

# Zug: pharma/biotech cluster

For decades, the life sciences cluster has been a major industry in the Canton of Zug. Roughly half of those working in life sciences are employed in the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry, while the other half works in the medical device industry. The Canton of Zug is home to numerous international pharma/biotech companies. They benefit from the excellent business environment, the high availability of talents and from Zug's central location in the heart of Europe.



Johnson & Johnson (J&J) started in Zug in 1984 with only 5 people. Today we employ around 1,200 people, representing the 3 sectors in which J&J is operating (Pharma, Medical Devices, Consumer), with Global, Regional and Local responsibilities. Business friendliness, availability of highly qualified talents, modern infrastructure, proximity to the airport and the business ecosystem, with a high concentration of companies, make Zug the ideal location for Johnson & Johnson business.

**Andrea Ostinelli, Managing Director Cilag GmbH International, Chair of the Johnson & Johnson Switzerland Leadership Team**

## Pharma/Biotech in Switzerland

The pharma/biotech sector accounts for around 29 billion Swiss francs in revenue, equaling some 4% of Swiss GDP and a third of total exports. Around 45,000 full-time employees work in the pharma/biotech sector, accounting for approximately 1% of the total Swiss workforce. The added value created in adjacent sectors underscores pharma/biotech's importance for Switzerland's economy. With these sectors included, the total workforce is nearly 180,000 FTEs, generating almost 44 billion Swiss francs in revenue.

## Research location Greater Zurich Area (GZA)

The GZA is well-known as a prime location for pharma/biotech companies. Their presence and the high density of universities, in particular the renowned Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETHZ) and Zurich University (UZH), make the GZA a vibrant cluster with a highly skilled workforce.

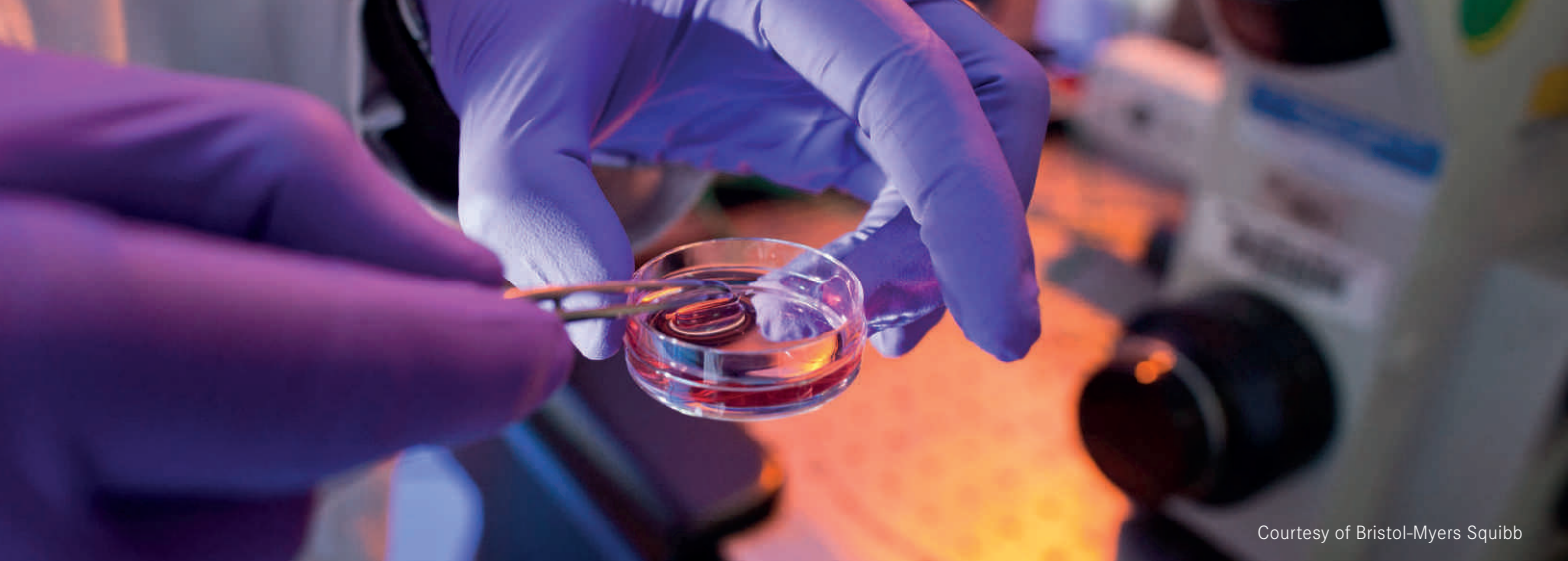
## The Canton of Zug an international hotspot

Zug is home to many global players, and numerous small and medium-sized companies have also set up regional and international headquarters here. Main activities include general management, commercialization, market access, R&D, IP, supply chain management. The high density of pharma/biotech companies in the canton and the large number of service providers dedicated to the life sciences cluster make for a beneficial business environment.



Countless independent ratings and studies affirm the Canton of Zug's popularity as a unique area for business and living. Zug offers the highest level of political and financial stability, with a track record spanning many decades.





Courtesy of Bristol-Myers Squibb



Mirati is relentlessly focused on translating science into hope for patients by advancing novel therapeutics that target the genetic and immunologic drivers of cancer. We recently selected Zug as our international headquarters due to the wealth of life science innovation and the talented workforce in the region. The centrality in Europe, great infrastructure, outstanding quality of life and great support from the local authorities were also key factors for us in choosing this location.

**Orlando Oliveira, Senior Vice President, Head of International, Mirati Therapeutics, Inc.**

---

#### Facts & Figures: Pharma / Biotech in the Canton of Zug

- About 230 companies
  - Around 5000 employees
  - i.e. 4.3% of the total workforce
- 

## Contacts & platforms

### Technology Forum Zug (tfz)

Technology Forum Zug provides an attractive platform for innovative and technology-oriented companies by cross-linking industry sectors and experts from various fields of competence. tfz pools expertise and supports established companies and start-ups.  
- [www.technologieforumzug.ch](http://www.technologieforumzug.ch)

### Interpharma

Interpharma is the association of research-based pharmaceutical companies in Switzerland.  
- [www.interpharma.ch](http://www.interpharma.ch)

### vips

vips is the association of pharmaceutical companies operating in Switzerland.  
- [www.vips.ch](http://www.vips.ch)

### Swiss Biotech Association

The Swiss Biotech Association represents the interests of the biotech sector.  
- [www.swissbiotech.org](http://www.swissbiotech.org)

### Bio-Technopark Schlieren

The Bio-Technopark provides fully equipped laboratory facilities and functional infrastructure.  
- [www.bio-technopark.ch](http://www.bio-technopark.ch)

### Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)

The ZHAW offers an interdisciplinary Master's program in life sciences, focused on meeting the industry's requirements.  
- [www.zhaw.ch](http://www.zhaw.ch)

### Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH)

The FOPH is charged with setting prices for pharmaceuticals and managing the specialty medicines list (medication that is reimbursed by insurances).  
- [www.bag.admin.ch](http://www.bag.admin.ch)

### Swissmedic

Swissmedic is the Swiss authority for the authorization and supervision of therapeutic products.  
- [www.swissmedic.ch](http://www.swissmedic.ch)

### Canton of Zug Therapeutic Products Authority

The monitoring authority for therapeutic products enforces federal and cantonal medicinal and narcotics legislation.  
- [www.zg.ch/behoerden/gesundheitsdirektion/amt-fuer-gesundheit](http://www.zg.ch/behoerden/gesundheitsdirektion/amt-fuer-gesundheit)

### Innosuisse - Swiss Innovation Agency

As the Swiss innovation promotion agency, Innosuisse lends support to R&D projects, to entrepreneurs as well as to the development of startup companies.  
- [www.innosuisse.ch](http://www.innosuisse.ch)



The Canton of Zug has proved ideal for our international headquarters. Its central location, transit connections, and modern infrastructure are essential for our business. The natural beauty and quality of life have helped us attract and retain outstanding talent. All that, combined with the collaborative approach of the local authorities, make Zug an excellent base of operations for Biogen.

**Dr. Katja Buller, Vice President, Head of Corporate Affairs International, Biogen**

Our services address you directly as an entrepreneur. We are your partner, and we promote the Canton of Zug as a business location.

Department of Economic Affairs  
Canton of Zug  
Economic Promotion  
Aabachstrasse 5, P.O. Box  
6301 Zug, Switzerland  
T +41 41 728 55 04  
[economy@zg.ch](mailto:economy@zg.ch)  
[www.zg.ch/economy](http://www.zg.ch/economy)

