

SALES NOTEBOOK

20 May. 2024. @SEKUENS #AsturiasS3

DIGITAL INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM IN ASTURIAS

The Principality of Asturias, or Asturias, is a region on Spain's Northern coast and its population is one million. Asturias' industrial ecosystem is highly specialised in process industries, with the basic materials sector accounting for 40% of regional industrial employment. Unique companies producing commodities such as steel, zinc, pulp, fibre, cement or glass are all located in the region's central area, separated by only a few kilometres, as are two large ports in Avilés and Gijón.

In addition, the manufacture of metal products is a prominent activity in Asturias, characterised by deep-rooted industrial culture, the heritage of its history as a mining and steel region. There are a significant number of metal product manufacturers, many of whom have also promoted their private R&D centres.

Along with the latter, Asturias has a significant number of engineering companies which employ 4,000 people and maintain strong ties and collaboration with the metal sector.

Besides this urban agglomeration, "the region's western and eastern flanks" have a particularly elderly population living in rural areas endowed with great natural value, with nearly one-third of the territory being under environmental protection. To be precise, Asturias' agri-food industry is of paramount importance with a wide range of products having obtained DOP and IGP qualifications. Recently some of Horizon Europe funded projects, such as [GUARDIANS](#), have contributed to establishing and boosting the local network for demo projects concerning the digital transformation of rural areas.

Technological employment has grown by 35 % in the last decade in Asturias. Specifically, the ICT branch is rapidly expanding with 7,000 employees¹. Asturias has been identified as a leading region in Spain in terms of its ability to attract and retain talent².

Many of our ICT companies are proud members of the Cluster ICT association, which boasts 120 partners. Rooted in Asturias, we are home to standout local companies like SERESCO, IZERTIS, and SATEC, the latter of which has recently inaugurated its R&D centre. What's more, our region has attracted significant investment from leading international ICT companies. Notable examples include the American multinational DXC Technology, the French giants CAPGEMINI and INETUM, the Japanese innovator RICOH, and MERKLE, a global leader in data-driven customer experience solutions³.

The digital innovation ecosystem is also made up of stakeholders such as CTIC Technology Centre, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) Chapter leader for Spain and the Latin-American Spanish-speaking regions.

¹ <https://cotec.es/informes/mapa-del-empleo-tecnologico-de-espana/>

² <https://cotec.es/informes/mapa-del-talento-autonomico/>

³ <https://www.investinasturias.es/>

Moreover, an example of the region's commitment to the ICT sector and creative industries is the [LABoral Centre for Art and Industrial Creation](#). Promoted by the Government of the Principality of Asturias, it is a multidisciplinary institution that produces, disseminates and promotes access to new cultural forms deriving from the creative use of information and communication technologies.

Finally, in recent years, the University of Oviedo has increased the ICT academic degrees and Master's courses it has to offer. companies are concerned, their interest in this field is borne out by the numerous business chairs promoted within the University.

As regards university research group activities, there is the work carried out by its [Artificial Intelligence Centre](#). In this regard, the Government of Asturias has promoted infrastructure such as two 5G laboratories along with the "Martin Cooper" 5G Open Laboratory.

ASTURIAS DIGITAL INNOVATION HUB


#AsDIH #AsturiasS3 #IA#Datos#Sensores#visión#Fabricacionaditiva

The [Asturias Digital Innovation Hub's](#) (AsDIH) goals are to speed up the digital technological transformation of the industry and to support investments and it is cofunded by the Digital Europe Programme.

The initiative, coordinated by SEKUENS, relied on 10 partners in total: [ASINCAR](#), [IDONIAL](#), [CTIC](#), [CETEMAS](#), [Universidad de Oviedo](#), [CLUSTER TIC](#), [FADE](#), [MetalIndustry4](#), [CEEI](#) and [Agencia SEKUENS](#). From their headquarters in the As5Hub building, the partners offer services for SMES in advisory, testing and experimentation and training. Their expertise lies in enabling advanced technologies for digital transformation of the industry, specialising in Data Intelligence/analytics, Sensors and Vision Technologies and additive manufacturing.

Driven by this goal, a network of more than 40 test equipment and demonstrators has been classified. Moreover, some of them act as Living labs such as the ASINCAR pilot plant which reproduces the environment of a food SME, and CTIC RuralTech, a comprehensive approach to "Smart Villages".

Furthermore, ASDIH implements [Asturias smart specialisation strategy \(S3 Asturias\) \(2021-2027\)](#). S3 Asturias has identified two challenges related with smart industry, on which a portfolio of regional R&D projects has been already supported,

CHALLENGES		AREAS
 <p>SMART MANUFACTURING</p>	<u>DRIVING THE FLEXIBLE, EFFICIENT AND CONNECTED FACTORY (portfolio)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data collection/Industrial sensors • Data processing/Artificial intelligence
	<u>INDUSTRIALISATION OF ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING AND 3D PRINTING (portfolio)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additive manufacturing technologies • 3D product design • Integration of additive manufacturing into industrial

EU INTERREGIONAL COLLABORATION

Asturian entities have played a very active role in international collaborative research, development and innovation projects co-financed by [Horizon calls](#).

Moreover, some networks support EU interregional collaboration between regional and European ICT stakeholders:

- Asturias Digital Innovation Hub is part of the [European Digital Innovation Hubs \(EDIH\)](#) network.
- The government of the Principality of Asturias (PA) is member of [Vanguard Initiative \(VI\)](#). VI links the most advanced industrial regions in Europe, with the aim of promoting innovation and forming European-wide value chains based on regional specialisation strategies.
- Since 2023, the University of Oviedo, as a partner of the European University [INGENIUM](#) Alliance, has offered the opportunity to study, research and work within a network of ten prestigious universities across Europe.