

## The Open Innovation & Corporate Venturing Summit targets innovative foodtech startups tackling industry challenges

**F4F – Expo FoodTech and Eatable Adventures launch the first global open innovation forum in the foodtech sector**

**Food industry startups have until April 13 to submit innovative solutions addressing the challenges of major industry players**

Madrid, March 24, 2026 – [F4F – Expo FoodTech 2026](#) and [Pick&Pack for Food Industry](#), the leading technology trade show for the food and beverage sector, together with **Eatable Adventures**, a global leader in agrifoodtech acceleration, are launching the **first global open innovation forum in the foodtech sector**. The Open Innovation & Corporate Venturing Summit, which will take place on **May 27 and 28** at the Bilbao Exhibition Center (BEC) in Spain, is seeking startups from around the world to present their most innovative solutions to address the major challenges facing the food sector. Interested startups can [submit their applications](#) until **April 13, 2026**.

Over the course of two days, the **Open Innovation & Corporate Venturing Summit** will bring together startups with disruptive ideas to address the strategic challenges posed by major corporations in the food industry. In this first edition under this format, the challenges focus on key areas such as **upcycling and the valorization of by-products, artificial intelligence and digitalization** to optimize operational efficiency and quality control, **pathogen detection and shelf-life extension, smart packaging and logistics** using new materials, traceability and carbon footprint reduction, and **more efficient and sustainable agricultural practices**, among others. In addition, there will be an **open challenge** for innovative solutions outside these specific areas.

The Open Innovation & Corporate Venturing Summit aims to provide large corporations in the food sector with a structured platform where they can present their strategic and technological challenges to the international entrepreneurial ecosystem, gaining access to innovative solutions that are ready to be piloted, scaled or invested in.

The selected startups will have the opportunity to present their solutions to a panel of experts and executives from leading companies in the food sector, as well as to participate in matchmaking sessions with investors, agrifoodtech solvers and potential strategic partners with the aim of generating synergies, joint projects and investment opportunities. This unique platform will facilitate the creation of commercial partnerships, pilot projects and investment agreements, accelerating the adoption of new technologies in the food industry.

In addition, companies that require a more strategic approach will have access to a customized support program designed to address specific challenges or areas of innovation, with a focus on the post-event implementation phase.

Furthermore, the Open Innovation & Corporate Venturing Summit will feature a high-level program, including inspiring presentations by international leaders in corporate venturing and open innovation. There will also be strategic panel discussions where participants will learn how



to effectively collaborate with startups, as well as hear success stories from companies that are already transforming their businesses through open innovation.

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**[About Expo FoodTech \(May 27 and 28, 2026, BEC-Bilbao\)](#)**: this is the leading innovation event for professionals across the entire value chain of the food and beverage sector. Over two days, F4F – Expo Foodtech will bring together food industry professionals at the Bilbao Exhibition Centre (BEC) to learn about the latest solutions in foodtech, robotics and automation, processing and packaging machinery for different segments of the food industry, as well as food safety and science. It will also host the Food 4 Future World Summit, the largest European congress where you can discover the latest trends, success stories, and tools to transform the food and beverage industry. F4F - Expo Foodtech, organized by NEBEXT and AZTI, will be held simultaneously with [Pick&Pack for Food Industry](#), the only event in Spain specializing in packaging and logistics solutions for the food industry.

**[About NEBEXT](#)**: Next Business Exhibitions (NEBEXT) is Spain's largest private organizer of professional events specializing in technology, innovation, and sustainability for various industries.

**[About AZTI](#)**: AZTI is a science and technology center that develops high-impact transformation projects and businesses with organizations aligned with the 2030 SDGs. Specializing in the marine environment and food, it provides cutting-edge, value-added products and technologies based on solid science and research.