



Regenhu is a pioneer in the area of 3D tissue engineering using 3D bio-printers (Photo: Regenhu).

## BIOALPS



**TOTAL LIFE SCIENCE COMPANIES:** more than 750  
**TOTAL EMPLOYEES:** 25,000  
**UNIQUE ADVANTAGE:** competence in a total of 13 life science core areas

# In Constant Development

The mixture of big research facilities, innovative bio- and medical technology companies and medical centers enabled the Life Science Cluster BioAlps in western Switzerland to develop into the go-to address it is today.

The success of the industrial sector in western Switzerland is a product of the unified efforts of all involved parties: proactive authorities, a brilliant infrastructure and Life Science Parks which are conducive to the settlement of the medtech sector. It's an ecosystem rooted in the cooperation of industry, educational establishments, technology transfer points and university clinics. The proof of this are several medical and biotechnology companies which have settled in the region - among them Baxter, Beckman Coulter, Celgene, CSL Behring, Debiopharm, Debiotech, Dentsply, Edwards Lifesciences, Ferring, Glenmark, GSK, Johnson & Johnson Medical, Medtronic, UCB-Farcim and Stryker. Founded in 2001, the BioAlps Association, the Life Science Cluster of western Switzerland, is supported by the Cantons of Bern, Fribourg, Vaud, Neuchâtel, Geneva, Valais, Jura, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO and local academic facilities. BioAlps unites more than 750 medical and biotechnology companies, 20 colleges and many advanced technical colleges, 500 public and private laboratories, 13 science parks, eight business incubators as well as seven technology transfer centers. The area of life sciences offers 20,000 jobs including 5,000 researchers.

**HOMELAND FOR INNOVATIVE ENTREPRENEURS** An example of the vast potential for innovation in the region is Regenhu, a company from the Canton of Fribourg. Regenhu is a pioneer in the area of 3D tissue engineering with biomaterials and 3D bio-printers. The company benefits from exclusively patented technologies from the region's universities, research laboratories and partners within the BioAlps cluster. Building upon the research in Biel, Geneva and Fribourg, Regenhu has developed many products and is exporting them worldwide.



Regenhu benefits from technological environment provided by universities, research laboratories and partners within the BioAlps cluster.

**THE REGION BANKS ON DIVERSITY** One of the major advantages of the western Switzerland region is the interdisciplinary approach: the life science sector benefits not only from the core competence in biomedical research and biotechnology, but also from expert knowledge in micro- and nanotechnology, the biological and medical technologies. This expertise from a broad range of disciplines leads to the development of new approaches and new devices in medical technology.

**EUROPEAN CENTER OF NEUROSCIENCES** The dynamism and attractiveness of the BioAlps region are apparent in the decision of the EU in 2013, to fund the Human Brain Project with nearly one billion Euro for a time span of ten years. The flagship project of the École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) aims to simulate the human brain with a computer. With the support of the Bertarelli family, the Wyss foundation, the EPFL and the University of Geneva, the former headquarters of Merck Serono is being transformed into a new cluster named the Biotech-Campus, dedicated to neuro- and bioengineering in the context of the Human Brain Project.

► For more information on the EPFL please refer to pages 42/43.  
 🌐 [www.bioalps.org](http://www.bioalps.org)



Geschäftshaus in Küssnacht am Rigi (SZ), bezugsbereit ab November 2014 (Bild: ADT Innova Generalunternehmung).

## SCHWYZ



**TOTAL COMPANIES:** 13,790  
**TOTAL EMPLOYEES:** 75,705  
**KNOW-HOW TRANSFER:** The Technologiezentrum Schwyz (TZS) supports start-ups with innovative business ideas using established concepts, professional coaching and network contacts.

# An open economic network

unded in 2014, the new Health Tech Cluster Switzerland (HTCS) in central Switzerland is drawing a lot of attention. Especially interesting for companies is its approach as an open economic network.

The healthcare cluster connects organizations specializing in medical technology as well as healthcare, biotechnology, pharmaceutical technology and molecular biology. The network encompasses manufacturer, supplier, research and educational facilities as well as specialized service providers and investors in the area of health technologies.

**OPEN ECONOMIC NETWORK** Health Tech Cluster Switzerland considers itself as an initiative for an open economic network that operates globally. In the coming months the cluster management will evaluate several strategic partners in the areas of research and science; additionally cooperation with foreign clusters is being sought. This should facilitate market entry into the respective sales regions, while enabling companies to profit from international knowledge and technology transfer, taking part in events and congresses as well as finding of new customers, suppliers and distributors. This in turn will accelerate the internationalization of innovative services and products. The same applies for the members of the foreign partner clusters, that have access to business and activities of the Health Tech Cluster Switzerland.

**QUALIFIED PARTICIPANTS** The number of registered organizations is increasing daily. "We are very happy about the great interest surrounding the newly launched healthcare cluster. The number of members shows that the offers and services provided by HTCS meet a real need," says Kurt Zibung. He is the president of the Technologiezentrum Schwyz (TZS), which is the supporting organization of the Health Tech Cluster Switzerland. "In addition to the number of members, the composition of the network is of substantial importance. A broad professional spectrum is visible already today."

**ACTIVE CLUSTER MANAGEMENT** Cluster manager Thomas Meier has been assigned to offer additional value to existing and newly joining organizations. He connects the three pillars: economy, science and politics and promotes its members' innovation through its active role. Furthermore, he provides networking among its members and provides access to experience, expert knowledge and existing domestic and foreign networks. He joins companies with investors and initiates knowledge and technology transfer or cross-links members with academic research and development partners.

**REAL ESTATE PROJECTS** In the geographic center of the HTCS, between Küssnacht am Rigi and Brunnen in the Canton of Schwyz, multiple real estate projects are being planned; among them the construction of new buildings in which the cluster participants will be accommodated. For example in the industrial district in Küssnacht Fänn, in North Brunnen at the railway station grounds in Arth-Goldau and at the Zeughaus site Seewen. Many companies from the medical and healthcare sector are already situated in this zone. Together, they offer several hundreds of jobs. Kurt Zibung: "Between Küssnacht and Brunnen we will soon possess over 25 hectares of additional industrial estate. In this area we want to specifically approach companies from the value-added sector of healthcare technologies."

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