

Zug: Pharma/Biotech Cluster

For decades, the life sciences cluster has been a major industry in the Canton of Zug. Roughly half of those working in life sciences are employed in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry, while the other half works in the medical device industry. The Canton of Zug is home to numerous international pharma/biotech companies. They benefit from the excellent business environment, the high availability of talents and from Zug's central location in the heart of Europe.



Johnson & Johnson (J&J) started in Zug in 1984. Today we employ 1,000 people at the Zug Campus, representing the Innovative Medicine and the MedTech sectors, with Global, Regional and Local responsibilities. Business friendliness, availability of highly qualified talents, modern infrastructure including proximity to the airport and the vibrant innovation ecosystem make Zug the ideal location for J&J, which across Switzerland employs 5,750 people dedicated to bringing innovation to patients. **Max Pahlow, Managing Director Johnson & Johnson Innovative Medicine Switzerland**

Pharma/Biotech in Switzerland

The pharma/biotech sector accounts for around 44.1 billion Swiss francs in revenue, equaling some 5.8% of Swiss GDP and 40% of total exports. Around 47,800 full-time employees work in the pharma/biotech sector, accounting for approximately 1% of the total Swiss workforce. The added value created in adjacent sectors underscores pharma/biotech's importance for Switzerland's economy. With these sectors included, the total workforce is nearly 300,800 FTEs, generating almost 74.5 billion Swiss francs in revenue.

Pharma/Biotech in the Greater Zurich Area

Numerous leading pharma/biotech companies are based in the Greater Zurich Area. The high density of universities ensures a high number of qualified personnel. The leading Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH) and the Zurich University (UZH) are home to institutes of pharmacy, biotechnology and the University Hospital Zürich (USZ) hosts a clinical trial center.

The Canton of Zug as international hotspot

Zug is home to many global players, and numerous small and medium-sized companies have also set up regional and international headquarters here. Main activities include general management, commercialization, market access, R&D, IP, supply chain management. The high density of pharma/biotech companies in the Canton and the large number of service providers dedicated to the life sciences cluster make for a beneficial business environment.





Biogen Andre Scheidegger



Zenas BioPharma is committed to being a leader in the development and commercialization of transformative immunology-based therapies so that patients with auto-immune diseases can reimagine life. We recently selected Zug as our international headquarters due to the wealth of life science innovation and the talented workforce in the region. The centrality in Europe, great infrastructure, outstanding quality of life and great support from the local authorities were also key factors for us in choosing this location.
Orlando Oliveira, Chief Commercial Officer, Zenas BioPharma

**Facts & Figures:
Pharma/Biotech in the
Canton of Zug**

- 250 companies
- 5,600 employees
- i.e 4.3% of the total workforce

Contacts & platforms

Technology Forum Zug (tfz)

The tfz provides an attractive and active networking platform for the technology-driven sector in the greater Zug area including the pharma and medial cluster.
- <https://tfz.ch/en>

Interpharma

Interpharma is the association of research-based pharmaceutical companies in Switzerland.
- www.interpharma.ch

Bio-Technopark Schlieren

The Bio-Technopark provides fully equipped laboratory facilities and functional infrastructure.
- www.bio-technopark.ch

**Pharmaceutical Department
Canton of Zug**

The Pharmaceutical Department ensures compliance with legal requirements for therapeutic products.
- www.zg.ch/en/gesundheitsdirektion/amt-fuer-gesundheit/pharmazeutische-abteilung

Swissmedic

Swissmedic is the Swiss authority for the authorization and supervision of drugs and medical products.
- www.swissmedic.ch/swissmedic/en/home.html

**Zurich University of Applied
Sciences (ZHAW)**

The ZHAW offers an interdisciplinary Master's program in life sciences, focused on meeting the industry's requirements.
- www.zhaw.ch

**Federal Office of Public Health
(FOPH)**

The FOPH is charged with setting prices for pharmaceuticals and managing the specialty medicines list (medication that is reimbursed by insurances).
- www.bag.admin.ch

Innosuisse

Swiss Innovation Agency Innosuisse lends support to R&D projects as well as to the development of start-up companies.
- www.innosuisse.admin.ch/en

vips

vips is the association of pharmaceutical companies operating in Switzerland.
- www.vips.ch

Swiss Biotech Association

The Swiss Biotech Association represents the interests of the biotech sector.
- www.swissbiotech.org

CSEM

The mission of the CSEM is the management and promotion of innovation to convert groundbreaking basic and applied research in micro- and nanotechnology into advanced processes.
- www.csem.ch/en/

Zug Pharma Group

The Zug Pharma Group is a community of life sciences professionals. Through monthly events, and projects, the association connects members and cultivates professional and social networks.
- www.zugpharmagroup.com/



The Canton of Zug has proved ideal for our international headquarters. Its central location, transit connections, and modern infrastructure are essential for our business. The natural beauty and quality of life have helped us attract and retain outstanding talent. All that, combined with the collaborative approach of the local authorities, make Zug an excellent base of operations for Biogen.

Dr. Katja Buller, Vice President, Head of Corporate Affairs International, Biogen

Our services address you directly as an entrepreneur. We are your partner, and we promote the Canton of Zug as a business location.

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