

Home to the leaders in Life Sciences

Join Europe's innovation hub for biotech, pharma, and medtech

350
biotech
companies

+17,000
employees
in biotech

+USD 6 bn
in revenue from
biotech per year

1,400
medtech
companies

+65,000
employees
in medtech

+USD 2 bn
in revenue from
medtech per year

In good company



[Learn more](#)

As a leading location for biotech, pharma and medtech companies, the Greater Zurich Area attracts capital and researchers from across the globe. The Swiss region has the world's highest density of life sciences companies and is home to some of the world's most innovative firms from Benchling and Apellis to Align Technology.

Frequent collaboration between diverse actors in the Life Science industry are boosted by a multitude of dedicated platforms and networking hubs.

Innovation leader and R&D champion



[Learn more](#)

Approximately 40% of life sciences companies based in Switzerland perform R&D and 45% have their manufacturing in the country. With 9%, Switzerland has a relatively high number of phase 3 products in development. Switzerland ranks first when it comes to international co-inventions, and third at R&D expenditure per capita. Switzerland also has a thriving startup ecosystem and a growing activity in personalized medicine, e-health and big data for healthcare.

Switzerland has been ranked as the most innovative economy in the world for over a decade.

Sources: PMLiVe: "Switzerland a life sciences hub",
WIPO Global Innovation Index

Deep pool of talent



[Learn more](#)

Switzerland is known for its outstanding life sciences talent pool thanks to its first-class universities and ability to attract leaders and highly qualified specialists from abroad.

Switzerland and particularly the Greater Zurich Area are the world's leading locations for attracting, retaining and developing talent.

Source: INSEAD Global Talent Competitiveness Index

Economic powerhouse



Approximately 40% of the capital of European life sciences companies is traded on the SIX Swiss exchange.

The productivity of the Swiss pharma sector is seven times higher than that of the global economy.

Source: PMLiVe: "Switzerland a life sciences hub"

Success story Benchling

Benchling, the leading cloud-based platform for life sciences R&D, with global headquarters (HQ) in San Francisco (USA) has chosen the Circle Business Center at Zurich Airport as its EMEA HQ. Locating its EMEA headquarters in the Greater Zurich Area enables Benchling to foster collaboration with leading pharmaceutical and biotech companies as the area is one of the most innovative pharmaceutical and biotech ecosystems in the world.

“We were attracted to the proximity to world-renowned research institutes such as the University of Zurich and the University Hospital Zurich.

Nishant Neel, Regional Services Lead for Europe at Benchling

Greater Zurich scores points for its innovation structure

According to Nishant Neel, Benchling’s Regional Services Lead for Europe, “The Greater Zurich Area is particularly ideal due to parallels in the innovation structure between Greater Zurich and the San Francisco Bay Area, where Benchling’s headquarters are located.” Like San Francisco, Greater Zurich is renowned for attracting highly qualified and skilled talent.



Read more
success
stories

Success story Apellis

Apellis Pharmaceuticals is a US biotech company that has established a hub in the Greater Zurich Area for all its non-US activities since the beginning of 2019. Apellis currently has more than 750 employees, including those at its headquarters in Waltham, Massachusetts. Over 30 highly experienced pharma experts are employed by Apellis Switzerland GmbH in Zug.

“When I say that Switzerland is synonymous with quality, it is not an overstatement as we have experienced it.”

Cedric Francois, Co-Founder and CEO at Apellis Pharmaceuticals

Greater Zurich – the ideal base for international expansion

According to Co-Founder and CEO Cedric Francois, the location in Greater Zurich is vital to the company’s further development. This is why quality was a key focus during the extensive selection and decision-making process. Cedric Francois believes that the Greater Zurich Area is a “fabulous” location for recruiting the best specialists, “where all the elements are available to establish a hub for global expansion.”



Looking to expand internationally? Get in touch!

About us

Greater Zurich Area Ltd is the official investment promotion of Zurich and surrounding Swiss cantons. Set up as a public-private partnership, we help you grow your business in Switzerland - all free of charge.



Introductions to key contacts in industry, academia, and government agencies.



Facilitating contact to potential research partners at universities, and research institutes.



Building the business case, introduction to service providers, and advice on regulations.

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