

## Investment into UK impact startups surges: 9.5x increase 2014 - 2019

- UK impact startups - startups addressing one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals - have raised €1.4B in 2020, with largest rounds going to likes of Octopus Energy and The Meatless Farm Company
- Impact investing accounts for over 15% of total European VC investment, 3x higher than a decade ago, and double the global average at 7%
- Data revealed as Tech Nation and Dealroom launch the Impact & Innovation database, which lists over 390 jobs in UK impact startups that are currently hiring

New research from [Tech Nation](#) and Dealroom reveals that investment into UK impact startups increased 9.5x between 2014 and 2019. UK impact startups have raised €1.4B so far in 2020 with Cleantech and Climate tech companies raising the most capital of all UK impact startups.

The biggest rounds for UK impact startups in 2020 include Octopus Energy, Arrival, Connexin (Hull), Tokamak Energy (Abingdon), Compass Pathways, Cera, Highview Power, FiveAI (Cambridge), The Meatless Farm Company (Leeds).

It comes as Tech Nation and Dealroom launch the [Impact and Innovation](#) database, that catalogues 4,939 startups and scaleups, 7,472 funding rounds, and 232 exits of innovative companies addressing the world's most pressing challenges.

**George Windsor, Head of Insights at Tech Nation, commented:** “UK impact tech firms have come on leaps and bounds over the last six years - with nearly 10x more investment made into groundbreaking companies in 2020 than 2014. UK tech must continue to play a key part in tackling some of the world's toughest challenges, including climate change. This revolution is happening right across the country. Tech Nation is pleased to work with some of the leading companies in this space through our world-first Net Zero programme - ensuring that companies working in this sector can scale to have the greatest impact.”

The data also reveals that European startups are more impact-focussed than their global peers. €6B was invested into European impact startups in 2019, making up over 15% of all VC investment in the region. This research shows that what was once fringe investment and innovation activity is finding traction and proven success in Europe, becoming a core part of European innovation ecosystems.

Climate tech startups, which includes electric vehicles, have attracted the most investment within the Impact sub-sector, with European players emerging as global market leaders. European companies working to tackle climate change and its impacts have attracted €9.8B in VC investment in the last five years.

Impact innovation startups are also fueling growth and job creation. Crucially, these startups are actively hiring, the Impact & Innovation database lists over [2,100 jobs](#) in impact startups that are currently hiring - over 390 of these are in the UK.

The Impact and Innovation platform will bring together startups, investors, non-profits, governments, and corporates in one open-access data-driven platform. The new mapping of the global impact and innovation ecosystem will facilitate data-driven policy and decision making, the sharing of cross-industry knowledge, and will foster the partnerships required to help next generation innovators succeed on the global stage.

[Access the platform](#)

### **About Tech Nation**

Tech Nation is the growth platform for tech companies and leaders. Tech Nation fuels the growth of game-changing founders, leaders, and scaling companies so they can positively transform societies and economies. We provide them with the coaching, content, and community they need for their journey in designing the future. Tech Nation has years of experience facilitating and helping UK tech companies scale, both at home and abroad. Over 20 cohorts and 600 companies have successfully graduated from Tech Nation's growth programmes. Alumni include Skyscanner, Darktrace, and Monzo.

### **About Dealroom**

Dealroom.co is the foremost data provider on startups, growth companies and tech ecosystems in Europe and around the globe. Founded in Amsterdam in 2013, Dealroom.co now works with many of the world's most prominent investors, entrepreneurs and government organizations to provide transparency, analysis and insights on startups and venture capital activity.

### **About ImpactCity**

The Hague is the city for entrepreneurs who want to build a better world. As ImpactCity, The Hague offers a wide range of opportunities and services to entrepreneurs and other impact makers with innovative solutions. The city encourages "doing good & doing business" in all kinds of ways with practical help: assistance with settling, startup hubs, possibilities for financing and a great infrastructure. The local and at the same time unique international network of The Hague connects NGOs, research centers, knowledge institutes, established companies, governments and many young and creative entrepreneurs who want to make a difference, creating an unique and leading impact ecosystem.

With figureheads like the Peace Palace, the International Court of Justice, Europol and the International Criminal Court, The Hague is worldwide known as the international city of peace and

justice. Every day, tens of thousands of people in The Hague are working towards a better future and solve global problems. Together they work, share their knowledge and develop new ideas.

**Danske Bank**

Danske Bank is a Nordic bank with strong local roots and bridges to the rest of the world. For more than 145 years, we have helped people and businesses in the Nordics realise their ambitions.

We want to help our customers become financially confident and help them build their lives and businesses on a solid financial foundation. We aim to create long-term value for all our stakeholders – our customers, shareholders and the societies we are part of – and our vision is to be recognised as the most trusted financial partner.