

Invest in Switzerland

News | Winter 2017-18

[View this e-mail in your browser](#)



Top of the News

Recent Ranking Data Highlight Swiss Advantages:

For the 9th consecutive year, Switzerland ranks as the world's most competitive country for business in the WEF Global Competitive Report 2017-2018. Among the 114 factors where we place first are Ability to Attract and Retain Talent, IP Protection, and Capacity for Innovation. ([more](#))

Switzerland receives good grades in the Corruption Perceptions Index 2017, released by Transparency International. Compared to last year's ranking, the country jumped from fifth to third place. New Zealand and Denmark claim the top spots, the U.S. ranks 16th. ([more](#))

Switzerland retains the top position in the Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2018, published by INSEAD, which in addition ranks Zurich as first among 90 worldwide cities assessed. ([more](#))

We rate another top ranking for talent from the IMD World Talent Ranking 2017, followed by Denmark and Belgium. The US ranks 16th, down three places from 2016. ([more](#))

Switzerland is the freest country in the world, replacing Hong Kong at the top of the Human Freedom Index 2017 (HFI). The Fraser and Cato Institutes evaluate 159 countries. The US is 17th. ([more](#))

For innovation, Switzerland retains its first place global ranking in the 2017 European Innovation Scoreboard for the 7th year in a row. ([more](#))

Switzerland remains an island of stable prosperity in the world according to the 2018 Best Countries report, a global survey by US News. The rankings evaluate 80 countries. ([more](#))

Wins and Updates

Bio-Rad Laboratories, the California-based global provider of life science research and clinical diagnostic products, opened a European headquarters in Basel. ([more](#))

CSL Behring, the global biotechnology company from Pennsylvania, plans to establish a research and development center for innovative therapeutic biologics on the premises of Bern's Inselspital. ([more](#))

Cytovia Oncology, a subsidiary of New Jersey-based Immune Pharmaceuticals, established a company in the Swiss canton Vaud and plans to set up an International Operations Headquarters.

Goldman Sachs Group is planning to open a representative office in Geneva. The US bank already employs around 100 people in Zurich, mainly in private banking and securities trading. ([more](#))

Halozyme Therapeutics, the San Diego-based biotechnology company, established a European headquarters in Basel citing its outstanding biotechnology talent pool. ([more](#))

Hewlett-Packard inaugurated a new EMEA headquarters in Geneva, including the firm's professional branch HP Enterprise and its consumer division HP Inc. HP has been in Geneva since 1968. ([more](#))

Incyte, the Delaware-based developer of oncology products, has chosen Yverdon-les-Bains in canton Vaud for its newest manufacturing site. ([more](#))

Laurion Capital Management, the NYC-based hedge fund sponsor, invested in Cambridge-based Bluebird Bio, which last year opened an office in Zug. Laurion Capital plans to open its own office in Geneva ([more](#))

Palantir, the "Big Data Unicorn", launched an operation in Geneva to provide IT and marketing services for companies in the group, particularly Palantir Technologies ([more](#) – in French)

W. L. Gore & Associates, inventor of GoreTex fabrics, entered into a joint development agreement with startup Kenzen, an innovator of wearables for precision health headquartered in San Francisco and Switzerland. Development will take place in the Greater Zurich Area. ([more](#))

Reverse Investments & Partnerships

Bucherer, the leading European retailer for fine watches and jewelry, has acquired Tourneau, the largest U.S. based luxury watch retailer. ([more](#))

Corvaglia Group, headquartered in Eschlikon, canton Thurgau, will set up a \$25 million factory in Newnan, GA, its first U.S. plant, by the end of this year. ([more](#))

Dollins Tool, based in Independence, MO, has agreed to sell the company to the Mold & Robotics Group headquartered in Conthey, canton Valais. ([more](#))

General Electric is partnering with Roche to develop software to support doctors treating cancer patients. ([more](#))

Nestlé, the world's largest food company based in Switzerland, will sell its US candy maker to Italy's Ferrero for \$2.8 billion. Nestlé's US chocolate bars include BabyRuth, Butterfinger and Crunch. ([more](#))

Roche will buy California-based cancer drug specialist Ignyta for \$1.7 billion to broaden its oncology portfolio, the firms said. Roche would pay \$27 per share for Ignyta. ([more](#))

Roche is also to buy the rest of cancer data company, New York City-based Flatiron Health, for \$1.9 billion. ([more](#))

Siegfried, a pharmaceutical supplier from canton Aargau, has entered into a three-year manufacturing and supply agreement with Keryx Biopharmaceuticals of New Jersey. ([more](#))

Stadler, the Swiss train builder, has expanded its reach in North America since opening a US manufacturing plant last year in Utah. ([more](#))

From The Foreign Desk

The government of Bangladesh is partnering with Zug-based **Lykke** to for financial insights and plans to develop a system based on blockchain technology for public services. ([more](#))

International Chinese medicine group **Beijing Tong Ren Tang**, founded in 1669, has opened a Swiss subsidiary in Geneva. ([more](#))

French consultancy firm **Hardis Group**, a player in the digital services sector, has announced the creation of a subsidiary in Geneva with plans to recruit 20 employees by the end of 2018. ([more](#))

German snow cat manufacturer **Kässbohrerhas** has chosen Werkmatt Uri in Altdorf as the site for its new Swiss headquarters. It will create some 30 skilled jobs beginning in summer 2019. ([more](#))

The reinsurer **Korean Re** plans to open a branch in Switzerland in a bid to expand its presence in Europe. The Zurich branch should start operations in June 2019, according to a [report](#) on Pulse News.

The **Industrial and Commercial Bank of China** (ICBC), the world's biggest and most valuable bank, is opening a branch in Zurich. ICBC is the second Chinese financial institute to settle in the Zurich, following China Construction Bank (CCB) which set up in 2015 and employs 33 people. ([more](#))

Logistics firm **Kuehne + Nagel** will establish a joint venture with Temasek, a Singapore-based investment company, to invest in start-ups developing innovative technology for logistics. ([more](#))

Monarch Bioimplants, a urology medtech startup with German/Brazilian founders, has incorporated at TECHNOPARK Lucerne. ([more](#))

Myotest, a Swiss company specializing in accelerometer-based analysis and interpretation for digital sport, will work with Finland's global leader Suunto on a new running solution. ([more](#))

International financial services company **ZEDRA** has opened an office in Zürich, marking the latest wave in the firm's global expansion. ([more](#))

Other News from our Worldwide Sources

On January 26 **KPMG Switzerland** hosted a "Q&A" webcast on what US Tax Reform means for expat Americans. Many interesting questions were asked and experts in US tax shed light on them. Click [here](#) to access the webcast.

Switzerland posted big gains with U.S. travellers in 2017. The country cracked the two million ceiling on American tourists, an increase of 12.1 percent. ([more](#))

Move Over, Silicon Valley: **Crypto Valley** is the World's Most Promising Tech Hub ([more](#))

"Crypto Nation": Switzerland, home of the Crypto Valley which is filled with blockchain companies, announced the creation of a Global Center for Cybersecurity to be based in Geneva. ([more](#))

Lehner, the largest Swiss mail order company (Lucerne-based), now accepts bitcoin as payment for all 50,000 of its products. ([more](#))

The Swiss Government created a Working Group to ensure the country remains attractive for Blockchain & ICO Development. ([more](#))

EPFL has launched a "**Center for Digital Trust**" focusing on cybersecurity, transparency and personal data protection to foster a climate of trust in a digitalized world. ([more](#))

Forbes says "Switzerland has emerged as a serious competitor to California for the technologies, people and funding that will power the world's fourth socio-economic revolution" in an article called "**How Switzerland Became The Silicon Valley Of Robotics**". ([more](#))

Disney Research in Zurich has developed fireworks you can feel with your hands in a program designed with help from the Swiss Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired. ([more](#))

Swiss professor Jacques Dubochet, honorary professor of biophysics at the University of Lausanne, was one of three recipients of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2017. ([more](#))

Oscar-winner Leonardo DiCaprio invested in the Lausanne-based neuro technology start-up **MindMaze**, which is pioneering a new operating system that captures brain activity with applications in healthcare, entertainment, sports and social virtual reality. ([more](#))

Did you Know?

uptownBasel, Switzerland's first Industry 4.0 campus, is slated to open in 2020 based on the concept of the "digital speed factory". ([more](#))

The electric buses from Bellach-based Carrosserie Hess AG do not require a trolley wire or overhead line, but instead draw electricity from a battery for their electric drive. Thanks to a fast-charging technology from ABB, the buses can charge in just 20 seconds. ([more](#))

Another Swiss bigger and better: The world's steepest funicular railway went into operation in December in the Swiss Alps. Travelling between Schwyz and Stoos, it can overcome a slope gradient of 110 per cent. ([more](#))



Sponsored by



Copyright © SBH USA, All rights reserved.

You receive this E-Mail as quarterly update

Our mailing address is:

sbhusa@eda.admin.ch

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [unsubscribe from this list](#)