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Quarterly newsletter

Everything happening in Madrid's entrepreneurial ecosystem

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The MIL's **quarterly newsletter** is here!

Artificial intelligence continues to set the pace for innovation in Madrid. What does the new phase of the **AI Act** entail? Why are institutions beginning to view AI with a mixture of opportunity and caution? How are **banking**, **healthcare**, **defence**, **employment** and the **business landscape** changing?

We'll tell you all about this and much more right here below. **Read on!**

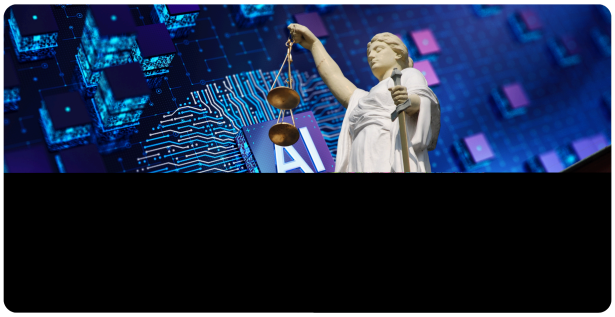
Keep up to date with the MIL newsletter 😎



Here are some of the key news stories and updates from the AI and new technologies sector. A special selection just for you 😉



Bank of Spain turns its attention to AI



The AI Act enters a new phase

The Bank of Spain is preparing to incorporate artificial intelligence services at a time marked by debate over Europe's technological dependence on major US providers. This is a sign that AI is also beginning to make its way into critical institutions, where innovation, security and technological sovereignty must go hand in hand.

Read more

Since August, the European Union has begun to implement new requirements under the AI Act, including transparency rules for certain artificial intelligence systems. This is a key step for businesses, public authorities and developers, who will need to move towards AI models that are clearer, more traceable and aligned with people's rights.

Read more



Frontier AI hits the brakes

Some of the leading figures in artificial intelligence have reignited the debate about the pace at which the most powerful models are advancing. The question is no longer simply how far AI can go, but how to ensure that safety, oversight and governance keep pace with its capabilities.

Read more



Madrid is leading the way in AI

Madrid continues to strengthen its position in the race for AI with new initiatives aimed at making this technology more accessible to SMEs, public authorities and the business sector. This development comes at a time when the industry is experiencing growth, the arrival of major companies and a growing debate about the risks posed by the most advanced systems.

Read more



Biosur takes shape in the south of Madrid

Hospitals in Alcorcón, Fuenlabrada, Móstoles and Leganés will collaborate with Rey Juan Carlos University to promote biomedical research, clinical trials and knowledge transfer. The future Biosur Foundation aims to bring together the university, hospitals and clinical practice to speed up the introduction of new advances into patient care.

Read more

Meet the key figures from the first Excellence Day of 2026 👇

Investment in AI is once again a topic of discussion at the MIL

The Excellence Conference, organised by Madrid Innovation Lab and Next Tier Ventures, brought together key figures from the investment, technology and start-up ecosystems to analyse how artificial intelligence is transforming business models, investment, automation and decision-making.

In this video, we have compiled some of the highlights of the conference and the reflections of several of its key participants on the challenges, opportunities and questions raised by this new era of AI.

🎥 Press play!



We are aware of initiatives and sectors that are revolutionising the market.

The banking sector and AI: efficiency, risk and trust



Artificial intelligence is ushering in a new era for the financial sector. It is no longer simply a matter of digitising processes, but of incorporating systems capable of anticipating risks, detecting fraud, personalising services, automating internal tasks and transforming the relationship between banks and their customers.

But in a sector where trust is the key asset, the adoption of AI cannot be measured solely in terms of efficiency. The article examines how financial institutions, fintech firms, technology companies and regulators are grappling with an increasingly complex balancing act: innovating ambitiously without compromising transparency, security, human oversight or accountability.

Because the banking of the future will not just be more automated. It will also have to be smarter, more reliable and better able to put technology at the service of people.

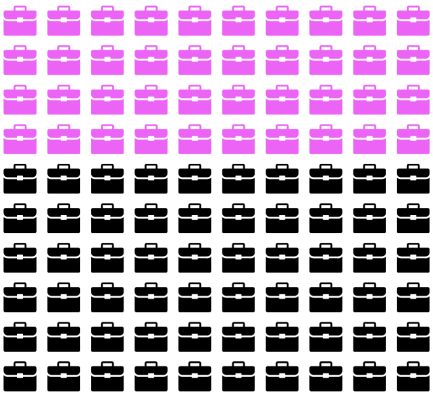
Read more

We bring you studies, statistical reports and data relating to AI and deep tech in the business sector in Spain, Europe and around the world.

Madrid, one of the regions most exposed to AI

En Madrid, más del 40% del empleo se concentra en ocupaciones de alta exposición a la inteligencia artificial, según BBVA Research. El dato no implica sustitución directa, pero sí apunta a una transformación relevante de tareas, perfiles profesionales y necesidades de capacitación en los próximos años.

In Madrid, more than 40 % of jobs are in occupations with a high level of exposure to AI.



Why is it important?

AI has the potential to boost productivity, but its impact will depend on how businesses, public authorities and workers prepare for the transition.

Source: BBVA Research, AI: from employment to productivity.

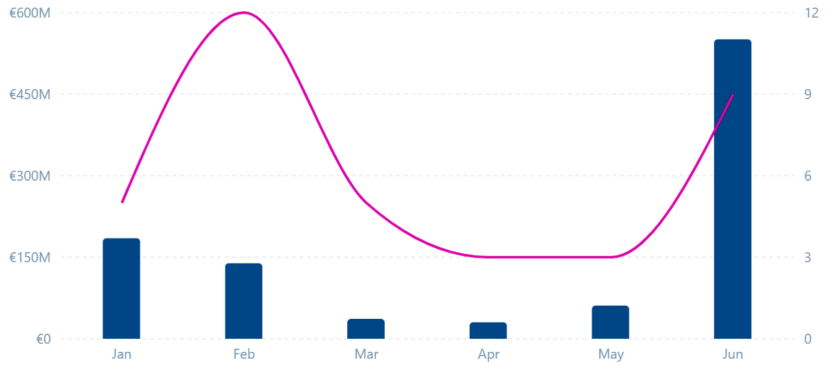
Read the report

Defence spending soars in Europe

In the first half of 2026, 36 European defence companies raised 1,000 million euros in 37 funding rounds, an increase of 1,316 per cent compared with the same period in 2025. The chart shows how, following several months of moderate activity, June saw a significant surge in funding that drove up the half-year total.

1 billion euros for defence over six months

The European defence ecosystem closed the first half of 2026 having raised 1,000 million euros across 37 funding rounds. June saw the highest level of investment during the period.



Why is it important?

The figure confirms growing investor interest in a sector that is increasingly linked to dual innovation, technological sovereignty and the development of strategic capabilities in Europe.

Source: *Tech.eu Funding Explorer. Defence funding in H1 2026*

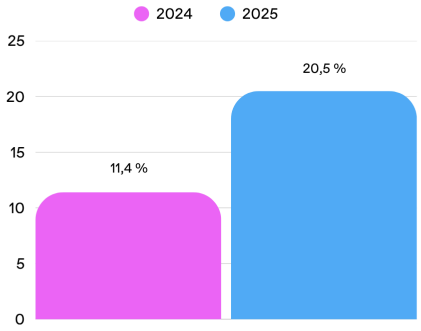
Read the report

AI is becoming increasingly prevalent in Spanish companies

In 2025, 20.5 per cent of Spanish companies with 10 or more employees used artificial intelligence, compared with 11.4 per cent in 2024. The figure shows a clear acceleration in the adoption of AI by businesses and confirms that these technologies are beginning to be incorporated more routinely into processes, services and business models.

The use of artificial intelligence in Spanish companies

Trend in the percentage of companies with 10 or more employees, 2024–2025.



Why is it important?

AI is no longer a tool reserved for pilot projects or large technology companies. Its spread throughout the business world is presenting new challenges in terms of skills development, competitiveness and adaptation for businesses of all sizes.

Source: Ontsi. Indicators of artificial intelligence use in Spain 2025 (2026 edition, 2025 data)

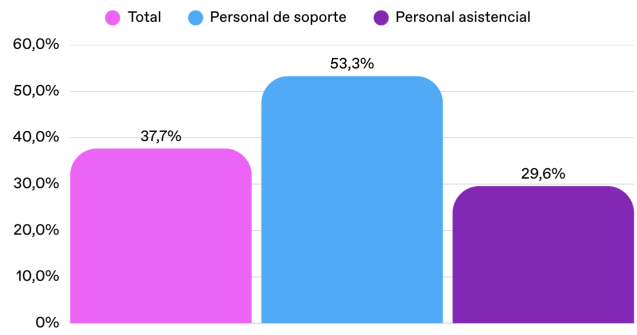
Read the report

AI is advancing faster than healthcare organisations

In Dutch healthcare organisations, it is estimated that 37.7 per cent of employees already use artificial intelligence. The figure rises to 53.3 per cent amongst support staff and stands at 29.6 per cent amongst clinical staff, indicating uneven adoption depending on the type of role.

The use of AI in Dutch healthcare organisations

Estimated percentage of employees who use artificial intelligence, by job profile.



Why is it important?

The data points to an increasingly evident reality in the healthcare sector: AI is already being used on a day-to-day basis, but its impact will depend on organisations' ability to support its adoption through training, technological integration and clear guidelines for its use.

Source: Amsterdam AI, based on the report *Innovatiemonitor voor de Zorg 2026*.

Read the report

Other useful links on AI and new technologies

1. European Innovation Scoreboard 2026. The European Commission compares innovation across Member States using 32 indicators.
2. Report on investment in start-ups in Spain – H1 2026. The Bankinter Innovation Foundation analyses investment in Spanish start-ups during the first half of 2026.
3. Report on Dual-Use Technologies in Europe 2026. Hello Tomorrow addresses the challenges of scaling up dual-use technologies in Europe.
4. Report on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare 2026. WHO Europe examines the challenges involved in implementing responsible AI in healthcare systems.
5. European Strategy for Start-ups and Scale-ups: Progress Report 2026. The European Commission has provided an update on the progress of its strategy to support start-ups and scale-ups.

We've got the new academic year off to a flying start, and this is only just beginning.

Let your imagination run wild! Coincident flows and rectified flows

Whilst LLMs and agent-based systems are currently the focus of much attention, flow models are playing a key role in the generation of images and other types of synthetic data.

In this expert talk, organised in partnership with Machine Learning Circle, Álvaro Barbero, AI Lab Director at Lynx Tech, will explain the fundamentals of techniques such as Flow Matching and Rectified Flows, and their role within the current generative AI ecosystem.

🗓️ Tuesday, 6 October ⏰ 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Sign up here

Excellence Day – Dual-use technologies

🗓️ Thursday 15 October ⏰ 09:30 – 18:00 📍 Madrid Innovation Lab

Dual-use technologies are gaining ground in increasingly strategic fields due to their ability to generate value in both the civilian and security and defence sectors.

At this conference on excellence, MIL will bring together public authorities, technology centres, major corporations and innovative companies to explore how these technologies are redefining Europe's competitiveness, resilience and strategic autonomy.

Sign up here

Open Day – AImpacto Hackathon: AI for Impact

MIL is opening its doors to offer the public a first-hand experience of innovation: AImpacto Hackathon, an intensive two-day event focusing on artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship and social impact.

An opportunity to discover how the participating teams work, learn about projects with a purpose, connect with communities within the tech ecosystem and see how AI moves from idea to action.

🗓️ **Friday 16 and Saturday 17 October**
⏰ **Friday, 3.00 pm – 8.00 pm + Saturday, 9.00 am – 8.00 pm**

Sign up here

MIL Partner Network – Unlocking the future of MIL

Innovation is also built through conversation. That is why MIL is organising an exclusive event for its network of collaborators, designed to strengthen the community, spark new conversations and gather input to shape the centre's future programme.

The session, organised in partnership with Wine Lovers CR, will combine a guided wine tasting with a participatory open innovation workshop focusing on data, artificial intelligence, the circular economy, blockchain and customer experience.

🗓️ **Wednesday, 4 November** ⏰ **6.00 pm – 8.00 pm**

Sign up here

Excellence Conference – Artificial Intelligence and Health

🗓️ Thursday, 12 November ⏰ 09:30 – 18:00 📍 Madrid Innovation Lab

Artificial intelligence is ushering in a new era in the field of healthcare, with advances in early diagnosis, prediction, healthcare research, new product development and personalised medicine.

At this conference on excellence, MIL will bring together start-ups, foundations, hospitals, pharmaceutical companies and researchers to showcase real-world projects that are making a difference to patients, healthcare professionals and healthcare systems, with a focus on areas such as cancer, Alzheimer's and women's health.

Save the date!

Don't miss the latest news from all of Madrid City Council's innovation centres.





La Nave | Scale-Up Programme 🚀

La Nave is looking for tech start-ups with a product on the market, real customers and proven product-market fit to take part in its Scale-Up Programme. Over a six-month period, the selected companies will tackle the challenges of scaling up through practical workshops, personalised mentoring and connections within the ecosystem.

Submit your application

Innovation Door | FormaDOOR

A session for entrepreneurs, start-ups and teams who are exploring new markets or considering international expansion. Manuel Mendoza, CEO of Pakku, will share practical insights on how to understand local users, adapt your value proposition, build relationships in the target market and avoid common pitfalls when expanding abroad.

Sign up here

Discover all the activities we've got lined up for you 😀 👉🏻

See the full programme!

Don't miss out on any of the latest news!

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