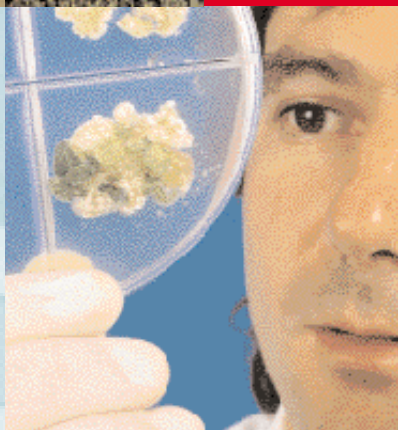
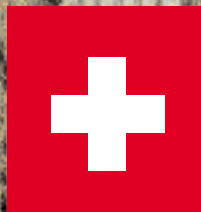
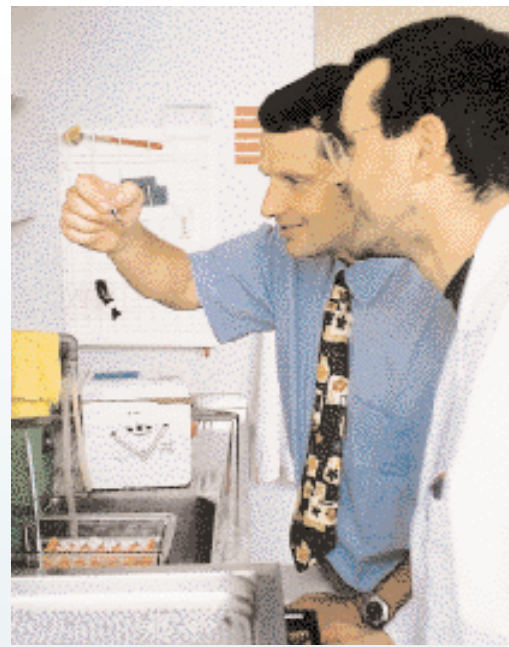


# The Swiss Biotech Industry: Growth, Diversification and a Sense of Identity





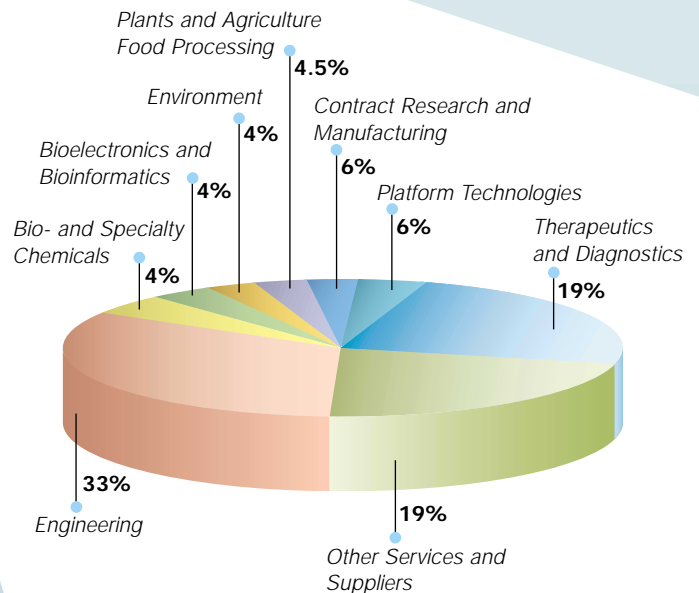
# The Swiss 'biotech-industry' ranges from world leading multinational companies to innovative university start-ups



**The Swiss Biotech Industry** is well diversified. The 2001 edition of the Swiss Biotechnology Industry Guide identifies more than 250 firms whose business is fully or partly focused on modern biotechnology, as defined by the European Federation of Biotechnology (EFB). The majority of these firms are small and medium-sized. Half of them are exclusively dedicated to modern biotechnological methods in R&D and/or production processes, with the remainder active as manufacturers of biotechnological equipment or as suppliers with manufacturing facilities in Switzerland or abroad.

**About 50 New Start-ups Have Been Created** in the past five years, in fields such as functional genomics, proteomics and bioinformatics. The dynamism of modern biotechnology in Switzerland continues the long tradition of excellence in the chemical, pharmaceutical and food industries. Besides the multinational companies, the flourishing bio-industry is also made up of small and medium-sized enterprises active mainly in the pharmaceutical sector, in engineering technologies, in platform technologies or as suppliers.

## The Well-Diversified Swiss Biotech Industry



### Swiss Biotechnology Guide

The most comprehensive directory for the Swiss biotechnology industry contains:  
 Details on more than 250 companies, an index of products and services, an index of foreign companies with representations in Switzerland.

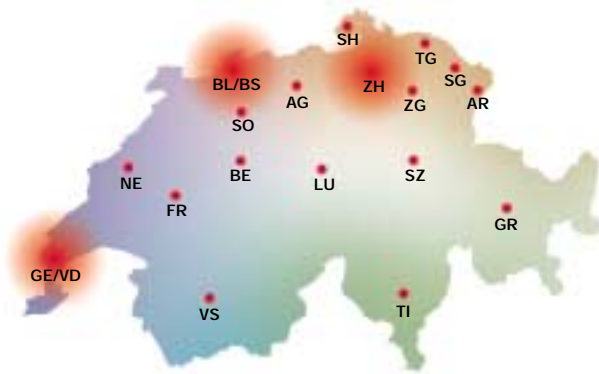
Order: [info@unitectra.ch](mailto:info@unitectra.ch)

In order to illustrate the variety of activities in the Swiss biotechnology industry, companies were categorized according to their main field of activity. Therefore, these figures do not reflect the fact that one company may be active in several sectors. Consulting firms were not included.

Source: Unitectra, Basel



**Nationwide Synergies:** Biotech firms are currently located in 20 of Switzerland's 26 cantons, with three main clusters standing out. The Basel area is home to 78 companies based around the three multinational companies Novartis, Roche and Syngenta. In the Zurich region, there are 65 companies, where academia provides the main thrust in biotechnology activities. Along the lakeshore from Geneva to Lausanne, a young bio-industry has grown from close cooperation with universities and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne. The Greater Geneva Region already consists of more than 30 companies.



• Geographical distribution of biotechnology companies



*'Biotechnology is one of the most promising sectors for the future of the Swiss economy. In addition to the exciting knowledge that will be gained through research, the biotechnology sector will also be a provider of high value-added products as well as new jobs for people. The small and medium-sized enterprises, that are characteristic of this sector, form the backbone of our national economy. The Swiss government is committed to supporting the development of the biotechnology sector.'*

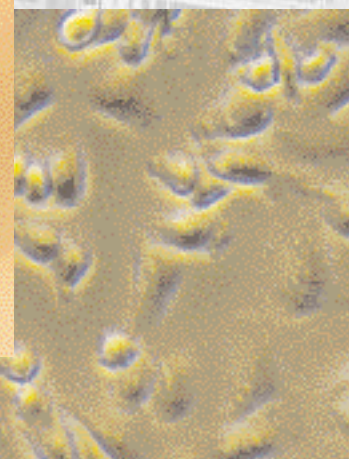
*Pascal Couchepin,  
Swiss Minister of Economy*

## Why Switzerland?

- Swiss cantonal and federal authorities are not only helpful but also flexible. Most processes are easy to handle, even for small Swiss and foreign companies.
- The legal regime largely conforms to the European Union directives and is therefore fully compatible but with fewer administrative hurdles.
- The unique Swiss political system encourages input from industries and institutions during the actual law-making process.
- Swiss universities are world-famous for the quality of their research results. Many scientists have international stature and several Nobel laureates have been named for achievements in the biological sciences
- Swiss scientists and research personnel have a broad general education. They can often also speak English, German, French and Italian, thus facilitating access to markets worldwide.
- Switzerland offers generous tax incentives for companies and social charges for employees are low.
- Compared to most European countries, Switzerland has a flexible and favorable set of labor laws.



*Pharmaceuticals, engineering, biotransformation – three fields of excellence of the Swiss biotech industry*





*'Switzerland provides an ideal environment that brings creative biotech companies to their future success: EU-adapted processes, cooperative authorities, highly-educated multilingual personnel, research-oriented universities, positive financial background, reasonable taxes and low social charges in employer-friendly political structures'*

*Dr. Roland Bühlmann, Bühlmann Laboratories,  
Founder and current president of ASBC*

## The Association of Swiss Biotechnology Companies (ASBC)

was established in March 1998 and now represents over 100 member-companies. The majority are small and medium-sized firms involved in a broad range of activities such as drugs manufacturing, diagnostics and vaccines, engineering and instrumentation, food-processing, product-oriented research, services and supply. ASBC offers its members a Swiss biotech identity and represents their interests in the political, commercial and industrial arena as well as with federal and cantonal authorities. Besides lobbying, to improve the framework conditions for the industry, the ASBC's key goals are to facilitate technology transfer between members and universities, to strengthen the contact with the European biotechnology partners and to integrate the Swiss biotech industry within the European and global development. The ASBC supports young entrepreneurs in their start-up phase, while also serving as a local contact point for foreign companies considering investment in Switzerland.

## The Association of Swiss Biotechnology Companies (ASBC): the Swiss Biotech Identity

Illustrations  
 The Swiss National Foundation,  
 J. Syfrig, Infors, AG,  
 Cell Culture Technologies, Biolytix

**All types of Swiss enterprises are active in the international business scene.**

**The Swiss multinationals**  
 Lonza  
 Novartis  
 Roche  
 Serono  
 Syngenta

**Examples of smaller, well-established companies**  
 Berna  
 BioEngineering  
 Bühlmann Laboratories  
 Infors  
 Pentapharm  
 RCC

**Examples of innovative start-ups**  
 Actelion  
 Cytos Biotechnology  
 Geneprot  
 Modex Thérapeutiques  
 Prionics

**Examples of international newcomers**  
 Baxter Healthcare Corp.  
 Cilag (Johnson & Johnson)  
 Covance  
 Edwards Life Science  
 Fluka (Sigma Aldrich)  
 Knoll (Abbott)  
 Werthenstein Chemie  
 (Shering-Plough)

*Regardless of their size and the number of years since they were founded, many Swiss enterprises are engaged in the international business scene*

Source: Unitectra

## Further Information

**To order the 2001 Swiss Biotechnology Industry Guide:**

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