ICFO at MWC26: Advancing Europe?s Quantum Communication Ecosystem

ICFO took part in Mobile World Congress 2026 (MWC26) in Barcelona, hosting the Quantum Flagship booth, a space curated by the institute that brought together leading initiatives and organizations from Europe's growing quantum technology ecosystem.

March 12, 2026

From March 2-5, 2026, ICFO curated the Quantum Flagship booth at Mobile World Congress, one of the world's largest technology trade shows that brings together companies, innovators, and experts from the mobile and connectivity industries to showcase new products, technologies, and trends, aiming to explore the future of the telecommunications field and technology.

During the week, the booth served as a meeting point for researchers, industry representatives and innovators interested in the development of quantum technologies and

their potential to transform the future of secure communications. Visitors had the opportunity to learn about Europe's progress in quantum research and innovation, and to exchange perspectives on the challenges and opportunities associated with deploying quantum-enabled communication infrastructures.

The space hosted flagship partners from the Quantum Internet Alliance (QIA) and the Quantum Secure Networks Partnership (QSNP), highlighting the collaborative efforts that are driving the advancement of quantum communication networks across Europe. The presence of these initiatives reflected the strong connections between research institutions, industry partners and emerging companies working together to translate quantum science into practical technologies.

Additionally, ICFOnians actively participated in different panels and presentations by contributing and participating in discussions that addressed the strategic role of quantum technologies. Firstly, ICREA Prof. Hugues de Riedmatten participated alongside Vanesa Diaz, Luxquanta CEO, in the session i¿½Quantum Innovations for Secure Communicationsi? ½, where they discussed how initiatives such as QIA and QSNP are advancing the develop ent and deployment of quantum-based secure networks and strengthening Europe's capabili ies in next-generation cybersecur

ty. Secondly, ICFO's Vice Director of Innovation, Sponsored Research and Public Engagem nt, Dr. Silvia Carrasco, participated in the roundtable discussion i¿½La Nueva Soberania: Poder Cuantico y el rediseno del Mapa Tecnologico Globali¿½, which explored the growing geopolitical and technological importance of quantum technologies in a place nd time where technological sovereignty is needed. The panel addressed how emerging quantum capabilities are actually influencing and driving this technological sovereignty and r shaping the global innovation la

dscape. Finally, the presence of several ICFO spin-offs at the congress further illustr ted the institute's role and strong commitment in fostering frontier research innovation and seeking to transfer the technology to the market. Companies including LuxQuanta, Quside, hinePhi and Arq Quantum Technologies were present, showcasing solutions based on esearch developed at ICFO and demonstrating how quantum technologies are beginning o reach real-world applications and

arkets. As one of the world's leading technology events, MWC provides a unique platform to connect with industry leaders, policymakers and innovators from across the digital ecosystem ICFO's participation highlights the increasing relevance of quantum communication tech ologies and how they are shaping the future of secure digital infrastructures, which re nforces Europe's commitment in leading the race in this rapidly evolving field.

Quantum qubit chip
Photonic Quantum Computing Processor