

Innovation ecosystem (continued) Supporting startups and scaleups



Our approach

To nurture innovation by new generations of technological talents, we also provide valuable expertise to support entrepreneurs and startups. We make use of our experts' in-depth competencies and knowledge to develop and support startups and scaleups. By fostering entrepreneurship, we aim to help these young enterprises excel and grow. What we share is based on what we are good at, such as building complex manufacturing systems. This is where we can play a role and make a difference.

Sharing our expertise strengthens our regional high-tech ecosystem, particularly around our headquarters in Veldhoven, the Netherlands. This region has a competitive edge globally, and we need to make sure we maintain this position. Building a strong regional foundation offers benefits not just to ASML and associated partners, but also to other companies and organizations. In addition, it helps attract a broad base of talent to the region.

Through HighTechXL and DeepTechXL, we build, finance and accelerate impactful startups by combining high-tech entrepreneurial talent and relevant technologies. With the Make Next Platform, we aim to support young, innovative high-tech scaleups. And through DeepTechXL, we help to finance these deep-tech ventures, particularly in the early stages where risks are still at their highest.

Make Next Platform

To support young innovative high-tech scaleups, ASML founded the Make Next Platform (MNP) in 2016 together with Huisman, Vanderlande and the non-profit Stichting Technology Rating (STR). Thales NL joined as a co-founder in 2019. MNP puts the partners' network, competencies, expertise and experience to work in answering questions that these scaleups encounter in their development and helps them grow into sustainable companies.

MNP aims to help emerging high-tech ventures that have moved beyond the startup phase and are ready to expand. These scaleup companies face challenges such as systems engineering, supply chain management, business/corporate development, targeting beachhead markets, managerial issues, funding issues and public affairs. Through the exchange of best practices, business experience and coaching from senior corporate experts, the MNP partners aim to support scaleup companies in their development to become global players by giving them access to their internal and external networks.

Our targets

Our target for 2025 is for >20% of the total startups to reach Star level and to support 14 new scaleup projects by 2025.