
ANNUAL REPORT 2023

INNOVATION PARK ZÜRICH FOUNDATION



Legal notice

Overall responsibility

Innovation Park Zurich Foundation

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1 EDITORIAL

A loud noise and the race car attaches itself to the ground with three times its weight. The 326 PS electric motors are revved. The driver pushes down into the seat. Those are the seconds right before the AMZ Bolide's world record run – read more about it in our report later in this document.

These few seconds of preparation are a good metaphor for the year 2023: The Cantonal Parliament's decision in the fall of 2022 was the starting signal for us and the reporting year was characterized by foundational development.

The year started with a festive ceremony attended by 180 leading figures from the realms of economics, science and politics. This was the kick-off that rang in this exciting development phase. The annual Meet the Future event in the newly opened Event Hangar on May 9, 2023, was not only an occasion to celebrate but also a moment for reflection and inspiration. Government Councilor Carmen Walker Späh stressed the significance of the Innovation Park for the future development of the region. Her words echoed in the minds of all those present when she emphasized the essential role the Innovation Park plays in promoting progress and competitiveness. Other presenters spoke about the lengthy past and the challenging future – always with a positive underlying sentiment.

On this occasion, Corinna Eva Müller also symbolically handed over the role of Managing Director to her successor Martin Sturzenegger by presenting him with a large magenta-colored "park key". This transfer of power not only represents a staff change but also the seamless transition into a new phase of innovation and growth.

A central idea that continuously came up during the event was the importance of emotional intelligence in a world in which technology plays an increasingly dominant role. In his keynote speech, Jochen Menges, Future of Work, Expert for Leadership & People Management, stressed that the necessity of people and their ability to think and act in an emotionally intelligent manner is of immense importance precisely in places such as the Innovation Park Zurich, where technology takes center stage.

We were very pleased that our guests not only attended this special event in large numbers but were also considerably involved in our intergenerational project and helped shape its future. This commitment and support are driving forces of our vision of a thriving innovation ecosystem. We would like to thank everyone who is dedicated to the development of the Innovation Park and wish to encourage you to continue being an active part of this exciting journey. We will shape the future together – a future full of possibilities, innovations and groundbreaking discoveries.



Peter E. Bodmer
President of the Foundation Board



Martin Sturzenegger
Managing Director



Meet the Future

2 THE FOUNDATION'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE FISCAL YEAR

2.1 GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Foundation Board is responsible for managing the foundation. The Board is regularly informed about the foundation's affairs through its committee. The Foundation Board makes strategic decisions for the foundation and adopts the budget, the annual financial statement and the annual report of the foundation and its bodies at the Committee's request. The Foundation Board is held accountable to the public through its publication of the annual report.

The Foundation Board held five sessions during the fiscal year, including a one-day conclave and a zoom conference focusing on new investor IPZ Property AG. The Foundation Board oversaw the appropriate use of funds according to the applicable regulations and the performance mandate. The Foundation Board's supervisory and decision-making powers were exercised as follows:

- Approval of the accounts for 2022
- Approval of the budget for 2023
- Regular verbal and written reports about executive management's activities during the Foundation Board's sessions
- Clarification of the further development of the Innovation Park and determination of medium-term and long-term activities

The Foundation Board supervises the foundation while respecting executive management's autonomy in the operational business in accordance with the applicable legal bases, without directly intervening in its business activities. This ensures impartial business management that is free from any special interests on the part of the foundation's involved organizations. Additionally, compliance with the regulations and instructions on preventing conflicts of interest are also monitored.

During the same time period, the Foundation Board's committee met in five sessions to prepare the Foundation Board's matters.

2.2 LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

The Cantonal Parliament's decision in the fall of 2022 was the starting shot for the development of the Innovation Park – at last, one could say, after all those years of perseverance. The broad-based synthesis plan, which also includes the cornerstones of the future governance, acts as the guideline for all development work.

Now the foundations of the nascent Innovation Park need to be laid. On the one hand this entails the site development with the expansion of hangars 2, 3 and 4 and the planning of the first new buildings – more about this in the "Site development" section below. On the other hand, because the idea is to create an ecosystem between university researchers and the businesses located in the park, the network foundations are at least equally decisive for future success.

In the sense of placemaking, the fundamental functionalities must be demonstrated and must then be reflected or implemented with the architecture. Additionally, with the arrival of companies starting in 2023, the activities in the Community Building must be intensified – after all, the Community will be a significant driver for new companies to establish themselves in the park. At the same time, fitting formats for professional audiences, the tech scene or the interested public must be developed and tested. Lastly, the relocation and market analysis must be started for the focus topic, especially since this means many years of acquisition and decision-making processes for large companies. The Innovation Park Zurich is also a new member of the International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation IASP, so as to promote interconnectedness with the international competition.

This is why the team was correspondingly reinforced, which is described in more detail in the "Staff situation" section. The Strategy 2024-33, which is being prepared in close collaboration with IPZ Property AG, is also in development.



Visualization of development phase 4

2.3 SITE DEVELOPMENT

After the successful completion of the political process, the Innovation Park Zurich achieved another significant development milestone: Globally active consortium Angst+Pfister, a leading developer, manufacturer and worldwide supplier of high-performance components and engineering solutions, can call itself a substantial investor in the site development company IPZ Property AG as of March 1, 2023. This company is responsible, on behalf of the Innovation Park Zurich Foundation (IPZ Foundation), for the planning, development and building of the Innovation Park Zurich on the former Dübendorf military airfield. After the Zurich Cantonal Parliament approved the credit commitment, the project is now firmly on course.

HRS, which is substantially involved in IPZ Property AG, has enabled the planning and architectural development steps to date and is confident that additional

investors will get aboard in the next few years. The goal is to make the development of the Innovation Park economically viable within the framework of constructive collaboration with the Canton of Zurich.

During a broad-based architectural competition, to which renowned national and international firms as well as three pre-qualified junior firms were invited, a jury selected seven projects out of the submitted 28 proposals:

- **E2A**, Zurich (two buildings)
- **Roger Boltshauser**, Zurich
- **Muoto**, Paris
- **TEN**, Zurich
- **Mulder Zonderland**, Zurich
- **3XN**, Copenhagen

2.4 COMMUNITY AND LIFE IN THE PARK



AMZ Racing



From 0 to 100 in 0.956 seconds: That's a world record!

The acceleration world record has been back in Dübendorf since September 2023! In a mere 0.956 seconds and a distance of 12.3 meters, electric race car «mythen» by **AMZ Racing** went from 0 to 100 kilometers per hour on the test track in Innovation Park Zurich. The AMZ students can hold their own even against international competition: With *castor*, their newest prototype, they once again earned their place on the winners' podium at the world's largest Formula Student Electric competition in Hockenheim after five years: AMZ clinched second place from among 70 participants from throughout the entire globe.



AMZ Racing ©FSG – Kohler



Space Hub



UZH Space Hub: from a view of far-away galaxies, to the human spine in zero gravity to the democratization of data obtained from space

In March 2023, the Euclid space telescope started its journey to outer space looking for new knowledge about the origin of the universe. Researchers from the **UZH Space Hub** network are working on the scientific preparation and analysis of the ESA mission. Before year's end, the first color photos will demonstrate the full potential of the telescope, which outshines all of its predecessors with regard to image sharpness and size of the displayed section. In addition, Jaap Swanenburg, also from the UZH

Space Hub network, will conduct measurements on the human spine in zero gravity during the 83rd Parabolic Flight Campaign in Bordeaux. He and his team are researching how various stresses on the spinal column affect the risk of a herniated disk – a widespread source of back pain. Also in 2023, askEarth AG was established with the goal of democratizing access to Earth observation data. The spin-off of the University of Zurich concluded an important contract with the European Space Agency (ESA) and won the renowned Startup Competition Venture Kick. To give the interested public a better understanding of the innovative space research activities and industry collaborations of the UZH Space Hub, the Hub started publishing a Space Blog in the summer of 2023 in the regional newspaper Glattaler every 14 days.



Drone Harmony



Scrutinizing the state of utility poles

Drone Harmony is heralding a new era in drone technology with the integration of its 3D flight management software for DJI drones. Companies such as Axpo and Cyberhawk have been relying on the software since 2023. Axpo uses the software to determine the status of the Swiss high-voltage grid, while Cyberhawk inspects thousands of utility poles daily throughout the state of California. Various deployment locations across Europe are planned for 2024. This includes power plants, factories, large construction sites, prisons as well as mobile police and fire department units.

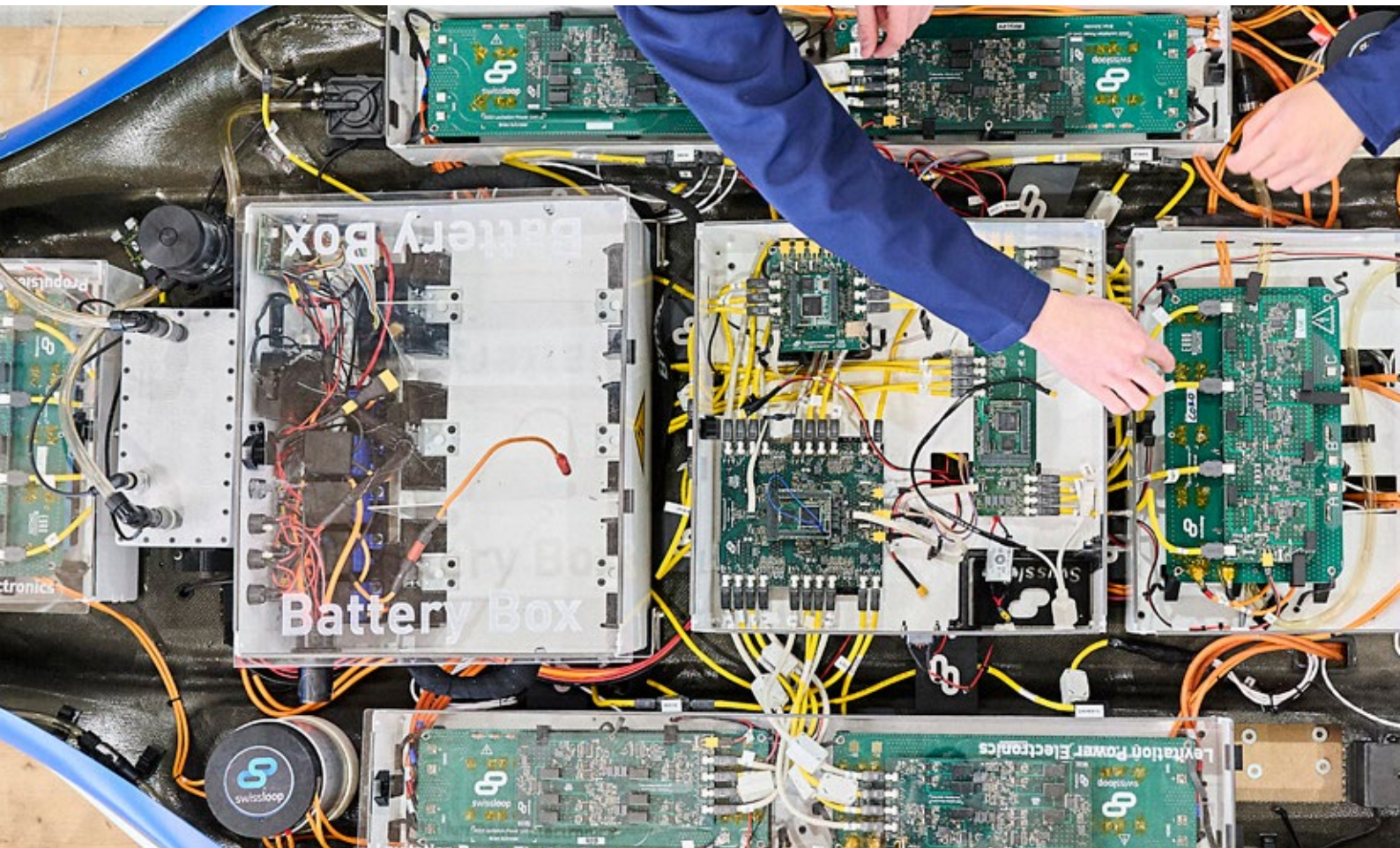


Loft Dynamics



Loft Dynamics goes USA!

Loft Dynamics opened its Virtual Reality Flight Simulation Hub in North America at the Santa Monica Airport. The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) also uses the H125-VR flight simulator. The opening represents a significant milestone in the company's expansion to North America and provides the opportunity to personally use and experience the VR technology. Loft Dynamics is pursuing its growth strategy and continues to search for experts. At the end of 2023, the company – which has grown rapidly in recent years – already had over 60 employees.



Swissloop



Swissloop



ARIS

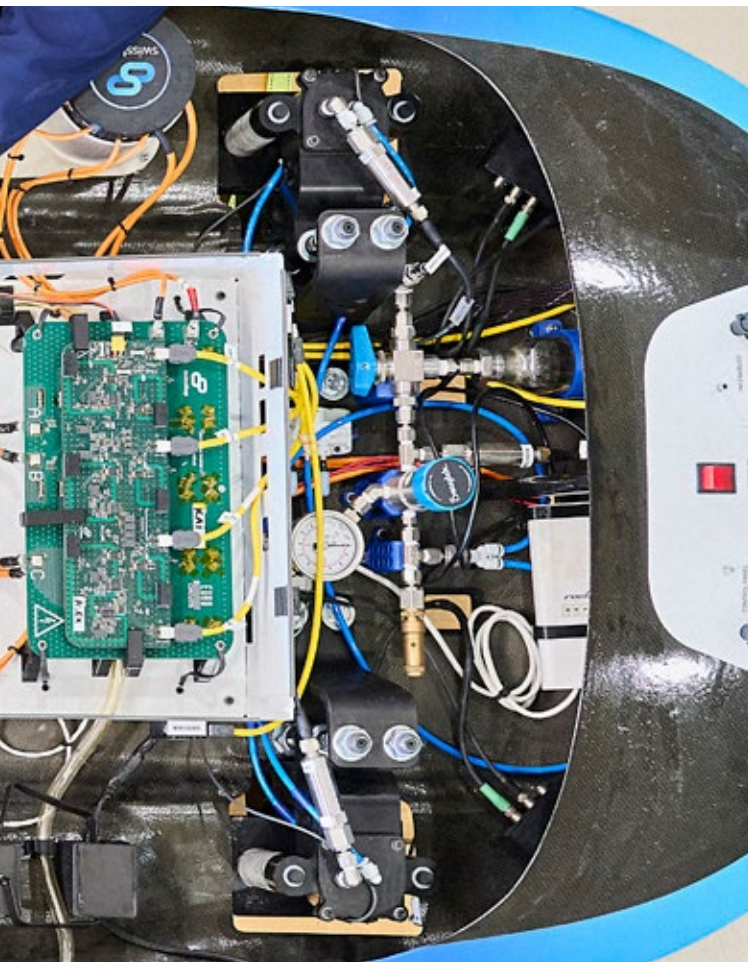


Swissloop: floating independently for the first time

In 2023, **Swissloop** succeeded for the first time in its team history to develop a pod that floats completely contactless over the self-developed test track. This is thanks to the electromagnetic levitation system and the electromagnetic drive system, the interfaces for which the team developed its own test track. After two semesters of intensive development, research, design, assembly and testing, the students presented their new prototype to the sponsors as well as to their family and friends in the summer. The jury of the European Hyperloop Week 2023 was also impressed by the innovations and features of the new pod: Swissloop won five awards in Edinburgh, including the main prize for the overall system.

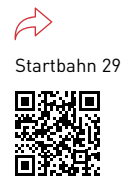
Next-generation rocket engines

They develop not only sounding rockets, which they shoot into "orbit" within the framework of student competitions, or underwater vehicles for zero emissions climate research in the polar seas. In 2023, students at the **Swiss Academic Space Travel Initiative** (Akademische Raumfahrtinitiative Schweiz [ARIS]) also worked on an engine with a cryogenic oxidizing agent, a combination of ethanol and liquid oxygen. Glowing-hot temperatures of almost 3,000 degrees Celsius can arise during the tests. To manage this extreme heat, the students used additive production methods to develop cooling channel geometries and material properties that can withstand such extreme conditions.



Matternet flies over urban area beyond visual line of sight

Matternet successfully completes a test project with the longest BVLOS flights (beyond the pilot's visual line of sight) over the urban area between Zurich city hospitals Triemli and Waid. The company was also granted permission to fly in the heart of Berlin, thereby connecting the laboratory and hospital – with the drones being guided from Switzerland. And in the USA, Matternet was able to conduct real BVLOS deliveries in collaboration with UPS. All of this is proof that Matternet technology can be used reliably and effectively in urban environments and that the team is capable of overcoming regulatory hurdles.



Startbahn 29 piques kids' curiosity for STEM technical disciplines

In 2023, more than 4,000 children and young people were able to get exciting glimpses into STEM disciplines at the Innovation Park – glimpses over the shoulders of researchers and developers while engaging in some hands-on learning. The close proximity to science and business in the park as well as to other actors at the Dübendorf airfield allowed the youngsters age-appropriate access to the practical applications of mathematics, computer science, natural sciences and technology: for example in the Wave Lab of the ETH Zurich public research university, at the startup Agile Wind Power and at Skyguide and with a SAR Super Puma helicopter. What is extraordinary – even for Startbahn 29 itself – is the pilot project for promoting young talent in collaboration with the Wangen-Brüttisellen school community. For the first time, children visited the **Startbahn 29** lab not just once with their school class or in summer school but every week. Including a deep dive into the STEM world!

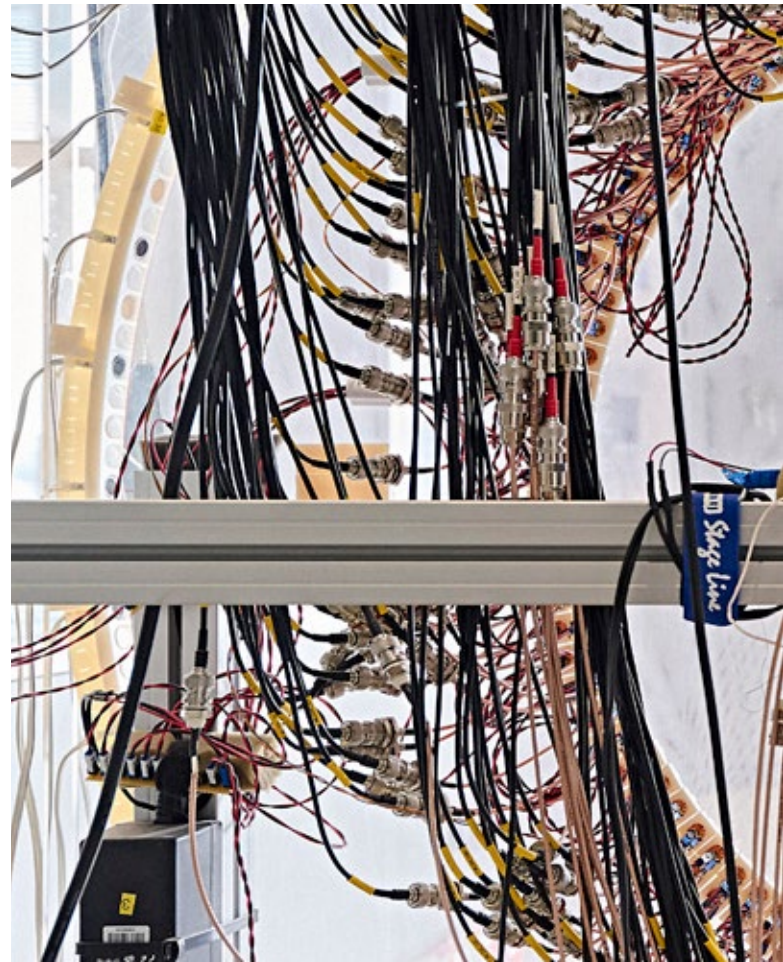


CIWE



The BBC visits the Wave Lab

The technology, invented in the **Centre for Immersive Wave Experimentation (CIWE)**, is worth a trip to the Innovation Park Zurich for the popular BBC program Click. In November, moderator LJ Rich from British TV interviewed Prof. Johan Robertsson about the technology of the active noise cancellation for acoustic underwater applications.



Wave Lab



© Agile Wind Power



Agile Wind Power



Tailwind for decentralized power generation by Agile Wind Power

At **Agile Wind Power**, negotiations with various globally operating companies are milestones in the commercialization of Vertical Sky® technology. The startup is conducting studies to determine which locations are suitable for generating wind power and how the generated power is used. Just as in previous years, the demand in 2023 is unabatedly high: The need for decentralized power generation from renewable energies has surged worldwide. To ensure the safety of new facilities, engineers at Agile Wind Power are testing a fully functional model with a diameter of about two meters in a wind tunnel.

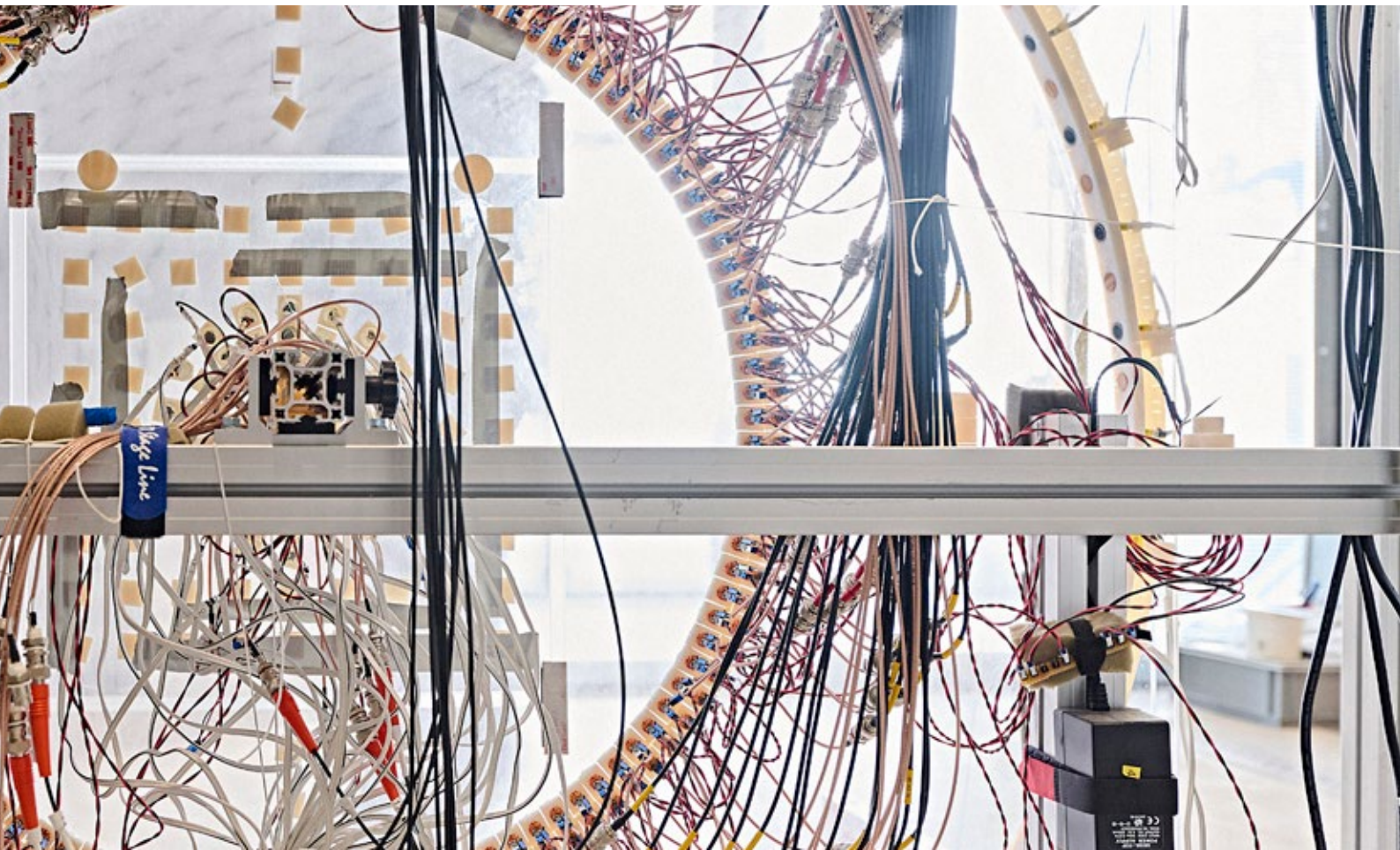


Moovimenta



Smart conveyor belts with new measurement technology

Moovimenta succeeded in integrating a novel measurement technology into industrial conveyor belts for industrial inkjet printing. It was presented by the Industry Team at the ITMA exhibition in Milan. Dedicated electronics, embedded software development, digital signal processing and machine learning algorithms significantly improve the printing precision. This technology will give impetus to the distribution of digital industrial printing machines.



© Cellsius / Benjamin Tischhauser

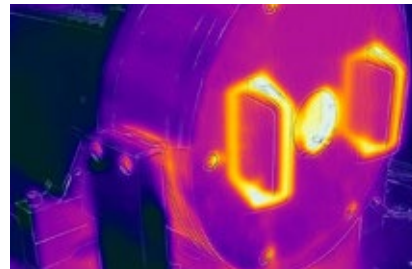


Cellsius



Cellsius: lift off with hydrogen

Cellsius wants to fly high – and it wants to do so sustainably! The ETH students developed an airplane that is operated with hydrogen. For the current Project H2, the Team hauled the airframe of a Lightwing AC4 to Dübendorf in October. In the hangar, the students converted the Swiss manufacturer's small aircraft into an environmentally friendly two-seater. The intent is to have their plane cross the Alps with hydrogen instead of gasoline in the future. They want to be done with it by September, after which the only other thing they will need prior to the maiden voyage is permission from the authorities.



Angst+Pfister



Angst+Pfister tests innovative materials on in-house-developed, state-of-the-art testing machine

In collaboration with an established university, **Angst+Pfister** developed and built this versatile testing machine for dynamic seals in its Innovation Lab. The machine is compatible with various media and oils and enables the lifetime testing of dynamic seals up to 15,000 rpm. The globally active developer and manufacturer of high-performance components was able to further deepen its expertise in the area of material sciences. Depending on customer need, various seal geometries can be tested and the raw conditions (for example extreme temperatures, high pressure) under which the seals are used can be simulated (among other things for the latest electric car technologies).



Büro Züri Innovation Park accelerates the development of startups

They secure significant financing rounds, win prestigious awards and acknowledgments for their innovative solutions and experience considerable team growth by onboarding new talents. Startups that are allowed to work in the Büro Züri Innovation Park receive an outright boost for their company – this is also thanks to the support by the Zurich Cantonal Bank [ZKB] and the ZHAW Center for Entrepreneurship. **Irmos Technologies**, for example, won the Swiss Innovation Challenge as well as the Swiss Sustainability Challenge. The **AITHON** student team succeeded in wowing the specialists with their drones and won the Best Paper Award at the IROS 2023 in Detroit. **AI Retailer Systems** succeeded in conducting pilot projects in theft prevention with some of the biggest retailers in Europe such as DM in Germany. **Aseptuva** won an Innosuisse Grant, which allowed them to conduct usability studies with doctors and nurses at the University Hospital of Bern. The startup was also honored with the EU Horizon 2020 Grant MedPhab, thanks to which product development can be optimized with Philips as research partner. And last but not least, **Ascento** won a financing round of 4.3 million dollars and launched Ascento Guard.



Büro Züri Innovation Park

The new startups in Büro Züri Innovation Park for 2024

After a demanding selection procedure and a carefully curated pitch, the winners of the Zurich Cantonal Bank Award were announced in the fall of 2023:

- **4QT**: Pioneering zero emission drives for heavy construction vehicles
- **BTRY**: Revolutionization of energy storage with sustainable, efficient battery solutions
- **LAYER3D**: Development of autonomous robots for surface finishing work at construction sites
- **Levron Dynamics**: Further development of flywheel energy storage technology
- **Sanetics AG**: Improvement of security and compliance in handling medications through state-of-the-art computer vision and IoT technology

2023

AITHON

aseptUvA

Ai Retailer Systems

ASC-NTO

+irmos
monitoring infrastructure health

2024

AITHON

aseptUvA

4QT

BTRY

LAYER3D
Automated Construction

LEVON
DYNAMICS

sanetics⁺



INTERVIEW WITH ALESSANDRO MORRA, CEO AND CO-FOUNDER OF ASCENTO

Who is Ascento?

The startup Ascento originally stems from the ETH Zurich. We are currently located in the Büro Züri Innovation Park. We are a team of eight people and develop robotics and artificial intelligence for the security sector.

What does this look like in practice?

Our robot independently carries out patrols outside. Thanks to our in-house-developed software, the patrols are fully automated. This means the robot performs tasks for which personnel is difficult to find these days, because they typically need to be done at night or in bad weather conditions. While the robot takes care of these unappealing, repetitive tasks, we can entrust people with more interesting and complex tasks. We combine the best of both worlds.

How would you describe your time in the Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich?

The Innovation Park Zurich is fantastic for us. We can use our robots in a real-life scenario here. The premises are immense, very similar to our customers' environments. Because our robot is stationed here, we can conduct many tests and iterations. This improves our product and therefore makes our customers happier.

Which important milestones did you achieve in the past year?

The past year was characterized by transformation. We went from the first units in the field to a significant fleet throughout Switzerland. The fleet patrols between 6 and 12 hours daily securing large industrial areas like production facilities, corporate campuses and state institutions.

Where do you see Ascento in five years?

Ascento will have a large fleet of autonomous security robots, which can be supplemented by other technologies, in order to secure large industrial areas across the globe.



UZH Robotics &
Perception Group



INTERVIEW WITH PROF. DAVIDE SCARAMUZZA, DIRECTOR OF THE ROBOTICS AND PERCEPTION GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF ZURICH

What is the focus of the University of Zurich's Robotics and Perception Group?

We concentrate on the autonomous navigation of drones. In essence, we try to let drones fly independently with only the assistance of onboard cameras. They can also be used in environments where there is no GPS.

Which applications of autonomous drones do you focus on?

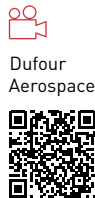
Our main objective is to develop drones that can be used for various applications. Examples of this are search and rescue operations, during which the drones support fire-fighters in rescuing people after a catastrophe such as an earthquake. But they can also accelerate the inspection of infrastructures such as bridges, power lines and container ships, which need to be regularly inspected.

Agriculture is another field of application. We collect data from fields, spray pesticides with drones even more efficiently than people do and advance into environments into which autonomous drones cannot advance because they are dependent on GPS.

We also cooperate with companies that are working on flying taxis, meaning drones that will transport passengers in the future.

What is your relationship with the University of Zurich's Space Hub?

Our cooperation deals with the question of how to use drones on future planetary missions – not only on Mars but also on other planets. NASA, for example, also wants to send robots to Titan and Venus in the near future, likely even before the next helicopter mission to Mars. We work together with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in order to improve the navigability of future drones on planets.



INTERVIEW WITH SASCHA HARDEGGER, CCO OF DUFOUR AEROSPACE

What does Dufour Aerospace develop?

We are a Swiss company with about 40 employees that was founded six years ago. We develop so-called tilt wing aircraft: here in Dübendorf and in Visp in the Canton of Valais.

What is the innovation behind your tilt wing aircraft?

Our tilt wing design combines the best features of helicopters and airplanes. We take off and land vertically like a helicopter but fly as energy efficiently as an airplane. This combination is the innovative characteristic of our products.

What is the benefit of the Innovation Park in Dübendorf for you?

The environment of the Innovation Park Zurich boasts excellent conditions for many things. As a small company, we benefit from the universities and technical colleges in the area with which we collaborate. We also have access to the airfield, where we can test our airplanes. And last but not least, we can use the infrastructure of the Innovation Park and exchange knowledge and ideas with other innovative people at many interesting events.

Which recent successes are you especially proud of?

Of course, we are very proud of our team, which achieves quite a lot with comparatively few resources. For example, we developed the flight control entirely in house and are continuously working on improving our flying prototypes. This year we will begin our first practical applications, such as survey flights with laser scanners together with renowned partners. We are very much looking forward to it.

What is the biggest potential for Dufour Aerospace?

With its high payload capacity and versatility, there is great potential in the future of using the Aero2 for critical logistical and medical applications, for public security, for environmental monitoring and beyond. And in the future, we will be capable of offering our customers even more applications with our Aero3 airplane.



© Kristian Feller



ARIS LEA



INTERVIEW WITH JULIUS WYMANN, HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATION AT ARIS

What is the LEA project at ARIS about?

We at LEA are an interdisciplinary team of 30 students at the ETH Zurich and are part of ARIS, the Swiss Academic Space Travel Initiative (Akademische Raumfahrtinitiative Schweiz). It gives us students insight into aerospace technologies during our studies. The LEA project is developing a liquid rocket engine as well as a mobile test bench for static engine tests.

What goal are you pursuing?

We research combustion instabilities, test new concepts and develop more efficient engines.

Which role does testing play in your research and development activities?

We developed the system ourselves from the ground up and optimized it over the course of multiple tests. During the last test campaign, for example, we tested various cooled nozzles and different settings in the fuel supply. It was extremely important to us that we were able to test efficiently and safely. To this end, we developed software that monitors that the system is in a pre-defined state in every test phase – and emits warnings and initiates abort sequences if necessary.

What benefit does the Innovation Park's infrastructure offer in this respect?

We are very lucky to be able to conduct our tests at the Dübendorf airfield: immediately next to our workshop and our offices here at the Innovation Park.



ARIS: That's rocket science!



2.5 COMMUNITY EVENTS

Where the community meets and networks in 2023

The creation and establishment of an interactive, interdisciplinary community are essential for the Innovation Park. It offers the members access to capital, talent, ideas and knowledge and enables new collaborations. Giving coincidence for innovations a “push” – this works best when people meet. That’s why the foundation regularly organizes get-togethers for the members of the IPZ community. In February 2023, for example, the members from the “IPZ waiting room for companies” met at Maag-technic in Dübendorf for a well-attended knowledge exchange with cocktails. At the community event in April, Angst+Pfister opened the doors of its Innovation Lab to the community in the park. The get-together in June had special appeal, as Loft Dynamics “drove up” with its mobile VR helicopter simulator exclusively for our community. The interest in the virtual flights was correspondingly big, with many of our members wanting to try their hand at piloting, not wanting to miss out on this top-notch flying experience. The grill party in the summer, which was organized by Startup Campus and Büro Züri, brought the IPZ community together with that of Runway Incubator: a wonderful opportunity to network beyond the park’s borders. In October, investors provided insight into the needs and interest of the Swiss Venture Capital and family office scene. The goal is to draft an outline for the fundraising of companies and startups from within the IPZ ecosystem.

At Casino Night in November, our guests tried their luck at Poker, Black Jack and Roulette and danced to the beats of the “resident DJ” from the community. And during the year-end report at the last community event in 2023, the members presented their highlights of the past months: including crashes, breakdowns and parties!

This was the first time the foundation organized a Christmas brunch. Well over 100 people enjoyed the delicious treats on offer in the Event Hangar. This brunch invitation was the foundation’s way of thanking everyone who made a significant contribution to the park’s success over the past year.

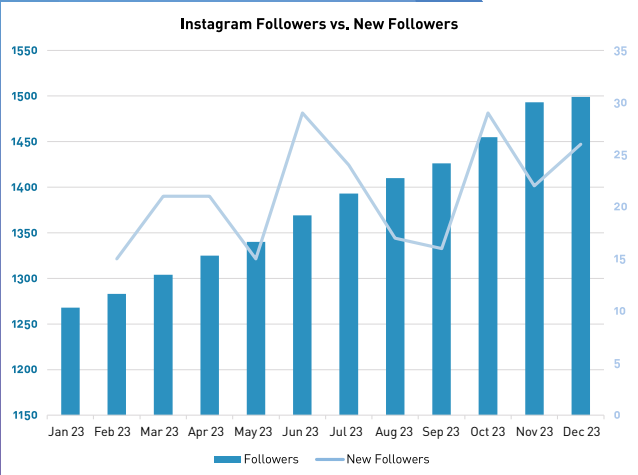
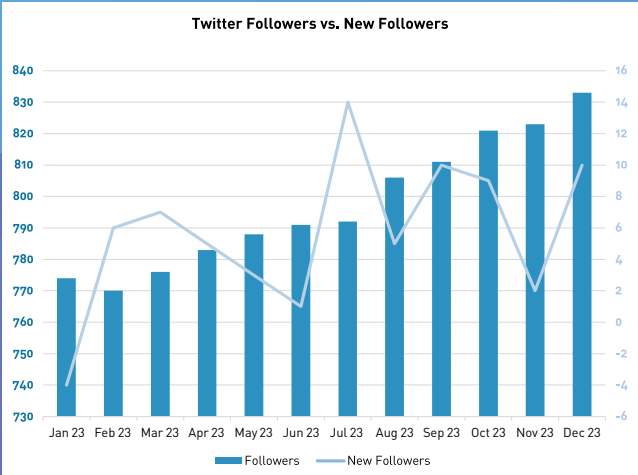
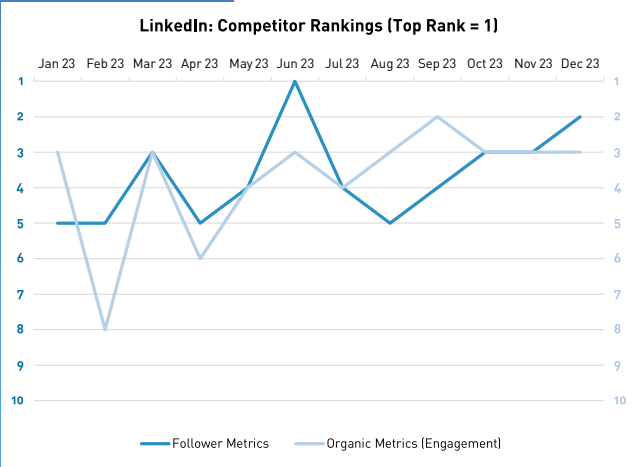
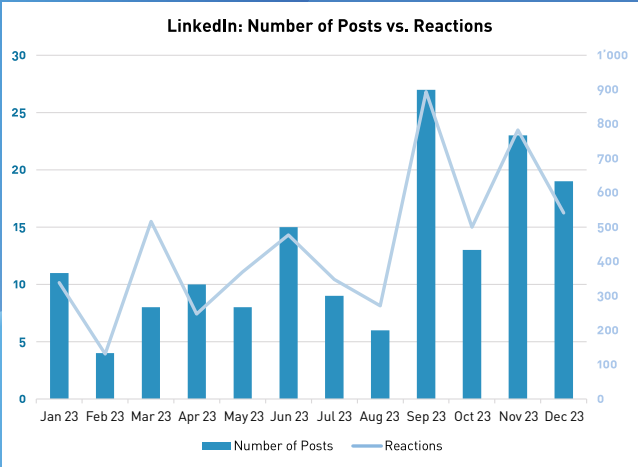
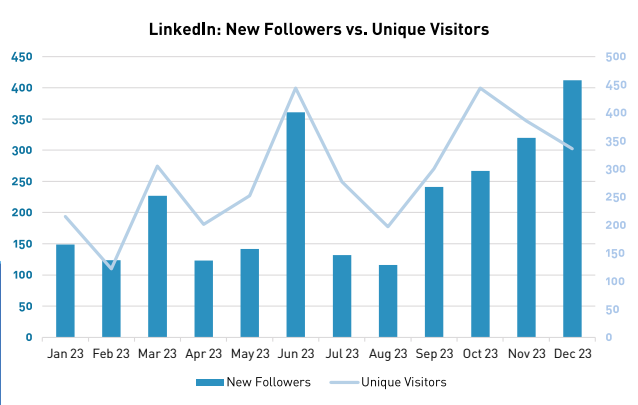
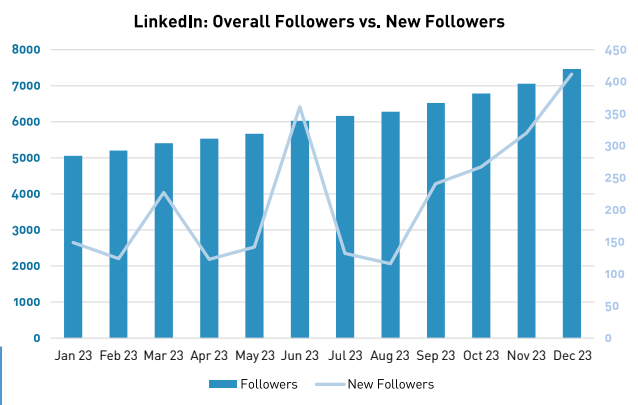
Industrial is the new chic: the new Event Hangar

At the beginning of 2023, the H3 event space had to be removed from hangar 3, as it had to be converted for the ETH Zurich. The well-established event location not only moved to hangar 1, it also received a glow-up. The new Event Hangar is super-modern, multifunctional and simultaneously comfortable – perfectly suited for business events, conferences, presentations, exhibitions and workshops, hackathons and general assemblies for up to 300 people.



Event Hangar

2.6 SOCIAL MEDIA



2.7 STAFF SITUATION

In the past year, we took important steps to reinforce our existing team and increase our operational performance. We are happy to have found four talented professionals who will further cement the foundation of our organization.

As "Manager Event Programming," Ralph Rosenbauer ensures that the Innovation Park Zurich lives up to its purpose as a place for meeting and exchanging knowledge. To this end, he initiates exciting new event formats at the location that promote knowledge transfer and enable the acquisition of new skills. At the same time, he supports further spatial development through the design of testing, workshop and creative spaces.

Débora Meier has enriched our team with her Content Marketing and Social Media experience. Her main duties entail relaunching the website, social media boosts and various campaigns, among other things.

Fabienne Kiener has become the head of Relationship Management and will help establish the Innovation Park Zurich in the pursued national and international ecosystems and attract potential tenants. She is responsible for the allocated market analysis budgets, thereby strengthening the Innovation Park Zurich's positioning in Switzerland and worldwide.

As Community Manager of the Innovation Park Zurich, Anouk Braune is pursuing the strategy of establishing an interactive, interdisciplinary community. We will achieve this through various measures to grant members access to capital, talent, ideas and knowledge. Our focus is on establishing relationships that accelerate collaboration projects and innovation.

Additionally, we are very happy to have welcomed Martin Sturzenegger, who joined us as the new Managing Director on April 1, 2023. With his long-standing experience and his strategic vision, he will play a decisive role in guiding our organization to the next stage of our growth and success.

The rest of the team is comprised of Claudia Bürgler (Community), Markus Troxler (Events), Amr Ahmed (Steward) and Mirjam Horst (Operations).

2.8 FINANCING

Since its establishment, the foundation's financing has been obtained through donors and foundation partners. Both founding donors, the Zurich Cantonal Bank (ZKB) and the ETH Zurich, as well as the University of Zurich, the City of Zurich and the City of Dübendorf contribute to the foundation's operation. Two additional partners were added in 2023: Angst+Pfister and Credit Suisse.

Thanks to the Cantonal Parliament's decision in the fall of 2022, the foundation will receive an annual operational contribution for the 2023 to 2027 development phase as well as a dedicated contribution for the development of the future operating company (IPZ Operation AG).

The foundation generates additional income by organizing activities and events on the Innovation Park's premises as well as through sponsorship monies from the economic realm.

2.9 SWITZERLAND INNOVATION NETWORK

In 2023, Switzerland Innovation continued its worldwide marketing activities in order to position Switzerland as a leading innovation hub. The focus here, taking into account the division of tasks between the foundation and the site promoters with regard to international marketing, was on promoting our name recognition and maintaining contacts with opinion leaders in our four focus markets. The development of new marketing materials and an image film increased Switzerland's visibility as a leading innovation location. The collaboration between Switzerland Innovation (SI) and Switzerland Global Enterprise (S-GE) was successfully continued. The Swiss Business Hubs (SBH) play an active role in lead generation, whereby they receive clear instructions from the site promoters on the target company to be processed. Over the course of the fiscal year, 20 events were organized in the target markets of USA, Japan, South Korea and China. A total of 16 leads for building projects were generated from these events. The SBHs visited four Innovation Parks and six country calls took place, which enabled a direct exchange between the parks and the hubs. The exchange with the representation in China took place within the scope of monthly coordination calls.

Specifically, the following activities were the focus:

- After COVID-19 measures were relaxed, China reopened, which resulted in heightened interest in Switzerland by Chinese companies and delegations from high-tech industrial development zones. In October 2023, the Managing Director of Switzerland Innovation took a trip to China. The main highlights of the trip were visits to a high-tech industrial development zone, to an innovation player and to Chinese companies and authorities as well as an exchange with the Swiss ambassador and his team and with Swissnex Shanghai. After this visit, a high-ranking delegation from Beijing traveled to Switzerland, which culminated in the signing of a letter of intent with HICOOL.
- Over the course of the year, Switzerland Innovation pursued an active strategy in Japan with visits by the Managing Director to Tokyo, Osaka and Kyoto. Collaboration initiatives with Swissnex Japan and the Swiss Embassy in Tokyo facilitated the interaction with opinion leaders and research centers. In May, the SBH Japan in coordination with the SBH Korea organized a roadshow for Switzerland Innovation Parks (SIPs). The SIPs met with representatives of major Japanese companies, including Kyocera, Mitsubishi Heavy, Olympus, Omron and Obayashi, for individual meetings.
- In March, the Managing Director presented the Switzerland Innovation network to the Korean public at the Smart Factory & Automation World conference.
- One highlight was the Advanced Manufacturing in Switzerland seminar, which was organized by SBH Korea on May 23 and offered an excellent platform. Surrounding the event, individual meetings and/or conference slots were organized for four SIPs which had traveled to Korea (Basel Area, Biel/Bienne, Innovaare, West EPFL), which enabled new contacts and connections to be made. In April 2023, Switzerland Innovation signed a letter of intent with the Korea Industry Intelligentization Association (KOIIA) at the Switzerland Innovation Park Biel/Bienne, which was followed by a visit by KOIIA and the member companies to the Swiss Smart Factory after the signing.
- In May, Switzerland Innovation conducted missions to the USA in Texas and Colorado as well as in November in Texas and San Francisco. Within the framework of these missions, Switzerland Innovation increased the visibility of Switzerland Innovation's network through targeted meetings with various local key players in important industries and innovation centers for the US market. The already close cooperation was further enhanced through two visits to the Park Innovaare in January and May as well as two visits to the Park West EPFL in January and September to the USA. The continuing cooperation with partners such as Swissnex and embassy representatives remains of significant importance for increasing visibility and generating contacts.



International marketing continues to take place by means of a multi-channel approach. In order to further enhance this process, talks with the SBFI took place in order to examine more intensive collaboration with the Swissnex network in the international promotion of the Innovation Park. The Swissnex network is already selectively supporting the SIPs with promotional activities in the key markets. In order to jointly sound out further support opportunities, the SBFI and SI organized two workshops in the fall of 2023 for representatives of the site promoters and Swissnex Asia and America. The objective of the workshop was to generate options for the systematic integration of the Swissnex network into SI's promotion and marketing at the international level. The further steps in this regard will be decided in 2024. During the reporting year, Switzerland Innovation was invited to become a permanent member of the newly created "location promotion sounding board". The major players for marketing Switzerland internationally meet twice per year in this committee (SBFI, SECO, Präsenz Schweiz, Innosuisse, VDK, S-GE, the regional location promotion organizations and SI). The regular exchange between these organizations is valuable and facilitates good coordination of activities in foreign markets.

In the quality assurance area, Switzerland Innovation provided recommendations and feedback within the framework of the imminent external evaluation of the Tessin location in March 2024 regarding the various

documents that were compiled. The objective of the planned foreign evaluation is to establish the foundations for the definitive association of the Tessin location. The submitted documents show that good work was done in Tessin and the foreign evaluation can take place on March 21, 2024 as planned.

With respect to the guarantee system, no new guarantee applications were submitted in the current year. The redesign of the guarantee system is planned in the Federal education, research and innovation policy 2025-28, with new applications not being possible prior to January 1, 2025, provided the Federal Assembly approves the policy. There currently exist two unchanged guarantees, which were granted on behalf of SIP Biel/Bienne with a current net sum of CHF 5.8 million (taking into account amortization).

The objective of the Switzerland Innovation Tech4Impact (SIT4I) initiative was to promote promising innovation projects. Content-wise, the projects had to have six selected UNO sustainable development goals as their focus. The program existed thanks to the financing provided by the following innovation partners: ABB, Credit Suisse, die Mobiliar, economiesuisse, Interpharma, Schindler, the Swiss Re foundation, Swisscom, UBS and Zurich. The program was concluded in 2023 with the third group of grantees.

Switzerland Innovation published a final report about the program. Over the course of three years, 18 startups were helped through the SIT4I initiative, with each project receiving a subsidy in the amount of CHF 85,000. A total of CHF 1,530,000 in subsidies were distributed through the program. The engagement of the grantees had a considerable impact: 70 newly created jobs, the successful market launch of seven new sustainable technologies and the securing of over 20 million in additional funds.

At Switzerland Innovation's network level, the constructive collaboration between the foundation, the site promoters and the locations was continued. The collaboration in the network functions seamlessly and is characterized by a results-oriented and constructive partnership. There were several leadership changes among the site promoters over the course of the year. Two locations received new CEOs: Martin Sturzenegger at Switzerland Innovation Park Zurich and Robert Rudolph at Switzerland Innovation Park Innovaare.

Targeted measures were taken to optimize efficiency and collaboration in the network:

- The Communication workgroup introduced a newsroom structure. The newsroom serves as a central organizational tool in which stories and news about Switzerland Innovation are collected, prioritized and planned. It enables regular virtual meetings every two months, during which the leadership of the individual parks can convene within the framework of the Communication workgroup. This structured approach promotes efficient communication planning and implementation within the Switzerland Innovation network.
- The Community workgroup recognized the importance of an effective tool for community building and community management within the network. In close cooperation, a suitable digital solution was carefully selected, which will be implemented in 2024.

Successful campaigns were carried out to increase Switzerland Innovation's name recognition at the national level. In particular the Parliamentary event on March 2, 2023, during the spring session garnered keen interest. High-ranking personalities such as Martina Hirayama, State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation (SBFI), Ursula Oesterle, Vice-President for Innovation at the EPFL and State Council Dieter Egli, Head of the Department of Economic and Internal Affairs of the Canton of Aargau contributed to the program. Vice-President State Councilor Johanna Gapany provided the foundation with valuable support when organizing the event.

At the end of 2023, approximately 100 employees worked in the SI network (the foundation as well as six site promoters and 10 locations). By the end of 2023, more than 650 established companies and organizations and 41 project teams were active in the Switzerland Innovation network. Currently, more than 15 innovation programs are available within the network, which cover various areas and offer significant opportunities for growth. These programs include accelerators, demonstration platforms, incubators and soft landing programs.

Expansion projects with a total investment volume of around CHF 1.25 billion have been implemented at various locations in the Switzerland Innovation network since 2016. These developments are promising for the network's future and are evidence that the involved private and public investors are convinced of the Innovation Park's potential.

Lastly, the foundation has a role as an interface to the Federal Administration. The SBFI is the main point of contact. In addition, regular contact took place with the General Secretariat of the Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (WBF), Innosuisse, Swissnex and SECO's Promotion Activities Directorate.

3 OUTLOOK

3.1 HIGHLIGHTS 2024

The upcoming year will be characterized by the relocation of the UZH Space Hub to hangar 4 and the ETH to hangars 2 and 3. This will garner media coverage and greatly invigorate the park.

Initial (pilot) implementations will take place in all areas of community, programming, marketing and marketplace activities:

- In the scope of market cultivation, the ecosystems in the focal topics of robotics & mobility, space & aviation as well as advanced manufacturing & materials will be analyzed together with Helbling Business Advisors, in order to facilitate addressing companies in a targeted manner. The first international pilot missions are also planned. In doing so, the priority will be to establish the foundation for future collaboration between Switzerland Innovation, Swiss Global Enterprise, Swissnex and the Greater Zurich Area. The CRM will also be professionalized, and corresponding software will be introduced.

- The community will be able to benefit from revised event formats between infotainment and fun. A new community app will also be introduced as a central hub.
- The park's programming will be tested with four pilot formats. Starting in February, regular hardware meet-ups will start taking place, the European Hyperloop Week will take place in July on the site, among other places, the opening of the UZH Space Hub will be accompanied by an art exhibition and in the fall the AI Song Contest will hopefully cause some furor.
- The marketing will consistently look to expand target groups in social media and launch a completely new website in the first half of the year.

With regard to the foundation's operations, the conversion to Microsoft 365 will enable improved collaboration both internally and with external partners.





3.2 INTERVIEW WITH MARTIN STURZENEGGER, MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE INNOVATION PARK ZURICH FOUNDATION

Martin Sturzenegger took over operational management of the Innovation Park Zurich Foundation in April 2023. After René Kalt and his team laid the foundation for the Innovation Park's development in the past 10 years, the new Managing Director will oversee the next important development steps.

You have extensive experience in corporate management and the digital transformation. How do you view the role of both of these factors in the further development of the Innovation Park Zurich and how do you plan to implement this?

I was well-received and I enjoy the work. We will build a multilayered and heterogeneous community, and targeted use of digital collaboration tools will certainly be essential in this process. In addition, we want to begin demonstrating our future content to the general public in order to establish a solid position, as we will then have to win out over appealing competitors. Having said all that, this won't be possible without top talent, in order to build the park's operational business. This is where my experience in management and in strategic corporate development will help.

Which specific goals and milestones have you set for the Innovation Park Zurich for the next few years in order to further its development?

We need to push the entire development in cooperation with three important areas: operations, site development (e.g. real estate) and territorial development (e.g. conversion of the airfield or transportation connections). I am working closely together with Andrea Thöny from IPZ Property AG and Roman Bächtold from the cantonal coordination office on this matter. We are outlining a longer-term plan and coordinating with each other on this. We set ourselves specific goals every two years. During this time period I would like to refine our vision and positioning in the operations realm, develop initial formats and start leaving our mark in the markets. Added to this is that the UZH will move in with the Space Hub in 2024 and the ETH will occupy two additional hangars at staggered intervals. Our community will grow significantly due to this, and we need to be prepared.

As the former Director of Zürich Tourismus, you have extensive knowledge in destination marketing.

How would you like to use this expertise to position the Innovation Park Zurich as an attractive destination for companies and talented professionals?

We will not develop a shopping center or office complex here. We are creating an Innovation Park ecosystem that thrives on knowledge exchange and cooperation. That is the spirit that needs to arise here. It's similar to place-making in a city: For example, a true colorful local identity has been created at Im Viadukt Zurich-West.

We also need to be able to convey this feeling, in order to instill demand among decision-makers at companies

or universities and ultimately among potential users. The Innovation Park should become a “destination” that magically attracts people.

Which specific measures are you planning for strengthening collaboration between the Innovation Park Zurich, local companies, educational institutions and the public?

The Event Programming department deals with precisely such issues. We plan to introduce various specialist and public events in the coming year. We will also enable programs that enrich our community and build a bridge between the scientific and economic realms – something similar to Innosuisse’s Innovation Booster, for example. However, regular exchange with the stakeholder groups is also very important to me. I have already visited all “neighbors”: municipalities, the military or EMPA. What’s more, I was able to participate in a mission with the UZH Space Hub.

The Innovation Park Zurich is already undergoing a solid development phase. How do you intend to ensure that this success continues, and the Innovation Park becomes an international hub for innovation and technology?

That will – at least I hope – be the result of the previously mentioned strategies and activities. However, coordination between operations, site development and territorial development is key. It is only if we proceed in a concerted manner that we will achieve a consistent “Innovation Park Zurich” product. The groundwork for this has been laid with the Flight Plan synthesis report, and the support from the political, scientific and economic realms is significant.



3.3 SITE: THE FIRST DEVELOPMENT PHASE

Initial construction work will begin at the Innovation Park Zurich at the Dübendorf Airfield in 2024 on the apron in the northern part of the airfield. After renovation of the hangars in the peripheral zone, several new buildings will be built in accordance with the approved design plan and the concluded framework agreement and building rights agreement. Seven projects were selected in a globally advertised architecture competition. They provide a first impression of the future spatial and architectural dimension of the park.

After a broad-based architecture competition last year, a jury selected seven projects out of 28 submitted

proposals that are slated to be built within the scope of the first stage of new construction starting in 2024 until approximately 2032. Together with the existing buildings, it will be spatially tangible for the first time how the Innovation Park will develop into an urban campus for researchers as well as for the general public. One requirement of the building typology is for an overall attractive working and living environment to be created which is diverse and can be flexibly adapted to the changing needs of researchers and the general public.

For the utilization mix, according to the current planning status a ratio of the total floor space of about 24% office space, about 8% laboratory space and about 12% manufacturing space (e.g. for the production of prototypes) is deemed as reasonable. The remaining 36% of the floor space can be used for one of the above purposes on a flexible basis.



This mix will be supplemented by campus facilities such as maintenance, services, research-related living, etc. as well as by additional flexibly usable spaces of about 20%, especially for food services, leisure activities and other offers such as shopping facilities for everyday needs. That's because in the long term more than 10,000 people will work on the campus. Added to this will be visitors from across the globe and the populace of the surrounding communities and the entire region, who will also be able to use the site.

Renovation of the historic airplane hangars as testimony of Swiss aviation history

The existing buildings in the peripheral zone in the north of the airfield were already renovated starting in 2020, with replacement buildings in the form of building annexes to the historical building envisioned for the future.

Work on hangar 3 and the fire station has already been completed, and work on hangars 2 and 4 is still in progress. Tenants of the Innovation Park include ETH Zurich, the Angst+Pfister Group and the Zurich Cantonal Bank with the format Büro Züri Innovation Park as well as IPZ's corporate office. Another important research partner will be added in the next few months with the University of Zurich. The first new construction is slated to begin over the course of 2024.

The Innovation Park comprises zone A in the north and zone B in the adjacent west of the site. Initially, development will take place in stages and according to need in zone A with a total surface area of 36 hectares. The site will be longitudinally divided into three main axes in a rectangular grid: the apron, the innovation mall and the parkway. In the transverse direction, cul-de-sacs will delineate the construction zone. In addition, there will be passageways and courtyards for pedestrian traffic through the construction zones.

The park's beacon function for urban development and sustainability

The Innovation Park Zurich not only wants to offer researchers from the realms of science and industry a platform for innovation and development, it also wants to be a beacon for innovative urban development and for sustainability. Accordingly, special building typologies will be developed which, through their flexibility and modularity, will be usable in a sustainable manner for long periods of time and will exhibit a significantly reduced ecological footprint thanks to the use of new technologies. For energy generation, an extensive energy network and large-scale photovoltaic systems will be implemented on roofs and building fronts. The underground will be used as seasonal storage for warmth and cold. A comprehensive water management concept will aim to maintain the flow of groundwater, not excessively influence ground water temperatures, utilize water cycles, improve flood control and regenerate wastewater. The Innovation Park will be integrally planned and built in consecutive stages. This will enable cohesive and intelligent management.



4 PURPOSE AND LEGAL BASIS



Corporate office of the Innovation Park Zurich Foundation

The foundation aims to build and operate the Innovation Park Zurich as part of the Switzerland Innovation network. It will create framework conditions favorable to innovations (new products, services, business models, processes) and promote the interconnection of the scientific and economic realms (knowledge and technology transfer), thereby increasing the appeal of the Zurich Innovation Area. The foundation pursues a public and charitable purpose. It does not pursue a commercial purpose and does not aim to make a profit. Any profits are used for the foundation's purpose. It can develop all activities that are conducive to reaching its goal. To this end, it can also purchase and sell property, establish companies, acquire shares in companies and mandate third parties. The foundation safeguards the interests of the Innovation Park Zurich within the framework of the Switzerland Innovation network.

The legal basis is comprised of the foundation deed dated September 17, 2015, the statutes in the version dated May 23, 2016, respectively in the revised version dated June 4, 2019, as well as the organization regulations dated February 8, 2016.

The foundation's supervisory authority is the Supervisory Authority of the Canton of Zurich (BVG- und Stiftungsaufsicht des Kantons Zürich [BVS]).

5 ORGANIZATION

During the reporting year, Prof. Dr. Vanessa Wood stepped down as the representative of the ETH Zurich. The ETH designated Jeannine Pilloud as Prof. Wood's replacement.

The Foundation Board has a committee, which at the end of 2023 was composed of Foundation Councilors Peter E. Bodmer (President), Jörg Müller-Ganz, Heinz Haller and Christian Péclat.

Dr. Nabholz Treuhand AG, Holbeinstrasse 34, 8008 Zurich has acted as auditor since the foundation's establishment.

At the end of September 2022, René Kalt resigned as the foundation's Managing Director. He continued to manage the foundation's secretariat and the committee on a part-time basis until the spring of 2023. Corinna Müller was the foundation's Managing Director pro tem from October 2022 to March 2023. In April 2023, Martin Sturzenegger was appointed the new Managing Director of the Innovation Park Zurich Foundation. The foundation has operated with 6.9 FTE, allocated amongst nine people, since December 31, 2022.

During the reporting period, the foundation's operations were funded by subsidies from the Canton of Zurich, the operating contributions of both founding donors ETH and the ZKB as well as grants from Credit Suisse, Angst+Pfister, the University of Zurich, the City of Zurich and the City of Dübendorf. The foundation also finances itself through rental income, revenue from events and sponsoring contributions.

STIFTER



Kanton Zürich



Zürcher
Kantonalbank

ETH zürich

STIFTUNGSPARTNER



Universität
Zürich^{UZH}



Empa

Materials Science and Technology



Stadt Zürich

Stadt Dübendorf



EMPLOYEES OF CORPORATE OFFICE



Martin Sturzenegger
Managing Director



Amr Ahmed
Event Hangar



Anouk Braune
Community



Claudia Bürgler
Community



Mirjam Horst
Operations



Fabienne Kiener
Relationship & Markets



Débora Meier
Marketing Communications



Ralph Rosenbauer
Programming



Markus Troxler
Event Hangar

THE FOUNDATION BOARD WAS COMPRISED AS FOLLOWS IN DECEMBER 2023:



Peter E. Bodmer
President of the Foundation Board*



Heinz Haller
Vice-President*



Martin Bäumle
Member



Dr. Hanspeter Fässler
Member



Corine Mauch
Member



Dr. Jörg Müller-Ganz
Member*



Dr. Christian Péclat
Member*



Jeannine Pilloud
Member



Prof. Dr. Michael Schaeppman
Member



Dr. Christian Wenger
Member



Gabriela Winkler
Member

*Members of the Foundation Board committee,
collectively for two





**SWITZERLAND
INNOVATION**
PARK ZÜRICH

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