

François Barrault

Chairman and Founder of FDB Partners
Chairman of IDATE DigiWorld



François Barrault has had unique and diversified entrepreneurial and corporate experiences in the technology sector.

He is chairman and founder of FDB Partners SPRL an investment and advisory firm in TMT and publishing. In 2011, François has been appointed Chairman of IDATE DigiWorld, the leading European Think Tank and consultancy organization dedicated to Internet, Telecommunications Media and Digital Transformation.

Francois started his career as a researcher in Robotics, Artificial Intelligence with IBM Corporation; then founded – and sold – several businesses. He then moved to senior positions in large global companies, in particular Lucent Technologies where he was President and CEO Lucent EMEA and then as International CEO and corporate officer ran all Lucent's 38 acquisitions in the Internet sector.

He retired at the end of 2008 from the position of CEO of BT Global Services and as a BT Group PLC board member. In BT Global Services he created a world leader in Networked IT services comprising 37000 employees and operating in 176 countries, in 4 years acquiring 32 companies around the world with a total turnover of 17 \$ Billions. In parallel, he led BT Innovate, the advanced R&D and innovation team of BT group and in this role chaired and sponsored numerous initiatives with the most prestigious Universities in the world. Francois has been very active at the WEF (Davos and regional forums) and created and then chaired the BT Global advisory board (60 world-class leaders from around the world).

Francois is also active in lecturing worldwide, is a member of various boards of public and private companies and also advisory boards, private investments funds and foundations around the world.