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Eidgenössisches Volkswirtschaftsdepartement EVD
Kommission für Technologie und Innovation KTI
Förderagentur für Innovation

CTI Medtech Initiative: Science to Market

The Swiss medical technology sector occupies a leading position worldwide. The partnership between medical technology companies and R&D centres is resulting in successful products. The cooperation and transfer of knowledge between educational institutions on the one hand and industry and commerce on the other is supported by the CTI Medtech initiative.

Since its launch, the CTI Medtech initiative has pursued two objectives:

- to support the innovation and competitiveness of Swiss medical technology;
- to promote the transfer of knowledge between laboratories and the medical technology industry.

An example of innovation exists when a new medical technology product is developed and marketed by a company with a measurable degree of success. The process necessary for this requires close cooperation between industry and science. Universities willing to innovate receive comprehensive project-related coaching from the CTI and can submit R&D projects. These are examined in-depth by experts, within a short period of time, for their innovative content and marketing potential. If a project is deemed to show a high level of innovation and good marketing potential, the CTI contributes to the salary costs that arise for the scientific staff of the university partners. Encouraging industry and science to forge links can lead to successful products that benefit everyone: scientists receive support in implementing their research results on the market and companies are encouraged to work with universities in order to turn their ideas into reality.

An increasing number of CTI Medtech projects

The figures reflect the success story of this sector. When the initiative was launched in 1997, the CTI received three funding applications. That figure has now risen to around 55 applications a year for regular project funding. On average the CTI

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supports around 35 of those applications each year. However, in 2011 the figure was significantly higher: the CTI had an additional credit of CHF 100 million for innovation promotion to counter the effects of the strong franc and was consequently able to fund a further 35 projects to the tune of CHF 15 million.

In addition, there are between 10 and 20 start-ups from the Medtech sector which take part in CTI training and coaching each year.

Since the Medtech initiative was launched, over 340 projects have received funding amounting to a total of over CHF 310 million.