



ETAT DE FRIBOURG  
STAAT FREIBURG  
STATE OF FRIBOURG

Promotion économique PromFR  
Wirtschaftsförderung WIF  
Development Agency FDA

**FRIBOURG, THE PLACE TO GROW!**



# Fribourg: a major investor in life sciences

## Pharmacy of the future and personalized medicine

As part of a country with a healthcare system that is considered one of the most comprehensive, modern and effective in the world, the canton of Fribourg has the necessary infrastructure in place to support innovation in biotechnology and the life sciences.

The canton has a diverse business ecosystem, ranging from major multinationals like UCB, Grifols and Cytiva through to SMEs and visionary tech start-ups. All benefit from the presence of top-flight research institutes, centers of excellence and education providers, right on their doorstep.

Thanks to these public-private partnerships, the canton of Fribourg has what it takes to stimulate innovation and growth in the life sciences sector.

**15,6%**  
of exports



## Biofactory Competence Center

The Biofactory Competence Center (BCC) is a competence center of the Fribourg School of Engineering and Architecture, internationally renowned for its contributions to biotechnology. Located in the Bluefactory innovation district, it offers an ideal setting for applied research, technology development and bioprocess design and optimization.

Equipped with modern facilities and state-of-the-art equipment, the BCC supports companies, start-ups and academic institutions by encouraging collaboration to stimulate innovation. The center also offers specialized training courses, preparing professionals for the future challenges of biotechnology.

Thanks to its strategic partnerships and extensive network, the BCC plays a key role in promoting scientific and technological excellence, contributing to the progress and sustainability of biotechnologies on a global scale.

[www.bcc.ch](http://www.bcc.ch)



"We develop innovative biotechnological processes, while offering specialized training and cutting-edge services to the biopharmaceutical and food industries. Fribourg, with its dense network of universities, research centers and specialized companies, is an ideal environment for innovation and the development of new technologies in the life sciences."

**Carmen Jungo Rhême,  
Director of the Biofactory  
Competence Center**



### Adolphe Merkle Institute

Research institute specializing in nano- and materials science. It is also home to the renowned National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) for Bio-Inspired Materials.

[www.ami.swiss](http://www.ami.swiss)



### Institute of Chemical Technology

Center of applied research that facilitates technology transfer from fundamental research-based molecular innovations to the implementation of optimized processes for the chemical industry.

[www.heia-fr.ch/en/applied-research/institutes/chemtech/](http://www.heia-fr.ch/en/applied-research/institutes/chemtech/)



### Biofactory Competence Center

Training center for the biopharmaceutical industry and provider of services such as troubleshooting, process design and optimization, beta-testing of specific equipment and design and production of modular infrastructures.

[www.bcc.ch](http://www.bcc.ch)



### Technology for Human Wellbeing Institute

Research institute which operates at the intersection of technological, economic and human sciences, and fosters public-private partnerships.

[www.heia-fr.ch/en/applied-research/institutes/humantech/](http://www.heia-fr.ch/en/applied-research/institutes/humantech/)



## Some references

### Alcon

As the largest provider of eye care devices in the world, Alcon offers a wide array of vision care and ophthalmic surgery services and products. In 2008, the company moved its global administrative center to Fribourg. The canton is also home to the group's principal holding company, which is listed on the Swiss stock exchange.

[www.alcon.com](http://www.alcon.com)

### BioPhysics Group

BioPhysics Group applies biophysics with the goal of improving human health by examining detailed aspects of physiology and pathophysiology, developing sensitive diagnostic assays and sensors, as well as characterizing individual protein molecules for applications in biomarker detection, routine protein analysis, personalized medicine and proteomics.

[www.ami.swiss/biophysics](http://www.ami.swiss/biophysics)

### Bio-Rad Laboratories

Bio-Rad is a global leader in the development, manufacture and marketing of an extensive range of innovative products aimed at the life sciences and diagnostics research markets.

[www.bio-rad.com](http://www.bio-rad.com)

### CordenPharma

CordenPharma Fribourg is an expert manufacturer of solid oral dosage forms and non-sterile liquid drug products, offering a full range of services from pharmaceutical development and commercial scale manufacturing, to packaging and pharma-logistics for a global market. As a former Vifor Pharma operations site, CordenPharma Fribourg brings over 50 years of experience to CordenPharma's full-service CDMO platform.

[www.cordenpharma.com](http://www.cordenpharma.com)

### Cytiva

The global leader in high-tech filtration, separation and purification delivers cutting-edge solutions for customers who discover, develop and produce biotech drugs, vaccines, cell therapies and conventional pharmaceuticals.

[www.cytivalifesciences.com](http://www.cytivalifesciences.com)

### iPrint Institute

Research and development center specializing in digital printing and functional printing technologies for life sciences and other advanced applications, in close collaboration with industrial and academic partners.

[www.iprint.swiss](http://www.iprint.swiss)



"Since the beginnings of the pharmaceutical industry in Fribourg in the 1960s, on the site where we are today, the canton has experienced a remarkable boom in the life sciences. Local initiatives have developed into a dynamic ecosystem, attracting world-class companies. CordenPharma is fully in line with this international evolution, while continuing to innovate and strengthen Fribourg's growth in this strategic sector."

**Yvan Liard, Managing  
Director of CordenPharma**



## Medistri

Based in Domdidier, Medistri is a Swiss leader in sterilization and logistics services for the medical and pharmaceutical industries. Founded in 2006, the company stands out for its ability to offer rapid and varied sterilization solutions, as well as quality control and validation services, guaranteeing product safety on a global scale.  
[www.medistri.com](http://www.medistri.com)

## Medion Grifols Diagnostics

Medion Grifols Diagnostics, a global industry reference, manufactures and distributes reagent red blood cells, blood group test kits as well as proprietary technology (MDmulticard) for easy and fast red cell typing.  
[www.grifols.com](http://www.grifols.com)

## OM Pharma

OM Pharma is an international biopharmaceutical company represented in more than 100 countries thanks to a solid network of international partners whose Swiss subsidiary is established in Villars-sur-Glâne. With its broad drug portfolio, OM Pharma Switzerland focuses on three therapeutic areas: the Respiratory and Central Nervous System and Uro-Gynaecology.  
[www.ompharma.com](http://www.ompharma.com)

## REGENHU

REGENHU is a pioneer and global leader in 3D bioprinting and cell-based therapies. Through the convergence of digital manufacturing, biomaterials and biotechnology, it generates transformational and innovative solutions for the healthcare sector.  
[www.regenhu.com](http://www.regenhu.com)

## Sonova Communications

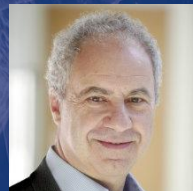
Murten-based Sonova Communications specializes in the development of wireless technologies for hearing aids. Since its creation in 1992, the company has devoted a large part of its resources to research and development, playing a key role in the innovation and evolution of communication technologies for the hearing impaired.  
[www.sonova-communications.com](http://www.sonova-communications.com)

## Swibrace

The start-up develops innovative non-invasive methods to treat common fractures of the hand and upper extremities. Its patented 3D-printed anatomical braces can be adjusted to accommodate post-traumatic swelling adapt to post-traumatic swelling while fully immobilizing the extremity and avoiding the need for surgery.  
[www.swibrace.com](http://www.swibrace.com)

## UCB Farchim

The Bulle-based company, which is part of the Belgian pharmaceutical giant UCB, specializes in the manufacture and distribution of drugs to treat allergies, epilepsy and autoimmune diseases. Its high-performance biotech production unit in Bulle is one of the best of its kind in the world.  
[www.ucbsuisse.ch](http://www.ucbsuisse.ch)



"Our blood test for the early detection of breast cancer, based on leukocyte-specific biomarkers, is the fruit of over 10 years of oncology research in Fribourg. As a spin-off from the University of Fribourg, we benefit from leading scientific expertise and an exceptional collaborative environment, including the Hôpital Fribourgeois and other hospitals and research centers in western Switzerland. This regional support will enable Xemperia to develop new cutting-edge diagnostic solutions, with a significant impact on personalized medicine."

**Curzio Rüegg, founder of Xemperia**



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