

Explanation:

aeschbacher consulting together with APTE Association performed a market survey on Swiss innovative companies in the area of nano- and microtechnology. The results were presented in the brochure „Micro- and Nanotechnologies in Switzerland“ of the SECO (Location Switzerland). In addition key industrial and academic leaders in nanotechnology were interviewed.

Industry and Academic Leaders Express their Views About Switzerland

Dr. Norman Blank, director of corporate research SIKA. SIKA developed impact resistant adhesives which are used in the front end parts of automobiles. In the nanocem research consortium, they investigate nanocomposites and nanocore shell particles for the implementation in cementitious materials.

„Networking among companies works well. Worth mentioning in particular are the nanoclusters around the Lake of Constance and Aargau and our own research initiative nanocem. The proximity to and the collaboration with the Federal Institutes of Technology are important factors for us.“



Norman Blank



Michael Graetzel

Karl Nicklaus, Entrepreneur and founder of ESEC, which he built from scratch in Switzerland and which, today, is a world leading developer and producer of chip bonding automates.

„Time and again, we find bright and hard-working people in Switzerland with the power and determination to create. When the Swiss have a task, they fight until they find the solution.“



Karl Nicklaus

Prof. Dr. mult. Dr. hc. mult. Michael Graetzel, developer of nano-crystalline solar cells at EPF Lausanne.

„Only through the ability to produce nano-sized particles can we achieve breakthroughs in the development of this new technology. And with nano-size, I really mean particles that are indeed in the dimension of nanometers.“

Philipp Bachmann, Entrepreneur/Consultant Aritron

„As an experienced venture capitalist and entrepreneur I do not know a more favorable place around the world than Switzerland where a high-tech company can be built: We have highly skilled people, an incomparable density of specialists within short distances and favorable taxes.“

Multiple Companies Foster the Industrialization of Micro and Nanotechnologies

Global players, small and medium-sized enterprises, spin-offs and start-ups are all part of the company landscape:

- More than 200 companies active in the development of micro and nanotechnologies
- Primarily small- and medium-sized enterprises.
- No dominant player. Multiple spin-offs from universities.
- About 50% of the companies active in micro and nanotechnologies have less than 50 employees.

A range of international companies have also located part of their research and development activities in Switzerland, including:

- AMI Semiconductor AMIS, Marin-Epagnier (Canada)
- Heptagon Oy, Rüschlikon (Finland)
- IBM Zurich Research Laboratory, Rüschlikon (USA)
- ILFORD Imaging Switzerland GmbH, Marly (GB)
- Infineon Technologies Schweiz AG, Zurich (Germany)
- Power-One, Uster (USA)
- Semtech Neuchâtel SA (USA)

The following is a partial list of Swiss companies with significant activities in micro and nanotechnologies:

- Art of Technology AG, Zurich
- Colibrys SA, Neuchâtel
- Contraves Space AG, Zurich
- Contrinex SA, Givisiez
- Debiotech SA, Lausanne
- Dyconex AG, Bassersdorf
- Dynatron Concept, Adliswil
- EM Microelectronic SA, Marin
- Fisba Optik AG, St. Gallen
- Helbling Gruppe, Zurich
- Leica Geosystems AG, Heerbrugg
- Leister Process Technologies, Sarnen
- LEM SA, Plan-les-Ouates
- Logitech International SA, Romanel/Morges
- Microbonding SA, Noiraigue
- Microcid SA, Cortaillod
- Micro Crystal Div of ETA SA, Grenchen
- Miromico AG, Zurich
- Nanosurf AG, Liestal
- Nanoworld AG, Neuchâtel
- Sensirion AG, Stäfa
- SwissOptic AG, Heerbrugg
- Sylvac SA, Crissier
- Valtronic SA, Les Charbonnières
- Weidmann Plastics Technology AG, Rapperswil
- Zühlke Engineering AG, Schlieren



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