

Rio de Janeiro secures Web Summit Rio until 2030

Rio de Janeiro - April 27

Web Summit, the world's premier technology event, today announced a new five-year agreement with the City of Rio de Janeiro. The agreement secures Web Summit's presence in Rio until 2030, scaling Web Summit Rio to South America's largest technology event and helping turbocharge Rio's tech ecosystem.

Aligned with Rio's long-term vision of becoming the region's leading technology hub, the city has successfully secured a new partnership with Web Summit. Under the initial three-year agreement signed in 2022, Rio hosted Web Summit annually since 2023: in that time, the event has grown from 21,000 attendees in Year 1 to more than 34,000 expected next week.

The new five-year deal with the City of Rio, through Invest.Rio, the city's investment promotion and attraction agency, will see Web Summit Rio continue to take place in Riocentro from 2026 to 2030. Over this period, the event will draw hundreds of thousands of tech entrepreneurs, investors, trade delegations, global tech giants and international media to the city - generating new business opportunities, building global partnerships, and fostering commercial agreements that will boost Rio's burgeoning tech economy.

Mayor Eduardo Paes said the city of Rio has been making steady progress with a consistent agenda focused on innovation and technology.

"This new agreement is further proof that we are on the right path to becoming the innovation capital of Latin America. The event connects us with global companies, top talent, and investors to discuss the future of the sector. In addition to several major projects related to this area, we have a natural vocation for hosting the world's biggest events, and we're proud to secure the Web Summit in Rio through 2030," said Mayor Paes.

Paddy Cosgrave, CEO of Web Summit, said: *"We are absolutely delighted to be partnering with Rio de Janeiro for another five years following the extraordinary success of our first three years."*

"From our very first conversations, Rio has shown that it has the long-term vision needed to help ensure it continues to grow its technology ecosystem, supporting its aim to become the main technology hub of the entire region. We are delighted that our

stakeholders in this extraordinary city recognize the lasting impact Web Summit can deliver in supporting long-term growth”.

“Amid growing global political uncertainty and the dismantling of existing trade relationships, Rio is also determined to enhance its global trading partnerships. Web Summit has an unrivaled track record here - not just bringing the world’s biggest firms and investors to the city, but helping make the meaningful connections which lead directly to trade agreements, inward investment and internationalizing startup success.

“Web Summit is more than just an event: it is a long-term partnership which aims to create a lasting impact in and around any of the host cities we are fortunate enough to partner with. We look forward to continuing this journey with Rio.”

Sidney Levy, President of Invest.Rio, added: *“Securing Web Summit in Rio until 2030 is a strategic milestone for our city and a clear statement of our long-term commitment to innovation, technology, and global partnerships.*

“This agreement reinforces Rio’s position as Latin America’s leading tech hub and opens new doors to connect local talent with international investors and companies. At Invest.Rio, we believe in the transformative power of initiatives like Web Summit to drive economic growth, foster entrepreneurship, and elevate Rio’s position on the global innovation map”.

Besides the Rio City Hall, Senac RJ is one of the partners helping make the Web Summit happen in the city. Antonio Florencio de Queiroz Junior, president of the Fecomércio RJ System (Senac RJ), said:

“In addition to believing in our city’s potential to become the technology capital of Latin America, Senac RJ’s purpose in supporting Web Summit Rio is to provide access to the main topics discussed during the event to students from public schools, Senac RJ students and educators. The combination of education, innovation and technology can prepare our young people for a more promising future, transforming reality and contributing to a more just and inclusive society”.

The new agreement with Rio de Janeiro is the latest city partnership Web Summit has formed with forward-looking cities committed to transforming their tech ecosystems and expanding international trade partnerships. Each has won a competitive bidding process against neighboring cities and countries to host Web Summit and harness its role as a catalyst to drive their tech economies forward.

The past three years has seen Web Summit launch and grow events in Doha, Qatar, and Vancouver, Canada, and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, as part of its global expansion and

commitment to fostering tech communities in rapidly growing economies. These events have followed the success of Web Summit in Lisbon, which has helped support the Portuguese capital's extraordinary decade of growth as a global tech hub.

Economic Impact of Web Summit Rio:

Now in its third edition in Rio de Janeiro, Web Summit 2025 is expected to generate over R\$ 170 million in economic impact for the city. Attendance is projected to exceed 34,000 participants. These figures come from the study "Potential Economic Impacts of Web Summit Rio (2023–2030)," conducted by the City of Rio through the Municipal Secretariat for Economic Development, Invest.Rio, and Riotur, with updates based on 2025 projections. The estimated cumulative economic impact of all eight editions of Web Summit Rio (2023–2030) is R\$ 1.8 billion (approximately USD 340 million).

Web Summit's long-term impact on tech ecosystems:

Since Web Summit's arrival in Lisbon in 2016, Portugal's startup economy has grown significantly: the number of Portuguese startups has soared from 1,000 in 2016 to [4,700 in 2024](#). Portugal's commitment to nurturing its tech economy through investment and government initiatives, including securing the \$100 million long-term partnership with Web Summit, has also influenced many young startups to relocate to Lisbon and major companies such as Mercedes-Benz.io, Revolut, and Google to open offices there.

Qatar has also seen steady growth in the local startup ecosystem since the launch of Web Summit Qatar in 2023. Startups in Qatar saw a 135 per cent year-on-year rise in VC funding in 2024, compared to a 29 per cent drop experienced in the wider MENA region. At Web Summit Qatar 2024, the Qatar Financial Center registered 836 new firms to its platform, a 156 per cent growth compared to 2023 demonstrating the growing appetite for indigenous innovation, as well as attracting global companies like Snap, and fintech payment platform Yuno to establish its MENA headquarters in Doha.

As Web Summit is set to host its first North American event, Web Summit Vancouver, this May, Destination Vancouver anticipates that Web Summit Vancouver will generate CA\$279 million in overall economic impact for British Columbia over the three year period of the deal. Web Summit's direct economic impact has brought in €200 million in the week of the event to cities such as Lisbon, where it hosts its flagship event.

About Web Summit:

Web Summit is a technology events company, bringing together a global community of founders, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and investors to connect and exchange ideas about the technology and trends shaping the world. Web Summit events –

including Web Summit in Lisbon, Web Summit Rio in South America, Web Summit Qatar in the Middle East, and RISE in Asia – have gathered nearly one million people since Web Summit's beginnings as a 150-person conference in Dublin in 2009. Its newest event, Web Summit Vancouver, will launch in May 2025.

- **Useful Links:**
- [Web Summit website:](#)
- [Web Summit Flickr:](#)
- [Web Summit YouTube:](#)