Department for Economy and Employment
Economic development office

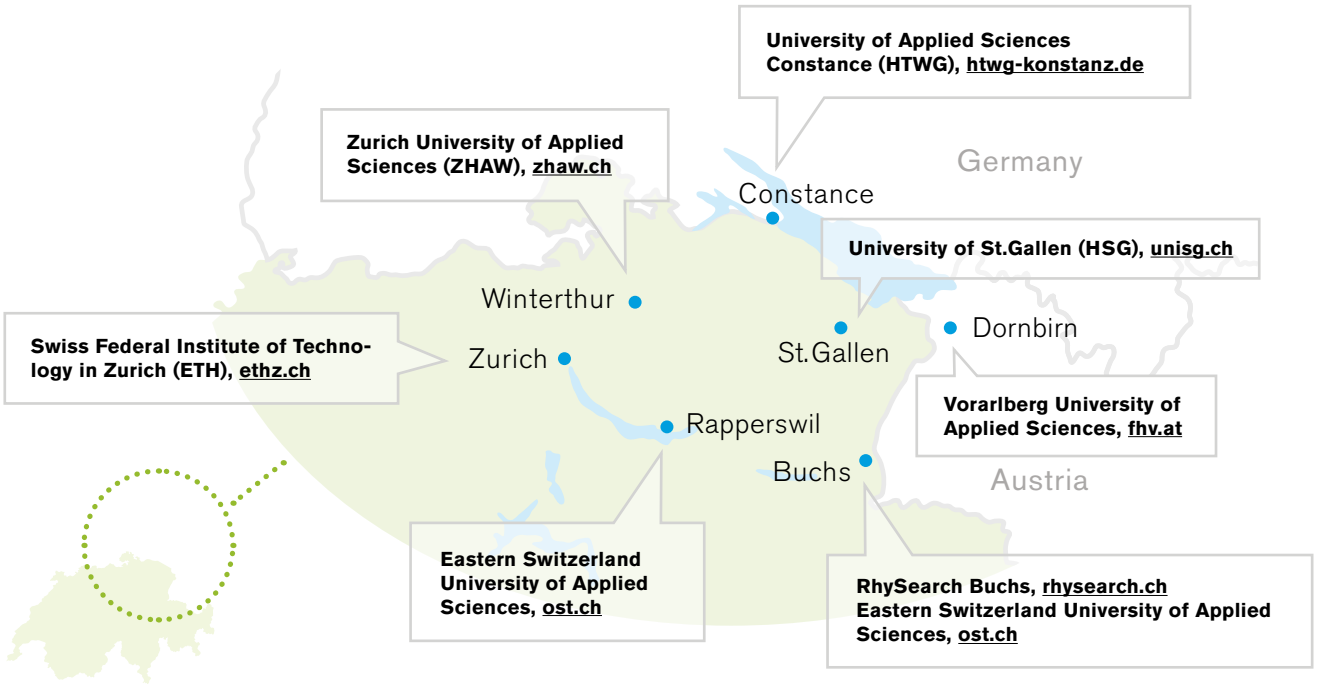
Thurgau
SWITZERLAND

Locational advantage Machine, electrical engineering and metals industry (MEM)

MEM competence in Eastern Switzerland

The MEM industry is the largest industrial employer in Eastern Switzerland – and one of the region's most important export industries. The history of the industry stretches back to the nineteenth century, with the manufacture of the first textile machines, and the level of technological know-how is accordingly high. Together with a wide range of education and research institutes, this has resulted in a strong culture of innovation in the region.

Education, Research and Development



2,080
places of work

are located in Eastern Switzerland.

53,000
employees

work in the MEM industry in Eastern Switzerland.

10
percent

of all Swiss medium and large-sized companies in the MEM industry are located in Eastern Switzerland.

65
percent

of Swiss MEM exports come from companies based in Eastern Switzerland.

Source: Federal Statistical Office

Segments and companies

Electrical engineering / sensor technology

- Baumer Electric AG, Frauenfeld, baumer.com
- Huber + Suhner AG, Herisau, hubersuhner.com
- Rinco Ultrasonics AG, Romanshorn, rincoultrasonics.com
- STS Sensor Technik Sirnach AG, Sirnach, stssensors.com

Metal technology

- Humbel Zahnräder AG, Kradolf, humbel-gears.com
- Kompaflex AG, Steinebrunn, kompaflex.com
- Neuweiler AG, Kreuzlingen, neuweiler-ag.ch
- SFS unimarket AG, Heerbrugg, sfs.ch

Vehicle engineering

- EDAG Engineering Schweiz GmbH, Arbon, edag.com
- FPT Motorenforschung AG, Arbon, fpt-motorenforschung.ch
- Larag AG, Wil SG, larag.com
- Schmidhauser AG, Romanshorn, lenze-schmidhauser.com
- Stadler Rail Group, Bussnang, stadlerrail.com

Optics

- Fisba AG, St. Gallen, fisba.com
- Leica Geosystems AG, Balgach, leica-geosystems.com
- SwissOptic AG, Heerbrugg, swissoptic.com
- Zünd Präzisionsoptik AG, Diepoldsau, zuendoptics.com

Mechanical engineering

- Alme AG, Aadorf, alme.ch
- Bernina International AG, Steckborn, bernina.com
- Syntegon AG, Beringen, syntegon.com
- Bühler AG, Uzwil, buhlergroup.com
- Saurer AG, Wattwil and Arbon, saurer.com

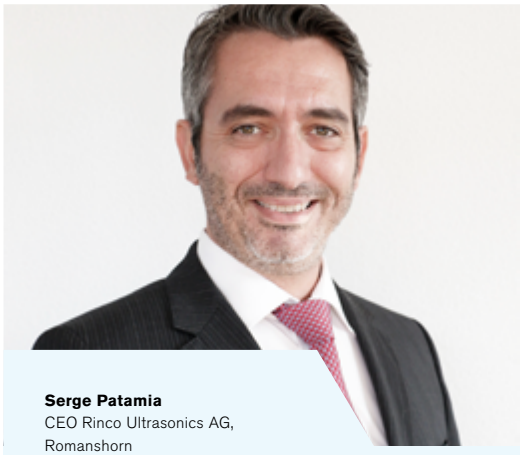
Precision engineering and medical technology

- JOSSI Orthopedics AG, Islikon, jossi.ch
- Silony Medical International AG, Frauenfeld, silony-medical.com
- SIS Medical AG, Frauenfeld, sis-medical.com
- sia Abrasives Industries AG, Frauenfeld, siaabrasives.com
- Utilis AG, Müllheim, utilis.com

Aviation and defence

- General Dynamics European Land System – Mowag GmbH, Kreuzlingen, gdels.com
- Starrag AG, Rorschacherberg, starrag.com

On the German and Austrian side of the Lake Constance economic area, a similar industry structure is assumed to exist.



Serge Patamia
CEO Rinco Ultrasonics AG, Romanshorn

«Reliability, precision and continuity are key factors in our quality awareness. Eastern Switzerland offers our MEM company a positive environment for fulfilling these promises – not least with the well-trained specialists who are helping us to achieve new innovations in ultrasound technology.»

«Eastern Switzerland is the key location for the development of cutting-edge rail technology from Stadler. Thanks to the availability of professional expertise in vehicle engineering, we can find both motivated staff and reliable suppliers who enable us to respond in a flexible manner on the international stage.»

Peter Spuhler
Owner and Chairman of the Stadler Rail Group, Bussnang

Knowledge partners and networks

SWISSMECHANIC

Swissmechanic is the employers' association (politics, economy, education) for SMEs in the MEM industry. The association's members comprise mechanical engineering, electrotechnical and electronic professional groups and industry and professional organisations in Switzerland and Liechtenstein. The Swissmechanic association's policy is centred around the needs of small and medium-sized companies, which include suppliers, manufacturers and service providers. The umbrella organisation Swissmechanic comprises 15 independent sections and a national organisation (Swissmechanic Schweiz in Weinfelden, Thurgau), as well as additional associated organisations. Swissmechanic represents a total of some 1,400 members with approximately 70,000 employees, of which around 6,000 are apprentices. (swissmechanic.ch)

SWISSMEM

Swissmem enhances the national and international competitiveness of its 1,050 or so member companies by providing needs-based services. These services include professional advice on employment, commercial, contract and environmental law, energy efficiency and knowledge and technology transfer. In addition, Swissmem offers market-oriented training packages for employees working in the sector. Swissmem operates a number of strong networks. Twenty-seven specialist groups, various experience-sharing groups and forums give member companies an opportunity for dialogue on technical questions or work on joint projects. The cost-efficient compensation fund completes Swissmem's comprehensive offering. (swissmem.ch)

EMPA

With its vision of "Materials and technologies for a sustainable future", Empa has set itself the goal of finding solutions for the leading problems facing industry and society, such as in the areas of energy, environment, mobility, health and safety. The main thrusts of research are focused around the five themes of nanostructured materials, sustainable construction and building technologies, health, performance and energy technology. The number of scientific publications rose from just 67 in 2001 to almost 630 in 2015. (empa.ch)

The Institute for Materials System Technology Thurgau at the Konstanz University of Applied Sciences (WITg), Tägerwilen (Switzerland) and Constance (Germany)

Because WITg functions as an ideal interface between research and practical applications, it is able to implement product developments with the necessary procedures and applications quickly and cost-effectively. Thus, within just a few years, WITg established itself as a research and testing institution for SMEs in the field of metalworking and plastics processing. (witg.ch)

Knowledge platforms

- The Swiss Center for Electronics and Microtechnology (CSEM) is a research and technology organisation: csem.ch
- Professional organisation for electrical engineering, energy technology and IT: electrosuisse.ch
- Trade journal: maschinenbau-schweiz.ch
- Network platform for companies, experts, research and network organisations: swissplasticsplatform.com

Economic development office Thurgau
Verwaltungsgebäude Vorstadt (VGV)
Staubeggstrasse 3
CH-8510 Frauenfeld
T +41 (0)58 345 55 00
wifoe@tg.ch
www.wifoe.tg.ch

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