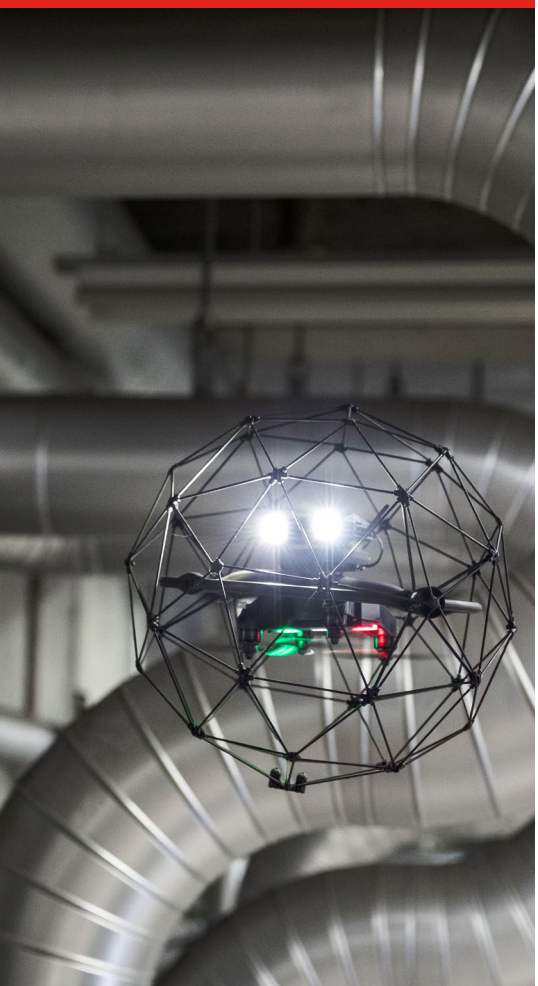
GGBa Invest Western Switzerland

Greater Zurich Area
Expanding business horizons

Flying high

Why Switzerland for drone industry

How did Switzerland become the world's leading location for the development of core technology and high-end applications for drones?



10 REASONS WHY

Pioneering role in drone traffic management

With the support of the Federal Office of Civil Aviation, Swiss air navigation service provider skyguide and AirMap will develop and deploy the first drone traffic management system in Europe. It will be the first national deployment of U-space, Europe's vision for the digital infrastructure that will support safe and secure access to European skies for millions of drones. Phase-in will begin in June 2018.

Drone-friendly regulations

The Swiss regulatory authorities are innovation-friendly, progressive and pragmatic. For example, companies have been granted anytime/anywhere BVLOS authorizations and are currently flying BVLOS missions in Switzerland.

Possibility to test-fly drones throughout Switzerland

Companies can try out their innovations right at their doorstep: on the outskirts of cities, in innovation parks, and on military and civilian airfields.

World-class education and research

Among the best universities worldwide in the field of engineering and technology, the Swiss Federal Institutes of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) and Zurich (ETH) and the University of Zurich are at the forefront of flying robotics and unmanned systems. Renowned for their practical orientation, the Swiss Universities of Applied Sciences are very strong in training engineers.

Unrivalled expertise in robotics and microsystems

Inspired by its centuries-long watchmaking heritage, Switzerland has developed unique know-how in the fields of precision mechanics, microelectronics, and robotics. The Swiss Center for Electronics and Microtechnology (CSEM) is specialized in microsystems design, process, integration and packaging, as well as nanosurface and biosurface engineering.

Close ties between research and industry

The National Center of Competence in Research (NCCR) Robotics brings together leading experts from EPFL, ETH, University of Zurich, Dalle Molle Institute for Artificial Intelligence Research, and the University of Bern. It supports start-ups and SMEs, encourages entrepreneurship and promotes spin-off creation in the field of robotics.

Sizeable pool of expert technologists

Switzerland attracts the best talent from around the world thanks to its unparalleled quality of life. Tech companies such as Google, Microsoft, Disney, and Hewlett Packard Enterprise have chosen Switzerland for their R&D locations because of the high availability of engineers and other specialists.

SELECTED PEER COMPANIES

Drone companies

Aerotain | AgroFly | Auterion | Autoflight | Daedalean | Ewatt Aerospace | Flarm | Flyability | Flying Robots | Fotokite | Gamaya | INVOLI | Lémantech Labs | Matternet | MotionPilot | Picterra | Pix4D *(Parrot Group)* | Rapyuta Robotics | senseFly *(Parrot Group)* | Sony | Sulzer & Schmid Labs | Sunflower Labs | UAVenture | Verity Studios | Voliro | WeControl | WeRobotics | WindShape | Wingtra | Yuneec

Successful peer companies

Switzerland is home to a thriving community of drone-related companies, from established manufacturers to component suppliers, high-end application providers, and innovative start-ups.

Component providers

Distran | Fixposition Insightness | Leica Geosystems *(Hexagon Group)* | RELASYS | Sensima Inspection | Sensirion | SkyAware/Zurichsense | STMicroelectronics | u-blox

Birthplace of PX4 (Pixhawk)

The open source software developed at ETH Zurich has become the gold standard for drone control. The core of a global community of around 400 active developers is located in Switzerland.

A one-stop shop for drone operators

DronePole will be the most advanced research, test, and certification center for autonomous flying vehicles when it opens its doors in 2019.

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Interested in the Swiss drone ecosystem?

www.investinswitzerland.com

drones@investinswitzerland.com