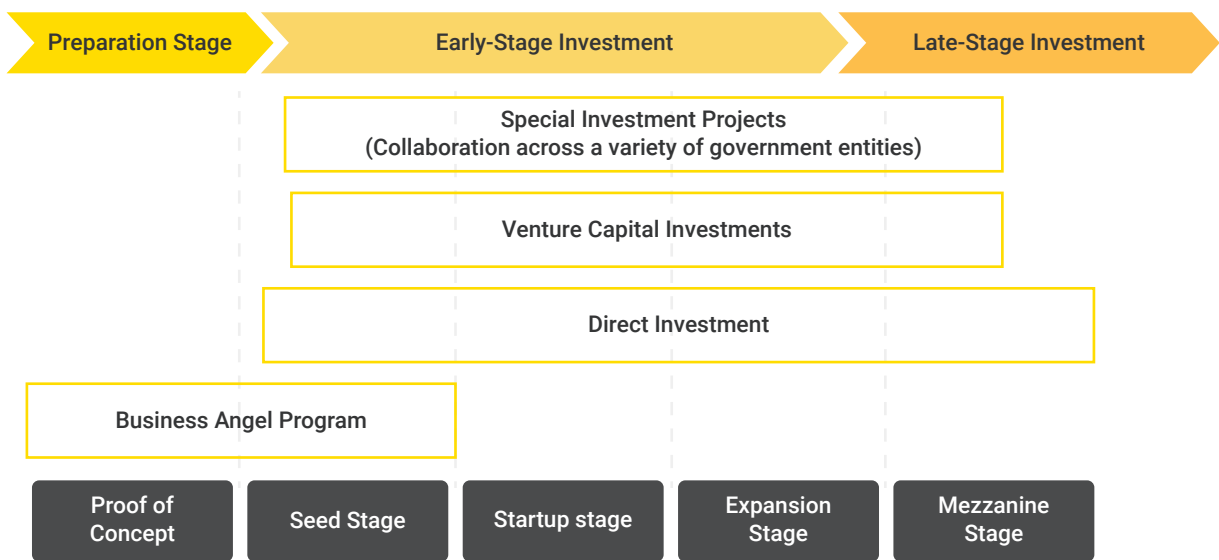
### Special Investment Projects

To spur the development of Taiwan’s industries, the NDF has implemented a variety of special investment projects in collaboration with various government agencies. These projects have a wide scope across small-and-medium enterprises, industrial development, strategic industries, manufacturing, culture and creativity, smart healthcare, green growth, and artificial intelligence.

### Business Angel Investment Program

The Business Angel Investment Program under the National Development Fund provides funding opportunities for startups in their angel stage. In addition to funding, startups also receive consulting services, business guidance, and access to a robust network of partners and entrepreneurs. The program, launched in 2017, has invested NT\$3.498 billion (\$106.7 million USD) in 252 domestic and overseas startups, spurring further investment from other angel and private investors. Notable companies that received funding from the Business Angel Investment Program include CuboAi, Pinkoi Inc., IDWATER Co. Ltd., and Hahow Inc.

Source: National Development Fund, Executive Yuan 2023 Annual Report



# Government Research and Funding Programs



Sponsoring Government Ministry/Department

## Small Business Innovation Research Grant (SBIR)

Supports R&D in innovative technologies and services for SMEs.



Small and Medium Enterprises and Startup Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA)

## Service Industry Innovation Research Grant (SIIR)

Funding for “smart” and “low-carbon” R&D and business plan development in the commercial service industry.



Administration of Commerce, Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA)

## Taipei City Industry Incentive Subsidy Project

Several subsidies available for innovative proposals. Successful applicants receive subsidies for job training, tax incentives, building rental, and more to spur technological and key industry development in Taipei City.



Taipei City Government

## From IP to IPO Program (FITI)

Provides six-month professional business training and entrepreneurial knowledge to translate academic research into entrepreneurship opportunities. Top teams receive seed capital to start their business.



National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)

## Taiwan Germination Program

Promotes cooperation between academia, R&D institutions, and professionals with international entrepreneurial experience to implement R&D into industry and promote innovation.



National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)

## Taiwan Research-Institute Entrepreneur Ecosystem Program (TREE)

TREE provides teams with subsidized entrepreneurship school. Highly promising R&D teams are selected to join notable three month accelerator programs in the United States for further development and international expansion.



Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA)

## SME Innovation development Project Loan

Eligible SMEs registered in Taiwan can apply for up to NT\$80 million in capital expenses and NT\$20 million for revolving expenses.



Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA)

## Young Entrepreneur Financing Loan

Entrepreneurs between ages 18 and 45 can apply for preferential rate loans when starting their business. The maximum loan amount is NT\$18 million.

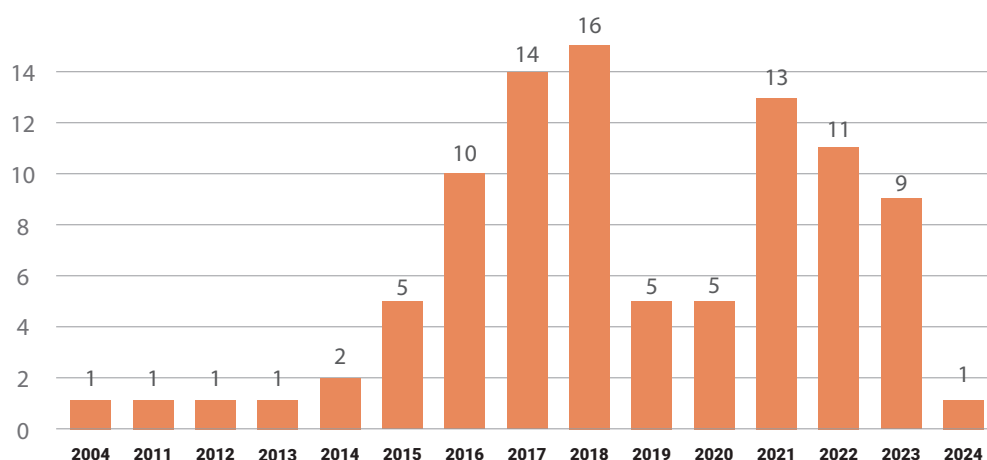


Small and Medium Enterprises and Startup Administration, Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA)

# Startup Hubs

Startup hubs are community spaces for entrepreneurs to quickly grow and expand their business. They facilitate connections between startups, provide entrepreneurial knowledge, and are a resource as entrepreneurs work through the process of starting their business. Startup hubs can also serve as a liaison between entrepreneurs and government entities offering support of the startup ecosystem. Starting in 2015, several startup hubs were established in Taiwan through cooperation between local and central governments. As of May 2024, there are 95 startup hubs in operation in Taiwan with 52% concentrated in the northern region. from the Business Angel Investment Program include CuboAi, Pinkoi Inc., IDWATER Co. Ltd., and Hahow Inc.

Taiwan Startup Hubs Establishment Time Distribution



Source: FINDIT

## ► Taiwan Tech Arena

Taiwan Tech Arena was launched by the National Science and Technology Council in 2018 as Taiwan's flagship startup ecosystem. TTA offers access to an expansive investor network, accelerator programs, and market expansion resources to entrepreneurs looking to start or expand their business. The physical space at Taiwan Tech Arena is equipped with top-notch working facilities, conference rooms, and event spaces to meet the varied needs of startups and partners. TTA South, located in Tainan City, specializes in Smart Tech, Precision Medicine, and Clean & Circular tech and offers opportunities for startups in southern Taiwan to scale their business.



## ► Startup Terrace

Startup Terrace is an innovation base established by the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA). They have two locations in Linkou, Taipei and Yawan, Kaohsiung. As a hub for startups, accelerators, and other players in the startup ecosystem, Startup Terrace is a key player in Taiwan's innovation ecosystem. They offer coworking spaces, offices, and accommodation, along with a wide variety of support services and events for international startups looking to soft-land in Taiwan.





# Global Innovation Showcases

As the geographical hub of Asia, Taiwan boasts an open environment for international business, making it a prime starting point to enter the Asian market. Each year, a variety of events attract global startups and entrepreneurs searching for business opportunities in Taiwan.

## ► Smart City Summit and Expo (SCSE) (March)

Smart City Summit and Expo (SCSE) is Asia's largest hybrid smart city tradeshow featuring IoT solutions. The expo has offered marketing opportunities for domestic and international smart city applications for the past ten years. SCSE is a B2B platform for businesses and one of largest G2G and G2B networks. It hosts a variety of online and offline activities with co-located events for industries such as smart healthcare, transportation, building sustainability, and startup communities.



## ► COMPUTEX (June)

Computex Taiwan is one of the world's largest and most important computer and technology trade shows. Held annually in Taipei, Taiwan, it serves as a major platform for showcasing the latest developments in hardware, software, and technology solutions. It attracts global tech industry professionals, businesses, and media. Last year's event attracted over 85,000 ICT buyers and professionals from Japan, the United States, South Korea, China, Thailand, Hong Kong, Vietnam, India, the Philippines, Indonesia, and more.



## ► InnoVEX (June)

InnoVEX Taiwan is a specialized exhibit within Computex Taiwan that focuses on startups and innovation. It serves as a platform for startups from around the world to showcase their cutting-edge technologies, connect with investors, and explore potential partnerships. Launched in 2016, the exhibit has become a prominent event for fostering entrepreneurship and innovation in the tech industry.



## ► MEET Taipei (Nov)

Meet Taipei is one of Taiwan's largest and most influential startup festivals. Organized annually, it serves as a dynamic platform for showcasing innovation, fostering entrepreneurship, and connecting startups with investors, corporations, and industry experts. The event is a key driver in Taiwan's startup ecosystem and attracts participants from across the globe. The 2024 Meet Taipei Startup Festival, themed "Taiwan +1," aims to boost Taiwan's soft power in AI, deep tech, and international growth.



## ► Anchor Innovation Summit (Dec)

Anchor Innovation Summit is Asia's leading cross-border and cross-industry event bringing together executives, innovators, entrepreneurs and policymakers at the forefront of investing in and developing solutions for a more resilient, sustainable and equitable world. The 2024 summit focused on innovation in traditional industries; the intersection of semiconductors, AI, and human well-being; corporate venture capital and startup collaboration; the future of mobility; and leadership insights.



# Talent Taiwan

## ENGAGING TALENT'S CONNECTING FUTURES



Talent Taiwan is a comprehensive resource hub under the National Development Council that works to attract foreign talents across various fields and offers support to foreigners when they arrive in Taiwan. The organization works to address common challenges that foreigners face while living in Taiwan. It is the go-to destination for anyone beginning their journey in Taiwan and provides support with employment, housing, banking, education, taxes, visas, and more.



Talent Taiwan provides comprehensive consultation and support services for foreigners looking to settle in Taiwan, including facilitating connections to industry contacts, offering job matching and relocation assistance, and helping overseas professionals settle in Taiwan. It also provides connections with Taiwan's wealth of resources available to help professionals achieve their personal and professional goals and make Taiwan into a second home.

### Talent Taiwan Bilingual Help Desk

Available to support visa applicants and current residents for any questions about moving to Taiwan or life when you arrive.

☎ +886 2-7733-7660

### On-Site Consultation by Appointment

- 📍 **Talent Taiwan Taipei Office**  
2F, No. 9, Lane 85, Songjiang Road, Zhongshan District, Taipei City
- 📍 **Talent Taiwan Southern Office**  
8F, No. 6, Zhengnan Street, Lingya District, Kaohsiung City

### For more information



Talent Taiwan  
Website



Talent Taiwan  
Instagram

# Visa Programs

Taiwan hopes to attract up to 400,000 global talents across various fields by 2030. A variety of visa opportunities are available to foreigners looking to settle in Taiwan. Whether to start a business, seek long-term employment, or live as a digital nomad, Taiwan has a visa to fit an array of needs.

## ► Taiwan Employment Gold Card

The **Taiwan Employment Gold Card**, overseen by the **International Talent Taiwan Office**, was launched in 2018 and is the most flexible visa option for foreigners looking to set up their life in Taiwan. The 4-in-1 Employment Gold Card includes a resident visa, work permit, Alien Resident Certificate (ARC), and a re-entry permit. The work permit allows cardholders to freely seek employment, obtain employment at any time, legally work any part time job, and freely change jobs, offering a higher level of employment flexibility than a regular work permit. The resident visa allows cardholders to stay in Taiwan for more than 180 days. The Alien Resident Certificate (ARC) is a physical ID card proving the cardholder's legal residence status in Taiwan. The re-entry permit allows unlimited exit and entry from Taiwan during the card's validity period of 1-3 years.

Eligibility for the Taiwan Employment Gold Card is based on professional skills and does not require the applicant to have already secured a job in Taiwan. The Gold Card fee is between \$100-310 USD based on the applicant's nationality and card validity period.

Benefits of holding the Taiwan Employment Gold Card include open and flexible employment options, eligibility for a 50% tax exemption on salary income exceeding \$3 million NTD in their first five years, and a three year fast track to permanent residency in Taiwan. Employed cardholders can directly join Taiwan's National Health Insurance (NHI) and bypass the six month waiting period.

To learn more about the Taiwan Employment Gold Card, visit [goldcard.nat.gov.tw/en](https://goldcard.nat.gov.tw/en)



## ► Taiwan Entrepreneur Visa

The **Taiwan Entrepreneur Visa** is designed for entrepreneurs looking to develop their business in the Taiwan market or start a business in Taiwan. Applicants do not need to have an existing company to receive the visa which is valid for up to two years and eligible for renewal. Entrepreneurs seeking the Entrepreneur Visa can apply as an individual or with a team. To qualify for the Entrepreneur Visa, applicants must have gained investment, been admitted to an approved startup accelerator, been awarded a patent, gained plant or animal naming rights, been awarded prizes from a recognized competition, been recommended by the government, or established a recognized startup business.

To learn more about the Taiwan Entrepreneur Visa, visit [www.sme.gov.tw/article-en-2618-7911](https://www.sme.gov.tw/article-en-2618-7911)



## ► Taiwan Digital Nomad Visa

Taiwan's National Development Council (NDC) recently announced plans to introduce a **Digital Nomad Visa** for foreign digital professionals who want to work remotely from Taiwan. The visa will be valid for three months with an optional one-time extension. The visa program will launch in January 2025.

# 05

## Startup Island TAIWAN The National Startup Brand

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- Who Are We?
- What We Do
- Announcements



# The Story Behind It All

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## ► Origin & Background

In the past decade, Taiwan's startup ecosystem has been on an upward trajectory, gaining international recognition and achieving remarkable success. With this backdrop, the National Development Council (NDC) wanted to create a unified identity system to represent the overall image of Taiwan's startup ecosystem.

To find the foundations of Taiwan's innovation and entrepreneurship DNA, the NDC held meetings and workshops with startup communities, key opinion leaders, and other government agencies. After rounds of discussions with stakeholders across the startup ecosystem, the NDC and the community decided to jointly create the national startup brand, Startup Island TAIWAN.

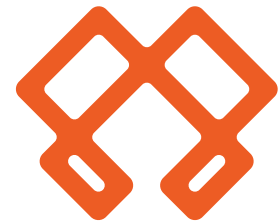


## ► Concept & Vision

Taiwan is a society of diversity, tolerance, and freedom. Taiwan has long been an important partner in the global hi-tech industries, and many entrepreneurs have built their business empires on the island from scratch. With innovative and creative ideas taking root on the island, Taiwanese startups will continue to gain exposure to the latest trends, as well as be able to turn new challenges into tremendous opportunities and possibilities.

Startup Island TAIWAN symbolizes a journey from a startup island to the international arena. It demonstrates to the world the strong ambition and capabilities of Taiwan startup companies as well as their intention and ability to contribute to other startup ecosystems around the world. The vision for the brand is to become the destination for innovation and entrepreneurship for startups all over the world, and also a launchpad to expand globally.

The logo of Startup Island TAIWAN is of abstract mountains reflected in the ocean. The image also symbolizes infinity and DNA, which reflect the unlimited dynamism that Taiwan startups possess and the entrepreneurship that exists in the genes of Taiwan's people. As for the auxiliary designs which correspond to the four colors of the logo, the images of mountains and the ocean depict Taiwan's rugged terrain, representing leading edge technology and the adventurous spirit of Taiwanese entrepreneurs, respectively. The dancing butterfly represents Taiwan's cultural diversity, while the light bulb stands for Taiwan's endless creativity.



**Diverse Culture**



**Daring Innovation**



**Leading-Edge Technology**



**Endless Creativity**



# What We Do



## Global Presence

Elevating the international stature of Taiwan's startup ecosystem industry leaders

## Ecosystem Connections

Cultivating a dynamic network where international startups flourish within Taiwan's dynamic entrepreneurial landscape and Taiwan's startups thrive in international ecosystems





## Courses & Workshops

Providing enriching educational experiences and hands-on workshops to empower entrepreneurs with essential skills and knowledge

## Business Development

Empowering startups with resources to accelerate their growth and impact, and to seize business opportunities through participation in international exhibitions

## International Connections

Forging pathways for startups to engage globally, fostering collaborations and market expansion, and facilitating access to overseas resources



# 2025 Announcements



## ► Tokyo Hub Opening

In September 2024, the National Development Council launched the Startup Island TAIWAN Tokyo Hub, the first overseas office of Startup Island TAIWAN. The hub will foster existing partnerships between Taiwan and Japan's startup ecosystems and pave the way for new partnerships. As a support center primarily for Taiwanese and Japanese startups, the Tokyo Hub offers a variety of services including coworking and event spaces, business registration, and community events designed to facilitate deeper connections in the startup community.

Startup Island TAIWAN has strengthened its relationship with the Japanese startup ecosystem through significant collaborations. At Sushi Tech 2024, Startup Island TAIWAN signed a MoU with the Tokyo Municipal Government. Additionally, the Japan-Taiwan Innovation Summit, which has been operating since 2022, continues to foster collaboration with JETRO and other key startup ecosystem partners in Tokyo, such as Digital Garage, 01Booster, and Headline Asia.





Tokyo Hub

## ► Tokyo Hub Services



Co-working Space



Company Set-up



Event Space



Consulting

## Contact and follow us

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📷 [www.instagram.com/startupisland.tw](https://www.instagram.com/startupisland.tw)  
🐦 [twitter.com/StartupislandTw](https://twitter.com/StartupislandTw)

## Silicon Valley Hub 2025 Opening

In January 2025, the National Development Council will open the Startup Island TAIWAN Silicon Valley Hub. The hub will foster partnerships between Taiwanese and North American startup ecosystems. Strategically located in Silicon Valley, the new office is a gateway for innovation and fulfills our mission to bridge Taiwan to the world.

## ► Silicon Valley Hub

📍 **Silicon Valley Hub Address**  
299 California Ave suite 300  
Palo Alto, CA 94306, USA

✉ **Contact email**  
svhub@startupisland.tw  
contact@startupisland.tw



# Startup Island TAIWAN

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## References

The information in this report comes from a variety of sources including, news media (Meet Global, Bloomberg, Wall Street Journal, Taipei Times, etc.), government websites and reports (National Development Council, National Development Fund, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Taiwan Institute of Economic Research, FINDIT, etc.), industry reports from non-government sources, company press releases, and company websites. For a full list of works cited, please scan the QR code below.

<https://pse.is/SIT2025citations>



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