

TECHNOPARK®-Alliance

What we are

The institutions active in the field of technology transfer (TT), entrepreneurship and innovation primarily fall into the following categories:

Universities

Mission: education, basic research, applied research, services. Services in the area of TT are concentrated primarily on internal advisory services for university staff and students in all areas of TT, external advisory services regarding new knowledge and collaborations with the university, particularly with respect to intellectual property. Universities frequently have special TT offices which are members of the SwiTT association.

Incubators

Centres that offer an ideal environment for start-ups, in many cases without a specific relationship to technology or high-tech sectors.

Technology parks

Centres that offer an optimal environment for actual operational (vertical) TT, i.e. the transformation of the research-based invention into a successful innovation on the market. Ideally, they cover the following three axes of TT: collaborative projects with a local university, establishment of new tech-oriented companies, further education programs. To optimally bridge the gap between the different cultures of researchers and businesses – the critical factor in TT – technology parks ideally provide a common forum for application-oriented research projects by local universities and innovative companies of different stages of maturity. Due to

the multifaceted nature of the transfer process to the market, good technology parks possess a sophisticated spectrum of competences. To promote potential customers' confidence in the companies, they ensure a high success rate for the start-ups through stringent quality selection of candidates and a well-developed coaching system following acceptance. This also includes a solid horizontal TT network, i.e. marketing of the companies' products and services in the domestic and international markets as well as business development with regard to financing, IPOs and trade sales.

Science Parks

Large-scale centres established as an economic policy measure by existing, usually larger international firms for the purposes of pursuing research and development-oriented activities in the research landscape of at least one university that is a global leader.

Fraunhofer Institutes, Steinbeis Centers

Typically, these centres established in Germany are roughly half-private and half-publicly financed ventures, technically specialised centres of expertise that focus on contract research and the generation of spin-offs. In Switzerland, CSEM or Inspire AG, for example, belong to this category. These centres can be companies organized around a particular concept in a technology or science park.

The Technoparks are the Swiss answer to technology parks.