



# EPO DEEP TECH FINDER

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE OBSERVATORY ON PATENTS AND TECHNOLOGY

epo.org

## **Introductory Slide:**

### **"The EPO Deep Tech Finder"**

*Welcome to the EPO Deep Tech Finder — a free online tool by the European Patent Office (<https://www.epo.org/en>) that helps you to explore Europe's deep tech landscape through patent data. Whether you're an investor, policymaker, researcher or startup scout, this platform was designed with you in mind to give you access to patent and financing data regardless of whether you have any prior knowledge of patents.*

Disclaimer: The tool only includes information on startups and universities with European patent applications (i.e., applications at the EPO). This means that startups using licenced patents, for example, or patents obtained from other patent systems are not included. The dataset on startups and investment comes from Dealroom and other EPO partner stakeholders, including the national patent offices of EPO member states. If you have any concerns about or feedback on the completeness of the entities displayed, please email us at: [deep-tech-finder@epo.org](mailto:deep-tech-finder@epo.org).

For more information about the tool, you can consult the FAQs at: <https://www.epo.org/en/service-support/faq/searching-patents/deep-tech-finder>

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Learn about the different features of the Deep Tech Finder one by one

**Slides 03-16**

- How to find startups and universities

Slides 04-09

- How to use filters

Slides 10-11

- How to find investors

Slides 12-13

- How to save lists of startups and universities

Slides 14-16

### Find out how to use these features in different scenarios according to your user profile

**Slide 17**

### Table of contents

This presentation can be used as a guide to the Deep Tech Finder or for publicity purposes:

PART 1 (3-16): Finding out more about the tool's features

PART 2 (17): Exploring practical ways to use these features

## WITH THE EPO DEEP TECH FINDER YOU CAN ...



... find **startups and universities** in Europe with European patent applications



... filter for those active in **specific technology fields**  
(e.g. offshore wind technologies) and more



... discover the **investors** supporting European tech startups



... save **lists** of startups and universities for later use

### Main uses of the tool

The tool can be used for a range of different purposes. Here you can present its four main uses.

## HOW TO ...



... find **startups and universities** in Europe with European patent applications

- (1) **Select:**
- **All startups** in Europe with EP applications
  - **Only spinouts** (startups) from universities or public research organisations
  - **Universities** with EP filed applications
  - **Investors** with European startups with EP applications in their portfolio

[Advanced search](#) [Name search](#)

Show	Patent applications		
<input type="radio"/> All entities	Country <input type="text" value="0"/>	Technical field <input type="text" value="0"/>	Status <input type="text" value="0"/>
<input checked="" type="radio"/> All startups	<input type="button" value="Search"/>		
<input type="radio"/> Only spin-outs			
<input type="radio"/> Universities			
<input type="radio"/> Investors			
	Startups		
	Industry <input type="text" value="0"/>	Growth stage <input type="text" value="0"/>	Funding round <input type="text" value="0"/>

### How to find startups & universities 1

Go to the main search bar under "Advanced search" and click the category that you are interested in. You can only select one category. This slide shows the different categories available.

[Advanced search](#) [Name search](#)

Show

- All entities
- All startups
- Only spin-outs
- Universities
- Investors

Patent applications

Country  Technical field  Status

Startups

Industry  Growth stage  Funding round

### How to find startups & universities 1

Go to the main search bar under "Advanced search" and click on the category that you are interested in. You can only select one category. This slide defines the different categories.

## HOW TO ...



... find **startups and universities** in Europe with European patent applications

- (2) Travel over the **map** with your marker: startups are marked in blue and universities in orange.  
**Click on a dot to explore.**



### How to find startups & universities 2

This slide shows the view that appears if you select "all startups and spinouts" or "all universities".

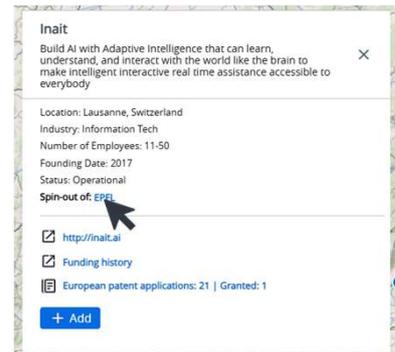
## HOW TO ...



... find **startups and universities** in Europe with European patent applications

(3) You can view the **details of individual startups or universities** by clicking on their **websites**, or on "European Patent Applications" to view their **applications**, or on "Funding history" to view their **financial data** on Dealroom.

**If a startup is a spinout** from a university or public research organisation in Europe this will also be indicated. Clicking on the university name will reveal other spinouts from that university.



7

### How to find startups & universities 3

This slide shows the startup or university card where key information is shown. Clicking on "European patent applications" leads to the list of applications. Clicking on "Funding history" redirects you to the Dealroom.com profile of the startup with their financing information. The other option is to visit the startup's website.

If a startup is a spinout of a university, this information will also appear here. You can click on the university (in blue) and see other spinouts from that university.

## HOW TO ...



... find **startups and universities** in Europe with European patent applications

- (4) If you click on "European patent applications" you can view the **full patent application document for each patent application on the EPO Espacenet website**

Aerones  
Robotic systems for a smarter wind turbine maintenance

+ Add

European patent applications: 7 | Granted: 5

Technical field 2 Reset filters

Title	Technical field	Filing Year	Patent status
A Device For Wind Turbine Blade And Tower Maintenance And A System For Raising And Lowering The Device	Other	2019	EP granted
An Arrangement For Lowering And Raising Service Tools Used For Wind Turbine Blade-And Tower Maintenance	Clean energy - production: Offshore wind energy	2020	EP granted & Unitary
A System And A Method For Inspection Of Rotating Wind Turbine Blade	Other	2022	EP granted & Unitary
Wind Turbine Robotic Cleaning And Painting System	Other	2022	EP granted & Unitary
Wind-Turbine Maintenance Device	Other	2022	Pending

8

### How to find startups & universities 4

This slide shows the startup card or university card where key information is shown. Clicking on "European patent applications" leads to the list of applications, connected to EPO Espacenet (<https://worldwide.espacenet.com/patent/>). Clicking on "Funding history" redirects you to the startup's Dealroom.co profile with their financing information. The other option is to visit the startup's website.

## HOW TO ...



... find **startups and universities** in Europe with European patent applications

(5) You can also search by the **name of a startup or university** by clicking on **"Name search"**

Advanced search | Name search

Show

- All entities
- All startups
- Only spin-outs
- Universities
- Investors

Patent applications

Country: 0 | Technical field: 0 | Status: 0 | Search

Startups

Industry: 0 | Growth stage: 0 | Funding round: 0

### How to find startups & universities 5

To find a startup or university by name, you can also do a "Name search" by typing its name in the browser.

## HOW TO ...



... filter for **specific technology fields** (e.g. offshore wind technologies) and more

### (1) Use the filters in the search bar:

- **Country** of the startup or university
- **Technical field** of the patent application identified by EPO patent examiners
- **Status** of the patent (*granted*, *granted and unitary* or *pending*)
- **Industry, growth stage or funding round** of the startup



The screenshot shows the 'Advanced search' interface. On the left, there is a 'Show' section with radio buttons for 'All entities', 'All startups' (selected), 'Only spin-outs', 'Universities', and 'Investors'. The main search area is divided into 'Patent applications' and 'Startups'. Under 'Patent applications', there are dropdown menus for 'Country', 'Technical field' (with a mouse cursor pointing to it), and 'Status', followed by a 'Search' button. Under 'Startups', there are dropdown menus for 'Industry', 'Growth stage', and 'Funding round'.

10

### How to filter 1

When looking for a startup, you can refine your search with the following filters:

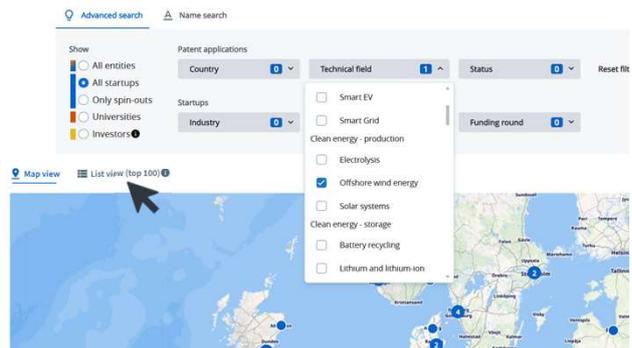
- Country of the startup / university
- Technical field of the European patent application
- Status of the European patent application according to the European Patent Register (<https://worldwide.espacenet.com/patent/>)
- Industry assigned by Dealroom to the startup (not available for universities)
- Growth stage as defined by Dealroom of the startup (not available for universities)
- Funding round that the startup has received according to Dealroom (not available for universities)

## HOW TO ...



... filter for **specific technology fields** (e.g. offshore wind technologies) and more

(2) Once you have completed your search, you can see **the results in a map or list view** by selecting either option at the top left of the map



### How to filter 2

The results are then available in a map or list format.

## HOW TO ...



... discover the **investors** supporting European tech startups

- (1) To view a list of investors in the Deep Tech Finder, go to the homepage and select "**Investors**" along with any **filters** you need.

The investors shown are connected to patent applications and technical fields via the startups in which they have invested.

The screenshot shows the 'Advanced search' interface of the EPO Deep Tech Finder. On the left, there are radio buttons for 'All entities', 'All startups', 'Only spin-outs', 'Universities', and 'Investors'. The 'Investors' option is selected. Below this, there are filters for 'Country' (set to Belgium), 'Industry' (set to 0), and 'Technical field' (set to 1). A 'Status' filter is also present. A 'Search' button is visible. Below the filters, there is a table of investors with columns for 'Name', 'Investor location', and 'Total Startups in portfolio'. The table lists three investors: European Innovation Council (Belgium, CI), Innovate UK (United Kingdom, Central Swindon North), and Eurostars SME programme (Belgium, Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe).

Name	Investor location	Total Startups in portfolio
European Innovation Council	Belgium, CI	1256
Innovate UK	United Kingdom, Central Swindon North	685
Eurostars SME programme	Belgium, Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe	447

### How to find investors 1

Investors are linked to startups through the information available on Dealroom. You can select investors using similar filters to those available for startups:

- Country of the startup the investor funded
- Technical field of the European patent applied for by the startup in the investor's portfolio
- Status of the European patent applied for by the startup in the investor's portfolio

## HOW TO ...



... discover the **investors** supporting European tech startups

(2) You can also download the list. Only the top 100 investors by total number of startups in their portfolio are shown.

Investors (top 100) 100 investors

[Hide Filter](#)

[Download data](#)

Name	Investor location	Startups by filter	Total Startups in portfolio
European Innovation Council	Belgium, City of Brussels	12	1256
Innovate UK	United Kingdom, Central Swindon North	4	685
Eurostars SME programme	Belgium, Sint-Lambrechts-Woluwe	2	447
Venture Kick	Switzerland, Zurich	1	148

### How to find investors 2

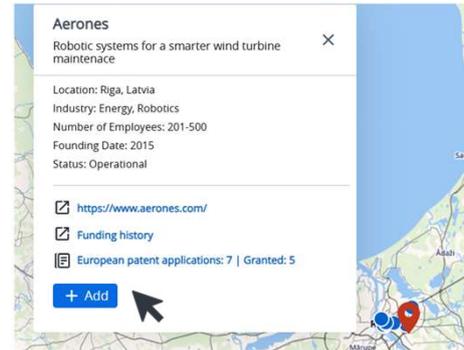
You can download your list of investors as an Excel spreadsheet. This list will only feature the top 100 investors by the number of startups they invested in.

## HOW TO ...



... save **lists** of startups and universities

- (1) Click on the blue icon labelled **"+ Add"** on the card of a startup or university to save up to 100 startups or universities in your list.



14

### How to save lists 1

When you view the profile of any startup or university, you will see a blue button **"+ Add"**. Just click this button to include the entity into your "My startups" or "My universities" list.

## HOW TO ...



... save **lists** of startups and universities for later use

(2) At the top of the page, go to **"My Startups"** or **"My Universities"** to see the list.



DEEP TECH FINDER

[Advanced search](#) [My Startups](#) [My Universities](#)

### Explore deep tech in Europe

Our **Deep Tech Finder** helps you find European universities, their spin-outs and other investment-ready startups with patent applications at the EPO. You can also search for investors with a track record of investing in particular startup profiles. Set your preferred filters or search by university, company or investor's name. Once added to your list, you can explore their applications and granted patents. [See the FAQ](#) or our [demonstration video](#) (08:30 mins)

[Advanced search](#) [Name search](#)

### How to save lists 2

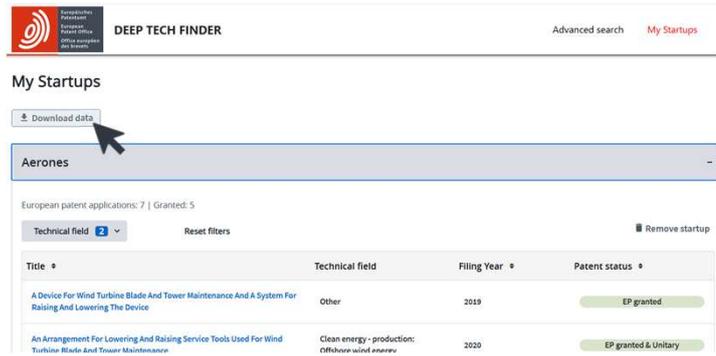
You can consult your personalised list of startups and universities, go to the menu on the righthand side of the tool.

## HOW TO ...



... save **lists** of startups and universities for later use

- (3) You can view the **list** of patent applications for each saved startup or university **online** or **download** it as an Excel spreadsheet.



DEEP TECH FINDER

Advanced search My Startups

My Startups

Download data

Aerones

European patent applications: 7 | Granted: 5

Technical field 2 Reset filters Remove startup

Title	Technical field	Filing Year	Patent status
A Device For Wind Turbine Blade And Tower Maintenance And A System For Raising And Lowering The Device	Other	2019	EP granted
An Arrangement For Lowering And Raising Service Tools Used For Wind Turbine Blade And Tower Maintenance	Clean energy - production: offshore wind energy	2020	EP granted & Unitary

16

### How to save lists 3

You can download the list using the button indicated by the arrow.

## WHICH OF THE TOOL'S FEATURES CAN HELP ME? THIS DEPENDS ON THE POTENTIAL USER. ARE YOU ...



... **already involved  
in a tech startup?**

- Find **investors** and potential **partners**
- Analyse **markets and competitors**
- Discover possible **university collaborations**
- Access **patent documents**



... **interested in building  
a tech startup?**

- Identify **promising tech startups** with EP applications
- Explore **success stories** of startups, along with their technology and funding information



... **new to tech  
startups?**

- Interactive tool for IP and entrepreneurship **introductory sessions**
- Useful for teaching **technology transfer basics**

### Which of the tool's features can help me?

This slide explains how the features of the tool can be tailored to different user profiles. For those already in a tech startup, the tool is valuable for strategic intelligence: finding investors and partners, understanding competitors and identifying potential collaborations with universities. For those interested in starting a tech venture, the tool helps spot promising startups based on their patent applications and gives access to success stories, including funding and technological details. Finally, for those new to the world of tech startups, it serves as an educational tool – ideal for introductory sessions on IP, entrepreneurship, and technology transfer.

## For more information

---



[deep-tech-finder@epo.org](mailto:deep-tech-finder@epo.org)



[epo.org/deep-tech-finder](https://epo.org/deep-tech-finder)



For more information, you can contact the EPO team responsible for the Deep Tech Finder at: [deep-tech-finder@epo.org](mailto:deep-tech-finder@epo.org)  
The tool and additional information is also available on our website: [epo.org/deep-tech-finder](https://epo.org/deep-tech-finder)