

# France works with Microsoft to cultivate startups

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The US technology titan will work with the agency for the creation of enterprises (l'APCE) headed by Alain Belais to identify young French companies to join a Microsoft BizSpark program, Lefebvre said in a release.

The program will provide selected startups with Windows Azure [storage capacity](#) and [free access](#) to software offered by Microsoft as services in the Internet "cloud," according to Lefebvre.

French Internet startups with "high growth potential" will be eligible to get two years worth of online services from Microsoft.

The development of small and medium enterprises is vital "to support innovation, value creation and employment in France," according to Lefebvre.

Microsoft vice president for emerging [business development](#) Dan'l Lewin said in the release that the partnership fits with the Redmond, Washington-based company's strategy of cultivating technology startups around the world.

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