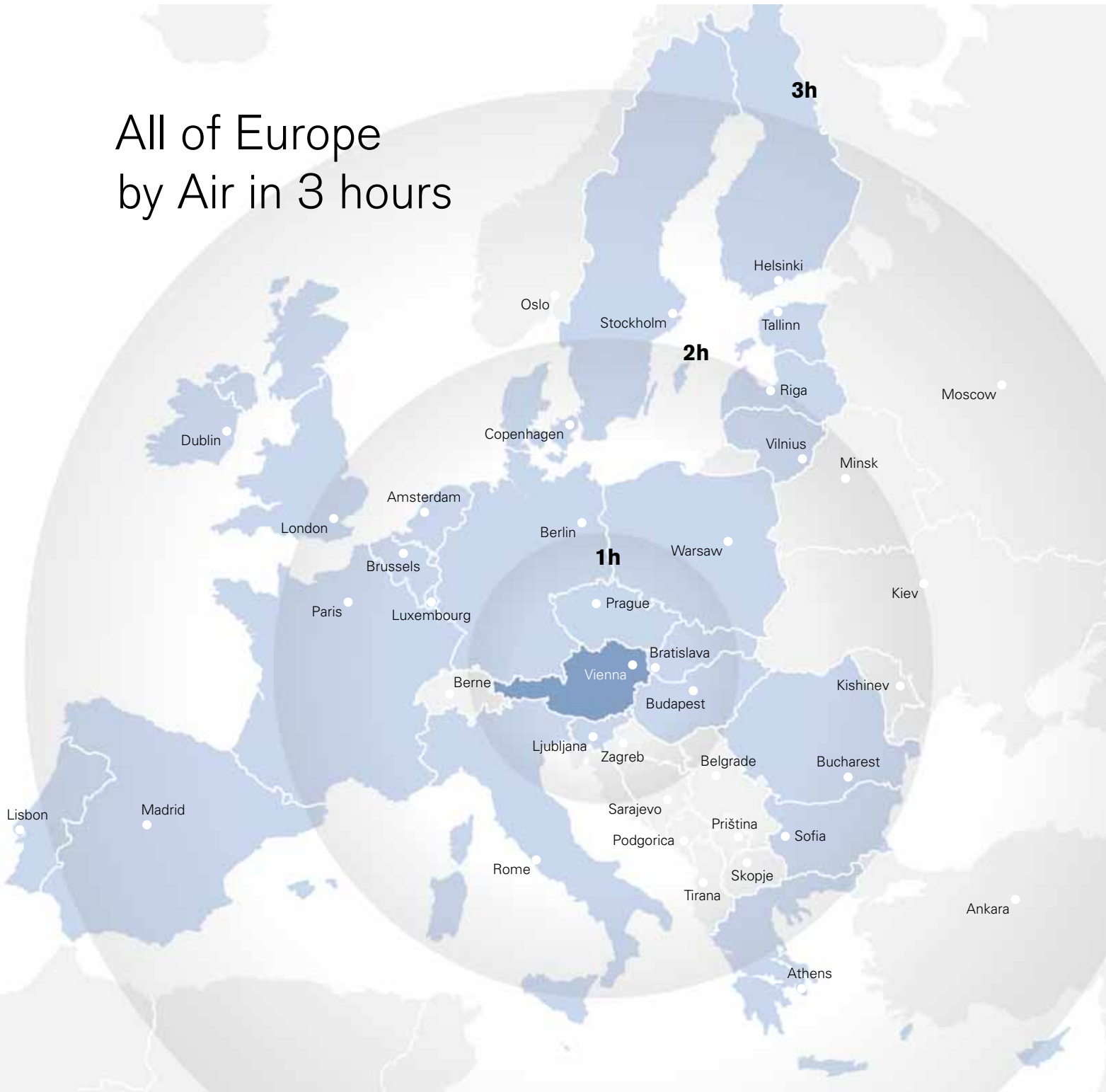




Austria*

*Programmed for success

All of Europe by Air in 3 hours



Austria's central location in Europe makes the country the ideal hub for East-West business relations

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 *austriamicrosystems*

“The reasons for selecting Austria at the time of its founding in 1981 were the proximity to the Graz University of Technology offering research and courses of study in our area of expertise, and thus direct access to excellent specialized staff. We highly value the cooperation with research institutions in the region, and the uncomplicated cooperation with public authorities and funding bodies. Highly qualified specialists coupled with outstanding research institutions create a solid basis for flagship companies such as austriamicrosystems.”

John A. Heugle, CEO of austriamicrosystems

Big Players, Excellencies and Early Adopters

Austria's IT industry is characterized by its creativity. Austria is home to innovation centers of the really big players and spin-offs of universities. Their products are inspiring the world.

Austrians are considered to be early adopters. They convince themselves by trying out everything that's new on the technology market. The World Competitiveness Yearbook 2010 confirms the high level of IT competence on the part of the Alpine Republic. It is ranked 12th among 60 countries evaluated by the study, ahead of high-tech nations such as Great Britain, Switzerland and Japan. According to the e-readiness ranking 2009 developed jointly by the Economist Intelligence Unit (UK) and the IBM Institute for Business Value, Austria places 14th among 70 nations worldwide, surpassing countries such as France, Germany and Japan. Austria is among the top three, behind only Singapore and Iceland, in providing support to the development and application of new technologies, beating previous frontrunners such as Sweden, Denmark and the USA.

Austria's ICT companies generated revenues of EUR 11.5 billion in 2009. This figure would swell to EUR 30 billion if downstream sectors such as consulting, advertising and media were included. Some 15,000 companies in Austria operate in the IT industry alone, employing 170,000 people. As a result, ICT is one of Austria's key business sectors, and is even bigger than the tourism industry when measured against the country's GDP.

The key to success. Competition and heterogeneity are typical features of the growing ICT market in Austria. In addition to major players such as Siemens, Infineon, Sony and Microsoft, Austria boasts specialized niche providers such as Fabasoft, Frequentis, Skidata and AT&S, as well as numerous smaller companies, many of them spin-offs and temporary business or science partnerships ensuring creativity and dynamism on this market.

Approximately 1.6 percent of the gross domestic product is being invested in ICT at the present time. On balance, total IT expenditures amount to EUR 10.1 billion and increasing steadily. On a medium-term basis, the industry expects annual growth of 4.4 percent.

ICT means research and development. Austria offers numerous direct and indirect funding and incentive programs for innovation-oriented companies. In addition to the excellent basic research being carried out, for example at universities or the Austrian Academy of Sciences (ÖAW), companies also profit from multi-disciplinary applied research and a dense network of internationally renowned competence centers as well as science and business clusters.



Partners, Creative Minds and Spin-offs

ICT companies in Austria always find the research partners they need. This is the way new products, new markets and in turn new firms arise.

Limes Stealth and Car2X. The computer filter Limes Stealth designed to repulse undesired access to networks, the integrated IT solution “Car2X” enabling an exchange of information between vehicles and traffic lights, or a three-dimensional, interactive computer model to analyze the behavior of pedestrians in buildings are the latest examples of ICT developments in Austria. Whereas Limes Stealth was created by seven partner companies at the Upper Austrian mechatronics cluster led by the spin-off firm Underground_8 secure computing, Car2X originated from a cooperation project of Siemens Corporate Technology CEE in Vienna with the German automobile manufacturer BMW. The intelligent model to evaluate pedestrian flows is from Austria’s pre-eminent research and development company in the field of visual computing, the VRVis Research Center for Virtual Reality and Visualization.

The structure of Austria’s research landscape meets the ICT industry’s need for interdisciplinarity and dynamism. Austria is conducting internationally cutting edge R&D work in several areas, in particular embedded systems, mobile communications, microelectronics, visual computing and e-Government.

Renowned non-university research. Alongside excellent university institutes in the ICT sector located in Vienna, Graz, Linz and Innsbruck, Austria stands out on the basis of a whole range of outstanding non-university facilities which carry out globally recognized research work. The Austrian Institute of Technology (AIT) is considered to be the largest non-university research company in Austria. As a partner to the business community and public institutions, AIT researches and develops technologies, methods and tools in the field of key infrastructure issues. In its “Safety & Security” department, AIT focuses on optimizing ICT in public administration (e-Government), electricity supply and telecommunications. However, the teams work on ICT-related problems in other areas as well, for example with regards to mobility (traffic telematics) and energy (smart grids).

Universities and companies carry out basic research at the approximately 60 Christian Doppler research laboratories, focusing on research questions they have usually developed together. For example, the Embedded Software Systems laboratory analyzes, amongst other tasks, the so-called plug-in architecture. Its corporate partner is AVL List GmbH from the automotive sector.

The situation at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Clinical Forensic Imaging is quite similar. It is working on computer and magnetic resonance tomography to improve the evidence presented at court.

- www.mechatronik-cluster.at
- www.underground8.com
- www.siemens.at
- www.vrvis.at
- www.ait.ac.at
- www.cdg.ac.at
- www.ludwigboltzmann.at

Three Pillars of Success

Austria fulfills the requirements of young companies, giving them precisely what they need to develop successfully: technology, financing and a market.

Within a period of just ten years, the spin-off TTTech of the Vienna University of Technology has advanced to become the leading provider of time-controlled computer systems, and counts multinational companies such as Audi, Bosch and Magna among its customers. Hermann Kopetz describes the conducive business environment for research and start-ups in Austria.

How would you describe the overall environment for your research?

In international comparison, the underlying conditions for carrying out research at the Vienna University of Technology are very good. The relatively large number of excellent and highly motivated doctoral students along with the balanced combination of institutionally financed purpose-free basic research and technological research financed within the context of projects comprise an environment enabling innovative ideas to be developed, from initial conception to the technology prototype.

What makes Austria a good place for spin-offs?

Every high-tech start-up requires at least three pillars: a tried and tested innovative technology within the scope of the prototype that is protected by patents if possible, solid financing adjusted to the inherent risks of a high-tech start-up, and the vision of a marketplace to which the value of the new technology can be conveyed. All these factors can be found in Austria.

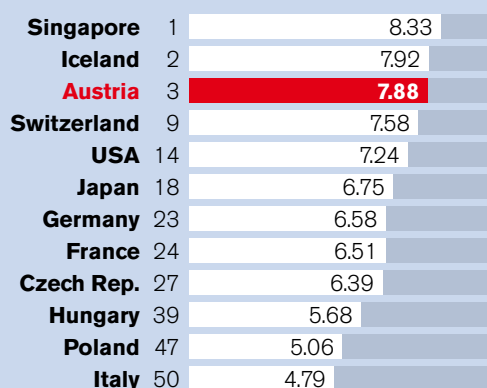


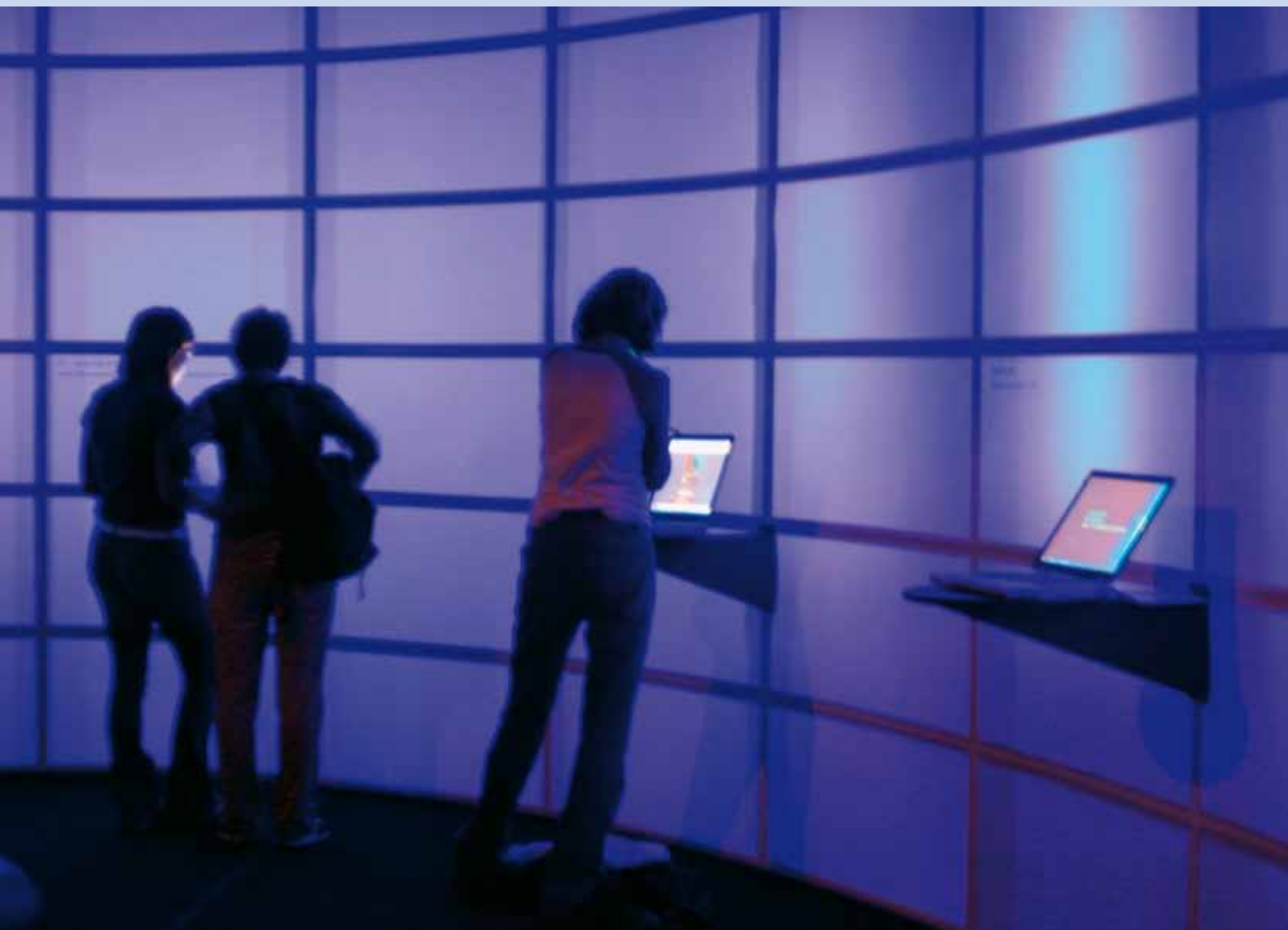
Hermann Kopetz, co-founder of TTTech and board member of the Institute of Computer Engineering at the Vienna University of Technology

→ www.tttech.com

Application-oriented access

10 = Development and application of new technologies are supported by the legal environment





ICT companies carrying out research in Austria

for example:

Alcatel	Kapsch
AMS	LAM Research
AT&S	NXP
Datacon	Philips
Epcos	Plansee
EV Group	Siemens
Fabasoft	Skidata
Frequentis	Sony DADC
General Electric	Telekom Austria
Infineon	

Bits and Bytes by Region

Information and communications technologies are not evenly distributed, but can be found throughout Austria.



Vienna as an IT metropolis. Vienna is considered to be the largest IT hub in Central and Eastern Europe. Two-thirds of all ICT companies in Austria have their headquarters in Vienna. Some 64,000 people are employed by 5,300 companies, generating more than 78 percent of total industry revenues (EUR 28.4 billion). The Vienna Region i.e. the economic region consisting of three federal provinces of Vienna, Lower Austria and Burgenland, even compasses 8,200 firms with more than 73,000 employees. The export ratio is close to 70 percent. More than half of all exports are destined for CEE markets. The Austrian capital boasts enormous ICT research capabilities at the Vienna University of Technology and is home to big players such as IBM, Kapsch, Philips and Siemens.

Booming provinces. Upper Austria has long belonged to the premier league of the ICT business. The software park in Hagenberg including the accompanying university of applied sciences, university institutes and polytechnic high school is considered to be the core of Upper Austria's IT competencies. In Styria, the Graz University of technology lends a dynamic impetus to the ICT industry, spawning numerous spin-offs such as the internationally well-known company AVL List GmbH and tyromotion, a firm developing rehabilitation devices on the basis of virtual reality. Carinthia is home to Infineon Technologies Austria, the market leader for semiconductor technologies. At the same time, SMEs such as SanData Solutions GmbH and pmi Software und Datenkommunikations GmbH exploit the competitive advantages of the business location. Carinthia boasts a competent R&D basis featuring an outstanding university structure, Lakeside Science & Technology Park in Klagenfurt and Villach Technology Park.

Microsoft strengthens its operations in Austria. The international software and IT giant Microsoft expanded its presence in Austria by establishing the Microsoft Innovation Center (M.I.C.) in Vienna. Following the takeover of the Austro-American company Vexcel specializing in photogrammetry, Microsoft now has two solid footholds in Vienna and Graz. M.I.C. is a platform for customers and partners in the field of innovation, from Hewlett Packard to Polycom.

→ www.vite.at

→ www.softwarepark.at

→ www.lakeside-scitec.com

FREQUENTIS

“About 70 percent of all Frequentis employees are engineers and specialists. 12 percent of revenues are committed to research and development activities every year. We have a pronounced R&D orientation.”

Christian Pegritz, Member of the Executive Board of Frequentis



International & Innovative

Many “big players” in the international ICT industry are exploiting the competitive advantages of Austria as a research location. A portrait of three multinational companies:

Infineon Technologies Austria In past decades the Austrian subsidiary of the multinational group Infineon Technologies has emerged as one of the most important flagship companies in Austria. The market leader in the field of semiconductor technologies strongly focuses on innovation. In 2009, Infineon Austria invested a total of EUR 195 million in R&D, corresponding to 22 percent of its total revenues. Close to 2,500 employees at facilities located in Villach, Klagenfurt, Graz, Linz and Vienna research, develop and manufacture microchips and microelectronic solutions for cars, industry and communications. Most recently, the company has been intensively focusing on the future-oriented issue of energy efficiency. Based on its ultra-thin wafer technology for energy saving chips, the company has succeeded in producing thin wafers with a thickness of only 40 micrometers, processing them on both sides and solving the problem of handling and transport.

Siemens AG Austria The global giant Siemens has been continually expanding its facilities in Vienna. The newly-founded Corporate Technology CEE (CT CEE) with its departments Research & Technology und Development Center have been headquartered in the Austrian capital since April 2009. The latest milestone took place in November 2009. The headquarters for six areas of research and development was transferred to Siemens Austria, employing R&D staff and involving total investments of EUR 25 million annually. In June 2010, Siemens completed “Siemens City” in Vienna-Floridsdorf, the largest commercial development project of the international company at the present time.

Philips Austria Austria is not only an interesting market for the subsidiary of the Dutch electronics group Philips, but also a high-tech location. Philips employs some 700 people in Austria. Every fourth employee does research and development work. Approximately 400 people work at the Austrian innovation and competence centers located in Vienna and Klagenfurt. The latest product innovation “Made in Austria” is SpeechMikeAir, in which Philips launched a wireless input device on the marketplace, particularly for use in hospitals.

SIEMENS

“Austria has been an important player in the research landscape of Siemens. The high technological competence of Siemens Austria is highly valued, particularly with respect to future areas of focus such as smart grids or electromobility. For Siemens, Vienna is also the international business interface for its operations in the CEE region.”

Edeltraud Stiftinger, Head of Corporate Technology CEE Siemens

ICT from Austria

Austria is fertile ground for innovative ICT companies.
Three success stories “Made in Austria“:



Kapsch Since 1982, the Austrian company Kapsch has emerged as a market leading systems provider for innovative traffic telematics and telecommunications solutions. In 2009, the 2,600 employees of the internationally operating Kapsch Group generated revenues of close to EUR 508 million. A total of EUR 27 million was invested in R&D activities. Due to its acquisition of parts of the Carrier Networks Division of the Canadian telecommunications company Nortel, Kapsch CarrierCom became the global market leader in the field of GSM-R. Customers include the French and German railway systems. Kapsch TrafficCom, another subsidiary of the Kapsch Group, is currently developing control systems for traffic access to the downtown areas of cities such as Rome or Bologna within the context of a joint venture with the Italian plant manufacturer Busi Impianti.

Frequentis Frequentis develops and markets communications and information systems for security-sensitive solutions in the air traffic management and public safety & transport sectors, operating subsidiaries in the USA, Australia and Singapore. Most of the 850 employees work at the corporate headquarters and R&D hub located in Vienna. 12 percent of the total revenue generated in 2009 (EUR 132 million) is invested in research and development. The latest success was achieved in July 2010, when Frequentis concluded a contract with AVINOR, Norway’s state-owned air traffic control services company. Over the next three years, the two firms aim to jointly develop a solution for airport towers based on “Integrated Control and Monitoring Systems (ICAMS)”.

AT&S The Austrian company AT&S is the leading manufacturer of printed circuit boards in Europe and India. The flagship company is well positioned in the high-tech segment for HDI Microvia printed circuit boards used primarily in mobile devices. With close to 5,900 employees, AT&S generated revenues of EUR 372.2 million in the 2009/10 financial year. One current project is a technological partnership with the Dutch-German solar company Solland Solar to develop a prototype production line for photovoltaic modules with Sunweb® back-contacted solar cells.

→ www.kapsch.at
→ www.frequentis.com
→ www.ats.net



“Austria offers an extremely high quality of life, from its natural environment and cultural offering to its stable political situation. All these factors comprise key selling points for international ICT experts and renowned researchers, i.e. the human potential we require to further strengthen our innovative prowess.”

Kari Kapsch, Member of the Management Board of the Kapsch Group and CEO of Kapsch CarrierCom



Strong Duo: Research and Industry

Competence centers of excellence create an effective network between the scientific and business communities and strengthen regional development.

A very promising innovation process usually emerges when science meets business. The know-how and creativity of research institutions embody an enormous potential to solve the complex problems industry faces and initiate valuable technology transfer. Based on its nationwide funding initiative “COMET – Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies” launched in 2007, Austria’s research and technology policy is sending a unique message in Europe to link science and industry. The aim of the COMET program, as well as its predecessors Kplus and K_ind/K_net, is to strengthen the cooperation between companies and the scientific community, bundle research competencies in high-value research and technology fields, and promote the commercial realization of the resultant findings. Today COMET encompasses more than 1,500 people from science and industry at 46 competence centers throughout Austria, who work on jointly defined research programs at an internationally competitive level.

Tops in telecommunications. Several competence centers have been successfully established at the interface to the ICT industry. The Telecommunications Research Center Vienna (FTW) is a nationally leading and internationally recognized center for research and development of technologies for cutting edge communications systems of the future. FTW concentrates on researching and developing communications scenarios for telecommunications, traffic and energy systems. Within the context of the DARWIN project, FTW jointly researched and analyzed problems which could arise during the operation of 3G networks together with the traffic telematics experts at Kapsch CarrierCom, the telecommunications company mobilkom and the Vienna University of Technology. The aim was to optimize network stability, performance and security on a long-term basis. In the follow-up project, the team is now dealing with monitoring data traffic in a 3G mobile telephone network.

Excellent in visual computing. The VRVis Research Center for Virtual Reality and Visualization is Austria’s largest research and development company in the field of visual computing and virtual reality. VRVis together with the Institute of Computer Graphics at the Vienna University of Technology and the Austrian Academy of Sciences comprises Europe’s second largest research group for computer graphics. VRVis is cooperating with AVL List, the world leader in developing powertrain systems on the interactive, task-oriented optimization of internal combustion engines.

Strong in software engineering. The Software Competence Center Hagenberg (SCCH) is one of the largest independent software research centers in Austria and plays a pioneering role for software-related technological research and development trends. Embedded in the Softwarepark Hagenberg cluster, the competence center has long served as an internationally recognized specialist for software engineering and technology, database technology and knowledge-based technology. SCCH developed a forecasting model on the basis of an artificial neuronal network within the context of an innovative project jointly carried out with the Austrian electricity company Verbund. The aim of this cooperation was to precisely predict the exact amounts of electricity which can be fed into the power grid. The forecasting model for short-term predictions is only one part of Verbund's energy planning concept.



Intelligent sensor technology. The CTR Carinthian Tech Research AG (Competence Centre for Advanced Sensor Technologies) located in the federal province of Carinthia is Austria's competence center for intelligent sensor technology. Its R&D areas of focus include optical systems technology, microsystems technology and Surface Acoustic Wave (SAW) systems. CTR is developing SAW temperature sensors for high voltage overhead lines on behalf of the German company HVDiagnostics, experts for the development and production of diagnostic and monitoring devices for the supply and technical support of high voltage power lines.

→ www.ftw.at
 → www.vrvis.at
 → www.scch.at
 → www.ctr.at



“COMET competence centers offer a variety of advantages, such as access to the latest scientific findings, effective know-how and transfer on the basis of partnerships with companies in the field of innovative product development and their commercial realization in business operations within the context of cost-effective research projects based on public funding.“

Georg Stonawski, CEO of VRVis



Application-oriented and Visionary

You find the right employees for the job in Austria.

Simply studying computer sciences is not enough. Companies place high and sophisticated demands on employees today, similar to the application of ICT-based solutions. Competition has intensified and accelerated. Innovations must be brought to market in increasingly shorter cycles. Accordingly, the Austrian education system is application-oriented. On the one hand, for example, ICT education at universities of applied sciences specializes in specific applications areas. On the other hand, there is a long tradition of mathematical excellence at universities, tending less towards ivory towers and more towards spin-offs. TTTech, the specialist for time-controlled computer systems, is a spin-off of the Vienna University of Technology. The traffic management systems of EFKON AG originated at the Graz University of Technology and are used around the world. The University of Linz spawned the internationally recognized IT service company RISC Software GmbH, which develops individualized software solutions for business, medicine and industry.

Application-oriented education. Polytechnic schools play a particularly important role in providing scientific and technical training. Like the high schools, they also offer university entrance qualifications, but their courses of study are more job-oriented. Many have laboratories similar to small research institutions, and carry out independent research projects. In Austria there are a total of 75 such polytechnic schools (HTL), which frequently cooperate with companies. For example, the Department for Information Technology at HTL Villach partners with Microsoft. The Secondary Technical and Vocational College LiTec in Linz established its own branch for information technologies, which has gained recognition beyond the country's borders.

University education for the economy

10 = University education meets the needs of a competitive economy

Singapore	1	8.26
Iceland	2	8.04
Switzerland	3	7.95
Finland	4	7.73
Canada	5	7.66
Denmark	9	7.12
USA	10	7.11
Austria	12	6.92
Sweden	15	6.77
Germany	16	6.72
France	23	5.79
Czech Republic	25	5.70
UK	26	5.69

Motivated workforce

10 = Employee motivation in companies is high

Switzerland	1	7.82
Denmark	2	7.80
Austria	3	7.77
Taiwan	4	7.68
Malaysia	5	7.46
Singapore	7	7.03
Japan	11	6.82
Germany	16	6.65
USA	2	6.14
UK	36	5.22
Czech Republic	39	5.21
France	42	4.71
Italy	43	4.69



There are 21 universities of applied sciences in Austria offering about 240 different study programs. Approximately 50 of them focus on information and communications technologies. If one added the ICT-related courses of study such as bioengineering at Technikum Wien, a university of applied sciences, the number of ICT study programs would actually account for more than half of the total. Each university of applied sciences has a different focus, but one feature they have in common is their practical orientation. Some 30,000 students attend these universities, many of whom work and study at the same time. It is a fact that considerable importance is attached to continuing education combined with specialization in Austria.

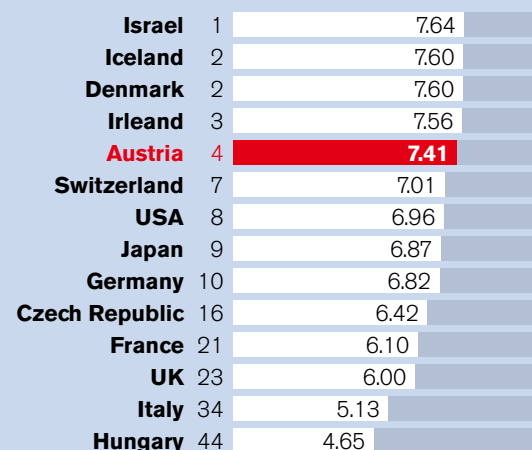
Mathematics, logic and experimental physics are crucial to the further development of information and communications technologies, and comprise special strengths of Austrian universities. The universities of Vienna and Innsbruck are home to the Institute for Quantum Optics and Quantum Information (IQOQI), which may end up revolutionizing ICT with quantum technology. The internationally-oriented European Centre of Time-Frequency Analysis financed by a Marie Curie excellence grant can also be found at the University of Vienna. These sites of scientific excellence not only serve as research partners, but also teach and train highly qualified employees.

Austria has 22 public universities, two of which exclusively focus on technology and sciences (Vienna University of Technology and Graz University of Technology). The three medical universities have their own study courses or institutes for medical ICT.

- www.tuwien.ac.at
- www.tugraz.at
- www.jku.at
- www.htl.at
- www.fachhochschulen.at
- www.univie.ac.at
- www.uibk.ac.at
- www.iqqqi.at

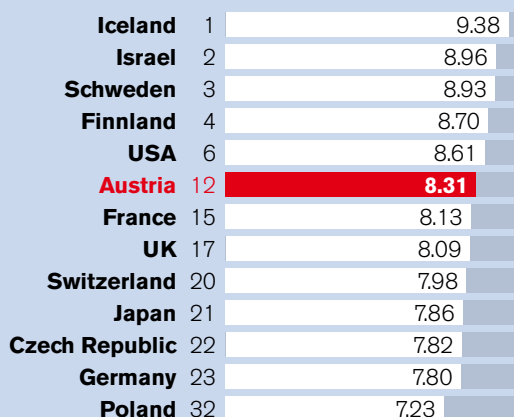
High availability of qualified staff

10 = readily available



High IT competence

10 = readily available



Source: World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2010

Source: World Competitiveness Yearbook, 2010



EU e-Government champion

Online availability of public services in percent

Austria	100
Malta	100
Portugal	100
UK	100
Finland	89
Denmark	84
Ireland	83
Estonia	83
France	80
Germany	74
Belgium	70
Hungary	63
Czech Republic	60
Iceland	55
Cyprus	50
Greece	45
Bulgaria	40
Croatia	35

European Champion in E-Government

Austria is the EU leader in the expansion and implementation of e-Government as well as the user-friendliness of online services offered by both the public sector and companies.

Whether it is a question of getting legal advice and security information or applying for tax adjustments, it is a long-established fact that modern information and communications technologies enable new electronic services to be made available on the Internet.

100 percent online availability. Austria is a step ahead of other European nations with regard to e-Government. Since 2006, it has been ranked first in the EU with regard to its expansion and nationwide implementation. According to the EU's e-Government rankings for 2009, Austria offers 100 percent "full online availability" for public services, along with Malta, Portugal and Great Britain, which first reached this milestone in 2009. Austria offers very good infrastructural pre-requisites. 52 percent of the population and 98 percent of businesses have Internet access. Whether it is a question of electronic delivery, e-banking or e-health, more than 80 percent of all companies take advantage of e-Government services, and an increasing number of citizens are also electronic customers. The online platform "Digital Austria" serves as a national coordination and monitoring interface, offering information and instructions on how to take advantage of the e-Government offering.

Excellent Help.gv.at. Together with the personalized portal MyHELP.gv.at, Austria is focusing its efficiency enhancement efforts on providing one-stop-shop solutions. Some 4.6 million users turn to HELP.gv.at at any time of day or night to access 31 million pages annually. About 1,000 inquiries are individually answered by experts each month. More than 1,000 forms are available online for downloading, and more than 350 processes can be carried out directly online.

Innovative e-Government. The latest milestone initiated by Austria is "Digital Austria Explorer", a globally unique e-Government project. Together with Microsoft Austria, the platform established the first e-Government browser in Austria. The aim of this joint initiative is to make existing and future e-Government services for citizens and companies even faster, more clearly structured and secure. The cost-free installation of "Digital Austria Explorer" enables users to exploit a toolbar of their Microsoft IE 8 Web browser and thus gain direct access to the most important public administration portals in Austria. As a result, finding their way around virtual public offices will be even easier and more straightforward for people in the future.

→ www.digitales.oesterreich.gv.at
 → www.help.gv.at
 → www.egiz.gv.at
 → www.digitales.oesterreich.gv.at/explorer



Austria: Experts in Mobile Telephony

The ICT sector expects immense economic impetus to be generated with the consistent expansion of mobile broadband Internet and new technologies.

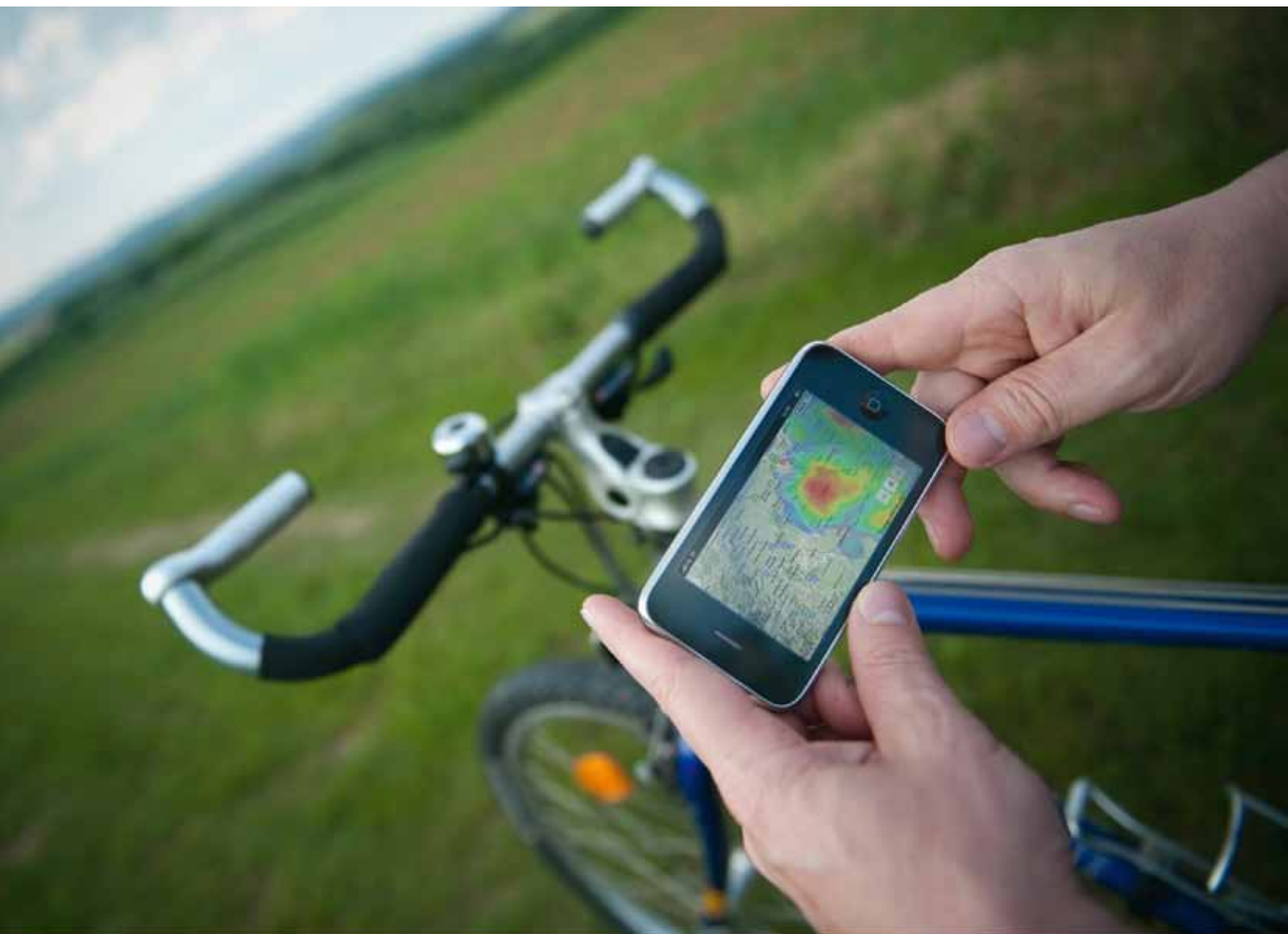
Mobile phone operators report that in 2009 the number of call minutes rose by 8 percent from the previous year to 21.2 billion. 5.8 billion SMS text messages were sent in the same period, a 22 percent increase compared to 2008. Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) in the sector amounted to EUR 1.05 billion in 2009.

The top growth driver in the mobile phone business in Austria is mobile broadband. In 2009, the Alpine Republic once again posted growth in this segment. The number of mobile users climbed 33 percent to 1.29 million, or 41 percent of all broadband connections in the country. More than 15 percent of all Austrians have mobile broadband access, one of the best track records in Europe. The development is also reflected by data volumes. 16.3 million gigabytes were transported via Austria's mobile phone network in 2009, compared to 33.5 million in Germany in the same period. The market penetration of mobile phone services amounts to 137 percent, above the EU average of 122 percent.

Impetus to business. Mobile telephony is an extremely important factor in the economy. The industry expects to invest up to EUR 500 million in new mobile broadband connections over the next few years. Up to 6,500 new jobs could be created according to a study carried out by the Austrian Institute of Economic Research (WIFO). Technologies are also being further developed. The largest mobile phone operators in Austria, mobilkom austria, Orange, T-mobile and Hutchison 3G Austria, are intensively working on expanding the infrastructure and making the technological leap to the fourth generation mobile technology. Experts want to provide additional impetus to rural or economically disadvantaged regions by means of state-of-the-art broadband technologies such as LTE. A new national rollout plan to implement modern mobile broadband networks will serve as the basis to achieve this.

Forum Mobilkommunikation. The Forum Mobilkommunikation (FMK) set up by the mobile phone industry serves as the contact point for all issues relating to mobile communications and the mobile telephone infrastructure. FMK also mediates between mobile phone operators and municipalities in order to jointly develop solutions. In addition to the large mobile phone operators, this initiative is being supported by IT and mobile phone companies such as Kapsch Carrier-Com, Siemens Networks, Alcatel Lucent, Sony Ericsson, Nokia and Motorola.

→ www.fmk.at



A1 Telekom Austria



“Austria is among the European leaders in mobile telephony. R&D is an important basis for market success. The focus is always on customer value. Partnerships with research centers exist along the entire value chain, from basic research, product development to usability and market research. Austria’s researchers rank among the very best internationally. In this way a small country can achieve big things with innovation and know-how and sustainably secure its position as a business location.”

Hannes Ametsreiter, Chief Executive Officer of Telekom Austria and mobilkom austria



Top Priority: Promotion and Funding

Austria provides special funding and support for ITC research and development.

Austria Wirtschaftsservice (aws)

austria wirtschaftsservice (aws) provides assistance for the setting up or further development of a R&D-oriented company, or the commercial exploitation of research results. As the national promotional bank of the federal government, aws serves as the central contact point for company-related business promotion. As a driver of value creation, it offers both start-ups and publicly listed companies an optimal mix of subsidies and financing for economic development.

The service offering of aws encompasses grants, low-interest loans and the assumption of guarantees to support and consultancy services for start up, development and growth processes. Its special offers are designed to promote company projects in selected fields such as creative industries, environmental technologies and life sciences.

Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG)

The Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) is the national funding institution for applied industrial research in Austria. About one quarter of R&D expenditures on the part of companies involve FFG projects. All firms with a registered office in Austria, including subsidiaries of foreign companies, are generally entitled to funding. In addition, the "headquarters program" initiated by FFG provides targeted support for the setting up and expansion of research centers in Austria. For this purpose, FFG funds R&D projects of internationally operating companies, inasmuch as these projects are designed to establish or sustainably expand independent research and development facilities in Austria, for example within the framework of the structural program COMET – Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies. A large share of FFG funding is comprised of "bottom up" grants. These are general and structural programs which are not linked to specific contents stipulated by FFG but provide financial assistance on the basis of ideas developed by the innovators. There are more than 30 other programs pursuing specific goals defined by Austria's research policies.

FFG has developed three thematic programs to support ICT-related research and development:

FIT-IT. The FIT-IT program – Research and Innovation for Information Technologies – promotes cooperative research projects between ICT companies and research institutions to enable long-term technological breakthroughs and exploit Austria’s economic potential. At present FIT-IT is focusing on five lines of research: Embedded Systems, Semantic Systems and Services, Systems on Chips, Visual Computing and Trust in IT Systems.

ARTEMIS, ENIAC, ModSim. Several other initiatives have been implemented within the framework of the FIT-IT program since the year 2008. ARTEMIS and ENIAC are two novel types of Public-Private-Partnerships between the European Commission, member states and European industrial enterprises in the fields of embedded systems and nanoelectronics. The research promotion initiative ModSim (Computational Mathematics) aims at developing new modeling and simulation applications for Austrian industry and research.

AT:net. The AT:net (Austrian electronic network) program of FFG promotes the market launch of IT applications and solutions which are in the public interest on the basis of broadband technology, such as e-Government and e-Health.

benefit. The national program “benefit” promotes the research and development of ICT products and services aimed at maintaining and improving the quality of life of the elderly, and helping them to live as long and independently as possible.

Austrian Science Fund (FWF)

The Austrian Science Fund (FWF) is the counterpart to industrial and commercial research. The FWF is Austria’s central funding organization for basic research. It is equally committed to all disciplines, and exclusively orients its activities to accepted standards of the international scientific community.

European Recovery Program funds (ERP funds)

The ERP funds not only generally promote small and medium-sized companies, but also particularly focus on supporting R&D projects by making low-interest investment loans available.

Research more, pay less

The Austrian tax system is extremely attractive to companies. From 2011, it grants a „research premium“ of 10 percent of all R&D expenditures. Education is also rewarded. Companies can claim a 20 percent education allowance for training and professional development measures offered to their staff. As an alternative, firms can also claim a research premium of eight percent and an education premium of six percent.



Research promotion and subsidies

→ www.ffg.at

→ www.awsg.at

→ www.fwf.ac.at

→ www.erp-fonds.at

Austrian Ministry of Financial Affairs

→ www.bmf.gv.at

Bureaucracy made easy:

→ www.help.gv.at



ABA-Invest in Austria offers you comprehensive service – from investment subsidies and market opportunities to tax issues. A team of 29 qualified employees provides you with unbureaucratic support, putting its know-how at your disposal. And it does so at no cost to you.

The Best Contact Partner for Business Location Issues

As a consulting company set up by the Republic of Austria, ABA-Invest in Austria (ABA) is the top choice of international investors.

- **Personalized advisory services.** ABA-Invest in Austria is staffed by long-standing, experienced **investment consultants**. ABA offers you competent employees who will personally take care of you, and provide all the necessary contacts you require in Austria.
- **Comprehensive information pool.** ABA-Invest in Austria can provide you with all the up-to-date data on **Austria as a business location**. ABA supplies information about branches, technologies and market developments, as well as the overall political and economic environment.
- **Competent consulting.** ABA-Invest in Austria advises you on the **choice of an optimal site**. ABA provides information on labor and tax issues, informs you about the best possible investment subsidies, researches current real estate costs or assists you in solving different problems which may arise when setting up business operations in Austria.
- **Vigorous support.** ABA-Invest in Austria helps you in **handling formalities** and dealing with public authorities. Together with you, ABA will complete applications for investment grants or operating licenses, and supports you working in close cooperation with the respective regional investment promotion agency.
- **Long-term service.** ABA-Invest in Austria offers long-term consulting services and investor support. Even after the project has been completed, ABA is available to provide support services for further investments and developmental steps.
- **International links.** ABA-Invest in Austria operates a **global network**. ABA puts its offices in New York and Tokyo at your disposal to serve as cooperation partners, and also identifies the right contacts at the foreign trade offices of the Austrian Federal Chamber of Commerce.
- **Additional areas of competence.** In addition to comprehensive, personal consulting services, ABA-Invest in Austria has developed specialized brochures designed to provide additional information on the following topics:



- Business Location Austria
- Springboard to Eastern Europe
- Automotive Industry
- Research and Development
- Information Technology
- Life Sciences
- Environmental Technologies & Renewable Energies
- Tourism
- Private Equity & Real Estate
- Chemicals / Plastics
- Machine Construction / Mechatronics / Electronics
- Logistics
- Starting a Business in Austria
- Tax Aspects of Industrial Investments in Austria

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